

Monument Board of Trustees, Nov. 19

Santa on Patrol donations requested for Dec. 15 event



Above: Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk announces that Santa Claus will be arriving Dec. 15 this year to distribute gifts and toys to youngsters whose families might need a little help in making their kids' Christmas joyful and fun-filled. *Photo by Bernard Minetti.*

By Jim Kendrick

On Nov. 19, Monument Police Chief Jacob Shirk announced that the annual Santa on Patrol event will take place Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the Monument Board of Trustees meeting, he asked the community to contribute unwrapped toys and/or \$25 gift cards for food purchases for Christmas dinners. Items can be dropped off at the Police Department office on the right side of the entrance to Town Hall at 645 Beacon Lite Road, the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District at 18650 Highway 105, or D-38 schools.

Reporter Lisa Collacutt said the Tri-Lakes Tribune is conducting a food drive and food or cash donations can be dropped off at Tri-Lakes Cares at 235 N. Jefferson St. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. She added that there is a need for toiletries and staples.

In other matters, the board approved an ordinance that allows the town clerk to conduct a review of liquor license renewal applications and transfer of ownership applications, eliminating the need for a public hearing unless it is determined that there is just cause for board review. Two options for increased water fees to restore the town water enterprise's sustainability were also presented by the staff for board review and comment.

Mayor Travis Easton was absent from the meeting. Mayor Pro Tempore Jeff Kaiser chaired the meeting in Easton's absence. Members of Boy Scout Troop 9 who attended this meeting for merit badge qualifications led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman swore in Rafael Dominguez as a trustee. His appointment to fill a vacant seat will run through April 2014.

The board unanimously approved an annual liquor license renewal for NY Boys LLC, doing business as Borriello Broth-

ers NY Pizza in Monument Marketplace at 15910 Jackson Creek Parkway. This is the kind of renewal that will no longer be required due to the unanimous passage of the ordinance noted above.

Draft water rate increase presented

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish presented the latest draft of water rate increases to get final questions from the trustees. Once the questions are answered, the board is expected to schedule a town hall meeting at the D-38 "Big Red" administration building on Jefferson Street to present the proposal to the public and seek public comments.

The rate increase is needed to allow the water enterprise to become self-sustaining again, as required by state statute, to keep the water treatment plant and distribution system in good condition, and to prevent the water enterprise from going into debt. Tharnish said the last town water rate increase occurred before 1998.

The town's water enterprise has been losing money for years and the cash reserve in the water fund is almost gone.

The current monthly water rate structure for all town water accounts is:

- 0 to 10,000 gallons: \$4.99 per thousand gallons for the first 10,000 gallons
- Over 10,000 gallons: \$5.99 per thousand gallons over

10,000 gallons
Tharnish presented two tiered options—a "combined" rate structure for both residential and commercial or separate rates for residential and commercial.

Option 1: The proposed option for combined/equal monthly water rate structure for both residential and commercial accounts with the average number of accounts in each category was:

- 0 to 6,000 gallons: \$4.99 per thousand gallons for the first 6,000 gallons (334 accounts)
- 6,001 to 12,000 gallons:

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