

to defend themselves during campaigns.

The board took no action on Krob's updated policy.

Police Department workshop

At a workshop on Feb. 27, Police Chief Glen Smith told the board that, in preparation for his new job

in Palmer Lake, he had read a study of the town's Police Department prepared by retired Police Chief Paul Schultz.

Smith said his first goal is to address standards, policies, and procedures and work toward state accreditation. Accreditation "is the roadmap to bring the entire standard of the Police Department higher," he said, adding that he was reviewing and budgeting for software tools that assist in gaining accreditation. Next, Smith said, he would assess training on crisis intervention, officer safety, and de-escalation, among other topics. Smith said he wanted to raise the visibility of the department in El Paso County by getting his officers involved in things outside the town. An audit of evidence was underway, Smith said, with an eye to discarding old, unneeded evidence. He said he was also working on a schedule for replacing vehicles. Finally, Smith said he was working on recruitment and retention.

Smith said there were two full-time openings for police officers and a part-time opening for someone to handle administration and evidence.

Following Smith's presentation at the workshop, the board voted to authorize Havenar to sign a professional service agreement with Architetto Design Studio and Architivity Ltd. to complete a feasibility study to determine the best location for a public safety building used by the police and fire departments. Collins said the state Department of Local Affairs had given the town a \$12,500 matching grant for the study.

At the March 13 board meeting, the board set a maximum amount of \$38,000 for a new vehicle to be used by Smith. Collins said that, although this was not budgeted, there was money in the General Fund that could be used for this purpose. The vehicle will not have the computer and other equipment that patrol vehicles have installed.

At the March 27 board meeting, the board passed Resolution 32-2025, which authorizes the mayor to sign an order for a 2025 Chevy Colorado costing \$34,763 for Smith's use.

Elephant Rock workshop

On March 6, at a workshop on future uses of the Elephant Rock property, John Tool of the Parks and Trails Commission described for the board how the property could be used as a "passive park." Tool's presentation was a recap of remarks that Parks and Trails Commission Chair Reid Wiecks gave the board at its February meeting. *Wiecks' vision of a park with five zones can be found in the February issue of OCN here: <https://wp.ocn.me/v25n2plbot/>.*

Havenar asked how much of an increase in traffic on Highway 105 would trigger a requirement by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) that the town improve the highway. She saw lack of clarity on this issue as an impasse preventing a decision about the future of the property. She also suggested using a portion of the property as a community center.

Trustee Amy Hutson suggested hiring a professional site planner. Trustee Tim Caves suggested selling a portion of the property to Richard and Lindsey Willan for use as a soccer field, selling the remaining buildings on an acre of land to the highest bidder, and reserving a portion for use as a building housing the police and fire departments. Jurka suggested using one of the existing buildings on the property as housing for police officers and firefighters.

Collins pointed out that if the town redeveloped the property, it would need to comply with all current regulations including traffic, drainage, and stormwater management. She also cautioned the board against taking a piecemeal approach to decisions about the property.

At its March 13 meeting, the board returned to the topic of direction for the Elephant Rock property. Havenar asked the board for thoughts on how to handle the remaining buildings and what the Parks and Trails Commission should focus on over the summer.

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