

## PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 14)

Lovell fielded questions from the board confirming that PPRBC does not require electric vehicle plugs or solar readiness. Lovell noted that Palmer Lake Trustee Dennis Stern was the local representative to PPRBD and regularly attends its meetings. He also pointed out that there was a new PPRBD office on the north end that gives easier access to Palmer Lake residents.

Later in the meeting, the board held its first reading of Ordinance 10-2023 to consider the PPRBC. Stern said that PPRBD is doing a good thing to try to get this done before July 1 as he personally believes the new energy requirements are somewhat onerous and would spend a dollar to save a penny. Attorney Matt Krob explained that if an ordinance included a model code, it would have to be read and passed at the first meeting then read, passed, and adopted at the second meeting. The board voted unanimously to pass the ordinance on its first reading.

### Development review service and reimbursement approved

At its March 23 meeting, the board unanimously passed two resolutions to authorize an interim development review agreement and to use a cost reim-

bursement agreement for collecting fees.

Resolution 26-2023 allows the town to collect fees from applicants, Collins noted, to reimburse the cost for professional review of proposed development plans submitted to the town. The resolution included a draft cost reimbursement agreement for use with applicants. The board directed Collins to come back with a final version for its approval.

Resolution 27-2023 authorizes a professional service agreement with Community Matters Institute (CMI) for interim development review for the town. CMI was chosen because it knows Palmer Lake's land use code and helped to rewrite the town's master plan. The town has some development applications that require review right now and doesn't have time to put out a request for proposals for a reviewer, so it would like to involve CMI on an interim basis. CMI's rates are \$130 per hour for development review services, and Collins estimates the town would need 10-15 hours per month in the short term.

### DOLA grant

Collins said she had been discussing a grant opportunity with DOLA that would provide matching grant funds to rewrite the town's land use code. She asked the board to authorize the mayor to write a letter requesting the grant. The board voted unanimously to

authorize the mayor to sign the letter.

### Vincent accepts fire chief position

Collins congratulated John Vincent, who accepted the role of Palmer Lake fire chief as of March 15. Vincent was serving as interim fire chief before accepting the role permanently.

### Executive sessions

The March 9 meeting ended with an executive session to discuss the Elephant Rock property, to discuss the sale of town property, and to receive legal advice in regards to litigation or possible claims against the town.

The March 23 meeting ended with an executive session to hear legal advice about claims against the town and terms of a possible lease agreement for the Elephant Rock property.

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The next board meetings are scheduled for April 13 and 27. See the town's website at [www.townofpalmerlake.com](http://www.townofpalmerlake.com) to confirm times and dates of board meetings and workshops. Meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Town Hall. Information: 719-481-2953.

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## Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, March 13

# New technology for sewer maintenance

By James Howald

At its March meeting, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board approved a more efficient way to identify sewer lines in need of maintenance. The board awarded a contract for a sewer saddle replacement project and heard a request from a resident to buy land from the district. The board heard operational reports, and the meeting ended with an executive session.

### Acoustic wave technology improves efficiency

Operations Superintendent Dan LaFontaine told the board about a new technology using acoustic waves that could reduce what the district spends on its "repair and replace" strategy for sewer lines. Currently, WWSD has divided its service area into five zones, and each year the lines in one zone are inspected by video camera and cleaned. It takes five years to inspect and clean all the lines in the service area, LaFontaine said.

LaFontaine explained a new method that uses devices that send and receive acoustic waves between manholes. The distortion in the acoustic waves is used to determine how clear or clogged a line is. LaFontaine said the Monument Sanitation District and the Palmer Lake Sanitation District have switched to this approach with good results.

LaFontaine said the technology would allow the district to inspect all five zones in one year instead of five years. Invasive tree roots are a costly problem, La-

Fontaine said, and a faster schedule would be more effective in dealing with them.

President Brian Bush recommended inspecting all lines annually. Director Barrie Town pointed out that using a schedule was not efficient because some lines were cleaned solely because they were on the schedule, not because they needed cleaning.

Director Town moved to add funds to the sewer line budget item, and the board voted unanimously in favor of his motion.

### Contract awarded

District Engineer Ariel Hacker reviewed for the board the details of a contract to replace 30 service saddles (vertical connectors that join residential lines to mains), five gate valves, and three fire hydrants. The contract includes asphalt replacement, traffic control, and customer notification.

Hacker said Caraveo Construction Inc. had submitted the low bid for the job at \$187,711. She noted there were two other bids—one for \$295,000 and the other for \$480,000. The range of bids was very wide, she said, adding Caraveo Construction was already working on another job for the district.

The board voted unanimously to accept Caraveo Construction's bid and authorize Bush to sign a contract.

### Resident offers to purchase land

During the public comment portion of the meeting, resident Dave Easton told the board he was interested

in purchasing land adjacent to Monument Academy from WWSD. He said he had made a similar request several years ago.

District Manager Jessie Shaffer told Easton the district typically doesn't sell land. Bush said he would be surprised if the current or a future board agreed to sell land belonging to the district.

### Highlights of operational reports

- Construction of new well 19 is due to begin in April.
- The Chilcott Ditch is being cleaned in anticipation of beginning to deliver water to ditch customers later in the spring.
- Classic Homes is expected to have model homes in the Monument Junction East development built by June.

### Executive session

The March meeting ended in an executive session to consider strategies relative to negotiations and receive legal advice concerning pending litigation.

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The next meeting is scheduled for April 10 at 1 p.m. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 1 p.m. at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive; please see [www.woodmoorwater.com](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call 719-488-2525 to verify meeting times and locations.

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## Monument Sanitation District, March 15

# Election canceled

By Jackie Burhans and James Howald

District Manager Mark Parker told the Monument Sanitation District (MSD) board at its March meeting that its upcoming election had been canceled because there are not more candidates than vacant board seats. He also updated the board on legislation that would govern how so-called "flushable" wipes would be labeled. Finally, the board heard operational reports.

### Candidate withdraws

Parker told the board that Randy Estes had withdrawn his application to run for one of the three open seats on the board, reducing the number of candidates to three and eliminating the need for an election. Parker

said the election was expected to cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 had it been needed. Estes is willing to serve by appointment if a seat opens unexpectedly, Parker said.

The legal report from designated election official Peggy Rupp included a cancellation of election report and declaration of candidates elected that names Anthony Archer, Daniel Hamilton, and Janet Ladowski as elected to four-year terms that will begin on May 17. Archer is currently serving on the board, having been appointed in February to fill the seat vacated by Laura Kronick's resignation. Hamilton is currently serving as the board president.

### Legislation aims to educate consumers

Parker updated the board on Senate Bill 23-150, which, if passed, will require the labels on wipes to warn consumers that the products are not truly "flushable" in that they do not dissolve once in the sewer system and increase maintenance costs by jamming the pumps in lift stations, clogging filters, and catching on tree roots, leading to repair costs that are shouldered by the ratepayers. Use of wipes increased following COVID. They can create dams that cause wastewater to back up into homes, Parker said. The bill will require informational labels instructing consumers to dispose of them without flushing them down the toilet.

### Highlights of operational reports

- Parker noted that legal expenses were higher than typical in February due to work by the district's law firm on the election and on rewriting the employee manual, which needs to be updated in light of Colorado's Family and Medical Leave Insurance program, the Colorado Healthy Families and Workplaces Act, and the Department of Labor Family and Medical Leave Act. Job descriptions are also being updated, he said.
- Double authentication, which requires signoff by two employees, has been put in place to improve the security of ACH transactions.
- The district is scanning documents produced during its 65-year existence. The paper documents are being converted to Portable Document Format files that can be easily searched.

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Monument Sanitation District meetings are normally held at 9 a.m. on the third Wednesday of the month in the district conference room at 130 Second St., Monument. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 19. See <https://colorado.gov/msd>. For a district service map, see <https://colorado.gov/pacific/msd/district-map-0>. Information: 719-481-4886.

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