

mills per property. The other mills levied include:

- El Paso County, 7.120 mills
- EPC Road & Bridge Share, 0.165 mills
- Town of Monument, 5.750 mills
- EPC-Monument Road & Bridge Share, 0.165 mills
- Lewis-Palmer School District 38, 39.455 mills
- Pikes Peak Library District, 3.490 mills
- Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection, 18.400

mills
 • Triview Metropolitan District, 24.000 mills
 The request was approved by the board.

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 Monday, March 7. Call 719-884-8014 or see 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, Feb. 10 and 24

De-annexation request debated

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

At its first meeting in February, the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) returned to a discussion of a request to de-annex 162 acres from the town that first came before the board at its Jan. 13 meeting. Both meetings saw votes on administrative and housekeeping resolutions. The board heard operational reports at both meetings, and the Feb. 24 meeting ended with an executive session.

Public hearing and debate on de-annexation request

The Feb. 10 meeting opened with a public hearing on the United Congregational Church's outstanding request to de-annex its property east of the lake and south of County Line Road from the town and to make it part of unincorporated El Paso County. There were no comments from residents.

The board discussed the request, considering whether they should facilitate the request or require the church to resolve its request in court.

Trustee Karen Stuth asked if there was any advantage to the town in agreeing to the request and what the church hoped to gain through de-annexation. Town Administrator Dawn Collins answered that she saw no advantage to the town, and she believed the request was prompted by a desire on the church's part to retain the water rights accompanying the property, which would belong to the town if the property was developed and the town provided water service.

Trustee Glant Havenar pointed out that if the de-annexation went forward, the town would be required to provide police and fire service to any residences built on the property, but the residences would not be taxed by the town.

Collins told the board that the town had asked the church to reconsider its request.

Mayor Bill Bass pointed out that its was unlikely the town could prevent de-annexation in court. Town Attorney Matt Krob declined to estimate the cost of opposing the request in court.

Following the board's discussion, Bass closed the public hearing.

Later in the meeting the board took up Ordinance 1-2022, which addresses the church's request and states: "The Board of Trustees is of the opinion that the best interests of the municipality will not be prejudiced by the disconnection of the Property . . . from the Town. Therefore, the Property is hereby disconnected from the Town." Only Bass voted in favor of the ordinance. Trustees Nicole Currier, Jessica Farr, Glant Havenar and Stuth voted no. Trustees Samantha Padgett and Darin Dawson were not present and did not vote.

Resolutions and ordinances address appointments and fees

The board voted in favor of several resolutions making appointments to boards and commissions:

- Resolution 6-2022 re-appoints Shana Ball and appoints Martha Brodzik and Susan Miner to the Planning Commission.
- Resolution 7-2022 re-appoints Ande Furrer and Reid Wiecks to the Parks Commission.
- Resolution 8-2022 re-appoints Ed Kinney, Bob Miner, and Michael Richards to two-year

terms and re-appoints Glant Havenar to a one-year term, on the Board of Adjustments.

- Resolution 9-2022 appoints Nikki McDonald to the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Resolution 10-2022 adopts the Master Fee Schedule discussed in previous meetings.
- Resolution 11-2022 authorizes a lease agreement with the Pikes Peak Library District allowing the library district to open a branch in Palmer Lake.
- Resolution 12-2022 adopts a Section 125 Plan Document that gives town employees choices relative to health care coverage.
- Resolution 13-2022 appoints Mayor Bill Bass to a one-year term on Pikes Peak Regional Building Department Advisory Board.
- Resolution 14-2022 appoints Trustee Nicole Currier to a one-year term on Awake the Lake.
- Resolution 15-2022 allows town employees to donate leave time to each other.
- Resolution 16-2022 approves a drug-free workplace policy.
- Resolution 17-2022 authorizes an agreement with Coast Professional Inc. to provide debt collection services for the town.
- Ordinance 2-2022 amends the municipal code to require a business license for businesses physically located in or conducting business in the town.
- Ordinance 3-2022 amends a section of the municipal code to align the code with El Paso County standards for roads.
- Ordinance 4-2022 revises the municipal code to define a lodging fee for short-term rentals.
- Ordinance 5-2022 prohibits parking on Walnut Avenue and Lovers Lane.

Highlights of operation reports

- Fire Chief Christopher McCarthy told the board fire mitigation work near the reservoirs was being planned and would require portions of the trail to be widened. McCarthy also said the department had purchased \$40,000 worth of breathing equipment and would participate in a program to provide in-home COVID-19 tests.
- Collins told the board the library ramp was finished, and she expected the library branch to open March 2.
- Collins also mentioned the interior painting and restroom at the Town Hall were finished and she expected the building to be available for events by April.
- Collins asked the board to authorize her to put together a committee to write grants for the town.
- A parking kiosk at the reservoir trailhead is installed and working, Collins said.
- All equipment has been removed from the Fletcher Drilling property.

Executive session

The meeting ended with an executive session to discuss a possible annexation.

See the town's website at www.townofpalmerlake.com to confirm times, dates, and locations of

board meetings and workshops. While the Town Hall is being repaired, evening meetings will be held at the Palmer Lake Elementary School Library at 115 Upper Glenway, and daytime meetings will be held at Tri-Lakes Chamber Community Meeting House at 300 Highway 105. Meeting times may change. Meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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