

about potholes and road conditions. ... Let us know if you notice anything." He said hiring contractors "on demand" instead of hiring a full-time employee might save money for the town.

Davis said residents should call the town office to ask staff to dispatch a contractor to fix potholes or bad road conditions they notice.

Town Accountant Linda Ousnamer stated, "Overall, we are looking okay ... a hair over budget," especially for Roads and the Police Department. She said, "The Police

Department is out of money and using general funds to finish out 2012." She commended the departments for working hard with such a tight budget this year.

Ousnamer stated that the draft 2013 budget would be different, saying, "each department has to stand on its own as far as the budget goes (based on income we have allocated to them based on 2012's expenditures) ... so they won't be borrowing from general fund." Trustee Grado reminded the trustees that the Police Department has been "on a starvation diet all year long"... and its "newest vehicle has 140,000 miles on it." Berreth said, "We increased your budget (for 2013) ... but there is not money to replace vehicles, just fix them." Ousnamer added that the Water Department has to stand on its own as an enterprise fund and can't share money with any other departments.

There is money in the emergency reserves fund, Ousnamer said, but the town wants to save this for emergencies only and is able to carry it forward to 2013 due to a TABOR exemption. "We do not want to spend these reserves at all."

"We have gotten in more revenue this year than we had budgeted" in the first nine months of 2012, Ousnamer said. "A good share of that amount is the projected water rate increase that's in the budget." This extra water money will not be available for other purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m., and the council entered an executive session for discussion of personnel matters.

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The next regular meeting and workshop will be held at 6 p.m. Dec. 6 in Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally the second Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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**Postscript:** At the Palmer Lake Liquor Licensing Authority and Medical Marijuana Authority, Nov. 28, a new liquor license was approved for the La Rosa Restaurant at 25 Highway 105, the site of the former B&E Filling Station Restaurant.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at [lisahatfield@ocn.me](mailto:lisahatfield@ocn.me).

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## Police chief's contract not renewed

On Nov. 14, Palmer Lake Police Department Chief Kieth Moreland emailed a press release concerning his departure as chief. Some of the comments in his press release were:

- My contract will not be renewed and I will no longer be chief after 12/06/12—three years and three days after my appointment.
- There is simply not enough money to pay my salary and benefits.
- Commissioner Grado assured me that this nonrenewal of my contract was budgetary and in no way related to job performance.
- I know we're performing at a better level than when I first arrived. I know, too, that I did not make this happen ... you did. You all have brought better skills to our workplace, and/or raised your skill levels to meet the challenges of policing this small town in the 21st century. I thank you for the positive work you've done here for any part of the last three years.
- The fire chief was already let go, last week. There is no talk of appointing another chief of police. The intent, as I understand it, is to appoint a civilian public safety director, who will oversee both the police and fire departments, yet not do any police work, respond to medical calls or fight fires—they will strictly make decisions, create schedules, and oversee budgets.
- In the end, it's been a great three years ... there's not one minute of regret, from me, for having spent time here. ■

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