

pany contracted by the town to complete the construction of a water tank.

Director of Public Works Thomas Tharnish brought attention to a recent state inspection that deemed the tank insufficient and in need of immediate completion. As a result, the change order in question would amount to \$100,000. Town Manager Mike Foreman further explained that there were some delays in the project's deadlines, which were not the contractor's fault, and reminded the council that Preload's bid was \$700,000 less than the next contractor in line.

During the discussion,

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, March 9 and 23 Future of Elephant Rock property unclear

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

In March, the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) continued to discuss the future of the Elephant Rock property without settling on any clear direction. The board debated snow removal policy and voted on an ordinance to regulate it. It continued to clarify its policy on short term rentals (STRs). A public hearing was held on rezoning lots in the Lakeview Heights neighborhood. The president of the D49 school board apologized to Mayor Glant Havenar for mistakenly identifying her as the person disrupting a school board meeting. The board voted to accept an offer to buy a small piece of property on Landsdown Street from the town.

Another public hearing was held on a request to amend the 2023 budget to properly account for the roll-over of funds for projects that were not started in 2022. The board adopted revised building codes and put in place new policies to review developers' requests and recover the costs of addressing them. The board authorized the mayor to pursue a grant from the state Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). It was announced that John Vincent, the acting fire chief, had accepted the position on a permanent basis.

The March 9 and 23 meetings both ended with executive sessions.

Many ideas for Elephant Rock

At the March 9 meeting, Richard and Lindsey Willans presented an updated version of their plan to use a portion of their property as a spa. They said they had abandoned their original vision of a village with a frontier theme, but they still wanted to use a swimming pool. They proposed the formation of a steering committee to plan the development of the spa. The Willanses said they have reduced the amount of land they need for the spa to 3.6 acres, and they would like to have a lease-to-own agree-

Councilmembers Fiorito and Kenneth Kimple raised concerns about the board's responsibility, while Kimple asked how long the warranty on the project would last (answer: two years). The council ultimately approved the resolution, with King asking if the process could be expedited.

Silver Key Senior Services

Silver Key Senior Services President and CEO, Jason DeaBueno, presented to the council on the organization's efforts to support the senior population in the Tri-lakes area. With a focus on individuals over the age of 70, Silver

Key Senior Services aims to address the loneliness experienced by seniors who have recently moved to the area.

The organization's slogan, "Aging is ... all of us!" reflects its belief in the value and worth of all seniors. To combat isolation, Silver Key Senior Services offers a companionship program that helps seniors connect with the community. Additionally, the Tri-lakes Senior Center serves as a bridge for seniors to connect with others. DeaBueno stressed the importance of combatting isolation, stating that it can be a decay for people. Silver Key Senior Services has been recognized

for its efforts, having been voted Best Workplaces two years in a row.

For those in need of assistance, Silver Key Senior Services provides the Silver Line at 719-884-2300 and infosilverkey.org. Its team will triage calls or emails to connect individuals with the resources they need. The organization also features a chat function on its website where visitors can interact with representatives. Overall, Silver Key Senior Services is dedicated to supporting the senior population in the community and addressing the challenges that come with aging.

The Monument Council 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 two regular meetings are scheduled for Monday, April 3 and Monday, April 17. Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Town Council.

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