

lie Harker for a conditional use permit for her short-term rental (STR) property at 703 Platt Lane. Collins explained that the town's recently adopted ordinance for STRs requires a conditional use permit for dwellings with multiple living areas in an area zoned for single-family residences, such as Harker's.

Havenar asked if the parking at the STR was adequate, and resident Lindsay Aho, representing Harker, said yes.

The hearing was closed, and the board voted unanimously in favor of Resolution 34-2022, which grants the permit.

2020 Model

Traffic Code adopted

After a hearing on the Model Traffic Code at the June 9 meeting, during which Town Attorney Matthew Krob explained that the town was currently using the 2010 Model Traffic Code and the 2020 update

addressed issues like phone use by drivers under 18 and texting while driving, the board voted in favor of Ordinance 10-2022, which adopts the 2020 version as the town's standard.

Board signs on to opioid settlement

Collins told the board that the El Paso Board of County Commissioners had proposed that Commissioner Stan VanderWerf represent Palmer Lake in the state's opioid settlement case. Currier pointed out that representation by VanderWerf would not influence the funds the town would receive from any settlement.

The board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 36-2022, which authorizes an intergovernmental agreement with El Paso County to allow VanderWerf to represent the town.

Miller Timber wins mitigation bid

The board approved Resolution 35-2022, which authorizes the mayor to contract with Miller Timber to thin foliage, remove logs and chip slash for about \$4,000 per acre. The town has about 24 acres to mitigate, Collins said, adding that most of the funds to pay for the work were from grants.

Executive session

The June 23 meeting ended with a brief executive session to discuss negotiations related to a possible annexation.

Highlights of operation reports

- Collins said the staff had been pricing insurance for the town and had found that its current insurer, the Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency, was still the most economical provider.

- The parking kiosk the town installed by the Reservoir Trailhead has generated \$12,000 in revenue, enough to cover the cost of implementation, Collins said.
- A water diverter is being installed over the door to the town's library to better manage rainwater.

The next two board meetings are scheduled for July 14 and 28. See the town's website at www.townofpalmerlake.com to confirm times, dates and locations of board meetings and workshops. Meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 719-481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees Workshops, June 9 and 23

Town debates Fire Department merger and cannabis revenues



Above: The Town of Palmer Lake scheduled multiple workshops on revenue-generating ideas to address the budget shortfall that has been discussed at several recent Board of Trustees meetings. The feedback gathered at these workshops will inform decisions made by the trustees on actions to take and/or ballot initiatives to support. Photo by Creighton Smith.

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
The Palmer Lake Board of Trustees held workshops on June 9 and 23.

TLMFPD chief presents the case for merging with Palmer Lake

At the June 9 workshop, Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) Chief Andy Kovacs presented an overview of fire services and resources that TLMFPD could offer to Palmer Lake.

Kovacs described the district's current assets, resources, and financial health. TLMFPD, which recently merged with the Donald Wescott Fire Protection District (DWFPD), serves an area of 62 square miles. It has five fire stations that are staffed daily with full-time firefighters. TLMFPD purchased 14 acres east of

Station 1 on Highway 105 and envisioned building a regional training center on the property. TLMFPD has 23 firefighters and recently added a third advanced life support (ALS) ambulance. The district recently purchased a second tower/ladder truck and a wildland firefighting engine, he said, and already has a snowcat, two woodchippers, and two water tenders from the DWFPD merger.

Kovacs reported that the combined income of TLMFPD and DWFPD in 2022 is \$16 million. The board, he said, is fiscally conservative about spending taxpayers' money and has an investment account of \$1.5 million along with a fleet capital account and capital improvement account to save for expected replace-

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