

zens, such as park reservations, have not changed.

The new fees go into effect July 16.

**Remote participation limits put in place for board members**

On June 7, the board held a workshop to discuss the possibility of allowing board members to attend meetings remotely. Before the pandemic, board members were required to attend in person. Trustee Jim Romanello said that as elected officials, the board should be present so that citizens can come to them in person with complaints. We are supposed to be here to “take the heat,” he said. His work requires him to travel every month, and he schedules his business travel around his board commitments.

Originally, he suggested each trustee be allowed only one remote meeting per year, and those attending virtually wouldn’t get to vote on legislative matters.

Trustee Mitch LaKind has worked in collaborative remote settings for years, proving people can accomplish much when working remotely. He said the board needs to move along with the times and allow for virtual attendance.

Richie described the quasi-judicial situation: Just as a judge wouldn’t rule remotely, board members shouldn’t be allowed to vote if they are not attending in person.

Trustee Jaime Unruh said, “I find myself in a unique situation.” Her husband is away at ranger school all summer. With a young child at home, “There’s no way I’m going to be able to attend if” trustees are allowed only four remote meetings. Since taking office, Unruh has participated and voted remotely for the majority of meetings she’s attended.

Town Clerk Laura Hogan reminded the board that an in-person quorum will be required for voting

for any quasi-judicial matters. The policy language specifies that trustees should contact the mayor, town manager, or town clerk at least 24 hours in advance. If an in-person quorum isn’t met, Hogan said, staff will have to renotify the public of a hearing, including sending certified letters.

Ultimately, the board unanimously approved a policy to include emergency and non-emergency meeting attendance for board members. In an emergency, if in-person meetings are “not practical or prudent,” trustees may be allowed to meet remotely and vote by roll call. The policy allows for four remote meetings per year. However, for this year, only two remote attendances will be allowed going forward.

**Home Rule survey produces favorable results**

The board has been discussing a change to Home Rule. It gives municipalities greater control over local issues while still applying federal and state laws. A Home Rule Commission composed of elected officials create a charter.

A survey of 382 town residents was completed to measure voter opinion of the possible government change. After being informed of the process, 62% of respondents said they would vote in favor of the change. One respondent said, “Monument is a unique area and I think it would be better protected under Home Rule where the people living in the area have the majority of say.”

Those opposed to such a change argued residents don’t have the knowledge “to make good governance decisions.” Others were concerned that previous board actions cannot be trusted to make decisions, noting a citizen-run commission sounds like “one big HOA.”

Flaherty cautioned the board that moving for-

ward will require the charter commission to be composed of representatives from the town inclusive of all demographics.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

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The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next regular meeting is scheduled for July 19. Call 719-884-8014 or see [www.townofmonument.org](http://www.townofmonument.org) for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

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*Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, June 10 and 24*

**Board approves medical marijuana storefront, renews license for pub**

*By James Howald and Jackie Burhans*

The Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) met four times in June. Regular board meetings were held on June 10 and June 24. Also on June 10, the board held a workshop to discuss water conservation and met as the Local Licensing Authority to consider an application for an additional medical marijuana storefront and cultivation license for an existing cannabis business.

As part of its ongoing effort to update the noise ordinance and in light of complaints about the outdoor music performances at the business, the board considered the renewal of the business license for Palmer Lake Pub. The board updated the town’s water conservation ordinance and the town’s Master Fee Schedule, the document that establishes fees for a wide range of town services. The board moved forward on resolving issues related to the donation of the Living Word property to the town and established a calendar to draft a budget for 2022. Finally, the board heard reports from board members and staff on several ongoing projects.

**Board approves requests from cannabis business**

Brenda Woodward, part owner of Alpine Essentials, operating at 850 Commercial Lane in Suites A and B, requested a license to open a medical marijuana storefront at her current address, and also requested permission to remove a wall to create a larger room from two smaller rooms.

Woodward said Alpine Essentials had a medical storefront license in the past but let it lapse. She said her business was planning to convert part of the building they currently occupy to a medical marijuana storefront.

Town Administrator Dawn Collins pointed out that the paperwork for the requests was in order and the business was in good standing. She also said that if the board approved Woodward’s requests, Alpine Essentials would still need to be licensed by the state.

Board member Karen Stuth asked if Alpine Essentials was using town water, and Woodward said the business had its own well drawing from the Denver aquifer and used less water than a typical 2,400-square-foot house.

Three local residents asked questions about the business. Matt Stephen asked if traffic would increase and pointed out that there was a second medical marijuana store front just two blocks away from Woodward’s facility. Gary Atkins asked about signs. Bill

Dardino said he opposed granting the license, cited other businesses he said were flouting the town’s laws, and said he believed the storefront would increase homelessness in the town.

Woodward said hers was a local business and was committed to working with the community. She said there would be no signs and that her business used closed circuit video surveillance and would call the police if there was any use of cannabis at the business.

Stuth said that the town’s two existing cannabis businesses had not caused an increase in traffic and homelessness to date.

The board voted unanimously to approve both of Woodward’s requests.

**Palmer Lake Pub license renewed; noise ordinance amended**

At the June 10 meeting, the board reviewed complaints about excessive noise that had been received concerning live music at the Palmer Lake Pub and considered renewal of the business license.

Pub owner Troy Brice told the board he had asked the town for permission to have outdoor music and that he had lowered the volume when he received complaints. He said most of the complaints he had received had been from the same person. Collins confirmed that most of the complaints the town had received about the business had been from one person.

Brice said he thought the ordinance should have a specific noise level defined, which would make it easier for him to know he was in compliance.

Palmer Lake Police Department Sgt. W. Michael Carrol said the business has always complied with police requests to lower the volume of outdoor music and that no citations have ever been issued.

Mayor Bill Bass commented that it has been challenging to draft a noise ordinance that balances the interests of residents and businesses.

The board voted unanimously to renew the Palmer Lake Pub’s business license.

Following the discussion with Brice, the board returned to its ongoing effort to update the noise ordinance. The conversation focused on how to make the ordinance more easily enforceable by defining a decibel level above which noise would be considered excessive, acquiring a tool to make consistent measurements, and establishing a consistent distance from which to measure the sound level.

The consensus for an appropriate limit on

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