

going on. Nobody wants to see a tax increase. We hate to have to ask for it. It's a horrible climate to do so. But we're at a point that to maintain services it's the only option.

- Station 3 is the station on Woodmoor Drive. It services all of the Woodmoor community as well as the closest response engine for all but two of the schools that we serve in District 38.
- The reason the district chose to close that station if the tax increase ballot issue fails is that it has the most overlap of all three. And the other two stations can respond "in" and cover that part of the district. Obviously that would increase response time.
- The increase, 3 mills, would cost \$2 per month per \$100,000 of assessed value—just over \$70 per year for the average \$300,000 home in our district. This would be a permanent increase to 11.5 mills, which is

actually still below most of the other equal or larger fire districts in the area. If you look statewide, we're very much below the average, especially for a full staff paid department.

- The district and board directors have laid out a spending plan that goes through 2015 to recover those budget line items—the reserve fund, to bring maintenance back up to par, to bring station maintenance back up to par, to refund the budget line items that we've cut. In 2015 it's already planned that they will re-evaluate and potentially then reduce that mill levy. The Board of Directors has to certify that mill levy every year. It can certify up to what the voters have approved as the max. They can go below that, without having to go to the voters, at any time.
- The district has received a Federal Emergency Management Agency two-year \$630,000 staffing grant for

hiring six additional firefighters. The district can't afford to accept the grant unless 5C is approved.

- The district has delayed building a fourth station in the south portion of the district but won't be able to afford to build it or staff it without the 3 mill tax increase.
- The district no longer has a volunteer program due to struggles with certification levels, participation, and expense for gear and training.

Town Manager Cathy Green said that the rent charged by the town for the district's use of the Second Street Town Hall building as an administrative building is \$1 per year so that the district could save money for its own building. However, the district has not been able to save any money.

2013 budget presented

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith formally presented a preliminary draft 2013 budget to meet the Oct. 15 deadline requirement of state statutes. She said the board would discuss the draft in a bud-

get workshop after the regular board meeting adjourned. She noted that the board must approve the town's 2013 mill levy certification, budget, and appropriation resolution and forward them to the state by Dec. 15.

Other matters

The board unanimously approved a change of manager for the Chili's Bar and Grill liquor license, contingent upon a positive background check by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

The board unanimously approved two payments over \$5,000:

- \$132,376 to Triview Metropolitan District for August sales tax, September motor vehicle tax, and Regional Building sales tax.
 - \$18,500 to Electrical Excellence Enterprises for the repair of the broken traffic signal for the YMCA on Jackson Creek Parkway.
- Smith presented the August sales tax report, noting that August

revenue exceeded the amount budgeted by \$154,000 or 9.3 percent.

The board approved a motion by a 5-1 vote (Trustee Stan Gingrich was opposed) to not decorate the new trees being installed on Second Street between Highway 105 and Beacon Lite Road with Christmas lights. There was some consensus that the money might be better used to offer employees bonuses, since no pay raise is likely for 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. The board recessed before starting the 2013 budget workshop.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 5 at Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are normally held on the first and third Monday of the month. Information: 884-8017.

Jim Kendrick can be reached at jimkendrick@ocn.me.

County engineer rejects developer's plan to improve Brookmoor entrance visibility



Above: Developer Michael Brennan constructed the wall at the intersection of Moveen Heights and Lake Woodmoor Drive that is the subject of a violation notice against Brookmoor Estates.

Above: Arrow points to the wall to the southwest of the intersection of Moveen Heights and Lake Woodmoor Drive that is to be removed in part or in whole as determined by El Paso County Development Service Division Director Max Rothschild. The county engineer will make the final determination. *Photos by Bernard Minetti.*

By Bernard L. Minetti

El Paso County Development Service Division Director Max Rothschild updated OCN Oct. 30 on the visibility hazard at the Brookmoor Estates entrance. "The developer's (Michael Brennan) engineer submitted a report that was not approved by the county engineer, as it was not done correctly," Rothschild said.

"We are waiting for a corrected report that will indicate the length of wall to be removed, including landscaping adjustment," he said. "The developer is responsible to make the modifications. If the work is not done in a timely manner, the Development Ser-

vices Department will request the Board of County Commissioners to take action on the violation."

County Commissioner Darryl Glenn uncovered this violation. The violation against Brookmoor Estates concerning the construction of the wall on the north side of the community without amending the development plan was addressed in an email.

The wall extends east and west of the main entry/exit gate that accesses the community. The wall, by its position and construction, blocks a large part of the sight visibility for exiting vehicles. It also limits vehicles on

Lake Woodmoor Drive from having a clear view of vehicles exiting from Brookmoor Estates.

According to the violation notice, the construction of the wall occurred in 2005. Code Enforcement Officer Gayle Jackson stated that Brennan was the Brookmoor developer and the constructor of the wall. Brennan is a board member of the Brookmoor Homeowners Association. He owns several lots in Brookmoor Estates through Mountain Desert Investments.

Bernard Minetti can be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

November 19 Deadline for Essay contest!

Attention High School Juniors - Win an all-expense-paid trip to either Washington, D.C., or a week at Leadership Camp in the mountains

All you have to do to enter is write a 500-word essay on "How can social media help an electric company interact with its members and better understand their needs and concerns?"

Please feel free to discuss different platforms (Facebook, Twitter, blogs, etc.) and your creative ideas for using them.

Requirements and contest entry form are available at either MVEA office or online at www.mvea.coop.

Please call 719.494.2670 for more information.

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