

MONUMENT (Cont. from 1)

employment, and Flynn moved to Florida, though Flynn has agreed to continue helping the Planning Department long-distance through a 1099 contractual agreement for a limited time. Foreman shared that summer projects are “start-

ing to slow down,” that he will serve as the interim planning director for the time being, and that he will not rush new developments until staff can be more prepared.

Trustee Jim Romonello noted that “we are fairly uncompetitive for plan-

ners.” Foreman expressed, “It is difficult to hire planning directors in every community in Colorado.” Foreman has hired Jacobs Engineering, a firm that Monument has worked with before, to help move along development projects. He also provided resumes to ensure the firm had no conflicts of interest for current projects. Applications are being taken for new planners.

Trustee Mitch LaKind said his suggestion that developers self-impose their own moratorium “lit up.” He claimed developers “lambasted me” and submitted projects anyway rather than refraining from “clogging the pipeline.” Foreman reminded the trustees that though the town is without a planner or director, they still have Planning Technician Theresa Rust on staff making sure current projects remain active.

Trustees Ron Stephens and Redmond Ramos asked Interim Town Attorney Joseph Rivera about the ramifications of putting developments on pause with a moratorium. Rivera advised the trustees to have a compelling reason for a moratorium and to set a specific timeline. He then suggested a study session to define these parameters, and Mayor Don Wilson suggested the trustees assemble in early October for the session. However, Foreman warned that assembling in early October would push up projects. “So, in an effort to pause, we would hurry things up,” Wilson said. The trustees then decided to keep the Oct. 7 canceled from the calendar and to do no workshop.

Several community members weighed in on the discussion. Steve King said the system is in “disarray” and that tonight was a perfect example of why we need a planning department. Ken Kimple claimed that “the developers aren’t going

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