

March submissions to the state by some large stores. This monthly sales tax report is not an officially required document and is prepared solely at the request of the trustees. The board does not take any votes to accept, modify, or reject these monthly informational reports.

This doubling up of March and April sales tax revenue helped produce an increase in general fund revenues over the amount budgeted for May of 10 percent, or about \$376,000. General fund expenditures were less than budgeted by 9.2 percent, or about \$347,000. Water fund net revenues for May were \$240,000, due in part to the drought and higher irrigation rates, an increase of \$138,000 from April.

Smith also noted that the town's 2012 budget will be restated in July to reflect the changes in staff and expenses that have resulted from the town and Triview Metropolitan District cancelling the intergovernmental agreements that had town employees operating the metro district in recent years. Since the district paid for these town staff services and the employees have resigned from the town staff and now work for Triview, the restatement should be neutral in terms of revenues and expenses.

The board unanimously accepted the May financial report.

**Staff reports**

Some of the items not already noted above that Tom Kasawara, director of Development Services, reported he had taken action on were:

- New town Senior Planner Patricia Parish started work June 4.
- Reviewed the first and second resubmittals of revised engineering plans for Phase 2 of Promontory Pointe.
- Met with traffic engineer Jeff Hodsdon of LSC Transportation Inc. to discuss strategies for gaining county approval of a traffic signal at the Jackson Creek Parkway intersection for the west entrance to the King Soopers shopping center.
- Reviewed and finalized an amended planned development site plan for a Jiffy Lube on Monument Marketplace Filing 14.
- Sent a letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requesting a permit for the removal of abandoned unused drainage pipes in the Jackson Creek wetlands area.
- Attended the county's first Willow Springs Steering Committee as the town's representative to this park planning committee.
- Participated in development of the landscaping plan for the new town parking lot on Washington Street.
- Reviewed a number of planning issues that were completed as administrative review on existing planned development site plans without board review and approval.

Public Works Director Tom

Tharnish noted that the current drought will force the town to release water into Monument Creek below the dam through a bypass valve assembly at a rate that is higher than the flow into Monument Lake. The town must release this stored lake water to people downstream who own water rights that are more senior than the town's water rights. This will cause the level of the lake to get lower as the drought continues.

Some of the items Monument Police Department Chief Jacob Shirk reported were:

- On May 31, the department put out a press release on a report of enticement of a child near the intersection of Mount Herman Road and Mitchell Avenue.
- On June 3, the department put out a press release on a report of a suspicious male dressed like a police officer in the King Soopers parking lot.
- New officers Ryan Schott and Andrew Romano have completed their 12-week training program and have been released to solo patrol.
- Lissette Chappel has been hired to fill the vacant part-time records technician position.
- Parents are reminded that summer curfew begins at 11 p.m. Sunday to Thursday and midnight on Friday and Saturday.
- The skate park closes at dusk while the other town parks close at 11 p.m.

Town Manager Kathy Green reported that the Rocky Mountain Rail Authority had changed its position on where to build a local light-rail facility from downtown Monument to somewhere in Black Forest. She stated that the Colorado Department of Transportation is advocating that passenger stations be adjacent to I-25.

**Cemetery report**

The agenda stated that former Trustee Gail Drumm (who worked for a funeral home and cemetery in the past) was to present a committee report on the status of the finances and policies for the town's cemetery. It includes proposals on how to make the cemetery profitable in an era of increasing percentages of cremations by making a substantial investment in the purchase and installation of a columbarium.

However, Drumm was not present as scheduled. Green, Finance Assistant Sherry Jurkovic, and Trustee John Howe presented the report in Drumm's absence. Howe has been researching information for the committee for two years.

Monument resident volunteer Sharon Williams spent weeks working on the overall aesthetics, plantings, and landscaping of the cemetery. Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman and former Deputy Town Clerk Claudia Whitney have assisted residents inquiring about the cemetery and reviewing and

organizing about 100 years of cemetery records.

Some of the facts presented during the discussion of the report were:

- There are 1,656 grave sites with 309 still vacant.
- There are also 179 empty grave sites that are deeded for future use.
- There are 10 to 12 burials per year.
- The cost of a plot is \$800.
- The current fee for opening and closing a grave site is \$350.
- Average annual cemetery revenue for the past five years is \$11,870.
- Estimated annual average direct costs for the past five years of cemetery operation are \$14,090 (\$8,366 for labor and \$5,724 for equipment).
- The average annual net loss over the past five years is about \$2,220, for a total of \$11,102.
- The purchase price for three representative columbarium installations from Premier Columbaria ranged from \$20,000 (240 niches) to \$28,000 (312 niches).
- Expanding the size of the cemetery would cost about \$80,000 per acre, with up to 20 vacant acres available on the opposite side of Beacon Lite Road.
- The current average cost for a funeral is about \$10,000.

Green asked the board for guidance on expanding the cemetery acreage and/or making a large investment in a columbarium at this time. Easton said the board does not know at this time if there is a demand for either and that the current annual loss is small enough not to force a decision on either option now. After further trustees' comments there was consensus to have the staff update the cemetery report at the time of 2013 budget preparation.

**Farmers market controversy**

During public comments, Ross Gallegos of the Monument Farmers' Market stated that the market is held on Saturdays in the Monument Plaza Shopping Center from July through October. He said he had some questions and a few statements for the trustees.

There are two farmers' market operations in downtown Monument during the summer. One, run by Diana Dickson for the past 12 years, was originally leasing space on the grounds of the Lewis-Palmer School District 38 "Big Red" headquarters building, on the southeast corner of Second and Jefferson Streets, until a few years ago. Her operation then moved to Monument Plaza. The other farmers' market also operates on Saturdays through a lease of the Jefferson Street parking lot for the mothballed Grace Best Elementary School.

For more background information on the board's lively discussion of the Monument Farmers' Market on July 18, 2011, see [www.ocn.me/v11n8.htm#bot0718](http://www.ocn.me/v11n8.htm#bot0718).

[www.ocn.me/v7n12.htm#dickson](http://www.ocn.me/v7n12.htm#dickson)

For more information on the split into two farmers' markets and Dickson's market relocation see:

- [www.ocn.me/v7n12.htm#dickson](http://www.ocn.me/v7n12.htm#dickson)
- [www.ocn.me/v8n1.htm#adair](http://www.ocn.me/v8n1.htm#adair)
- [www.ocn.me/v8n7.htm#dickson](http://www.ocn.me/v8n7.htm#dickson)

Some of the statements Gallegos made were:

- He wondered why the annual fee for the market's business license had increased from \$75 to \$200 in 2011, then \$400 for 2012.
- He had been treated "very nicely" by staff members but "very shabbily by the town manager, Miss Cathy Green," unlike any other municipality he has dealt with.
- In the past, Green had told Gallegos that she "hated our market."
- Green showed him "a brochure from another town and said that's what she wanted [the market] to look like."
- Green "offered to take over the market without any com-

pensation and she would let my partner have the privilege of running it."

- He was appalled that anyone from a town or city would make such a statement.
- Vendors sign a contract with Dickson that clearly states that the vendors are responsible for all fees and turning in their own sales taxes to the state.
- Green had said sales tax revenues collected by Dickson were not turned in, which was "slandrous."

Mayor Travis Easton said he would defer to staff for a reply to Gallegos on the fees.

Some of the statements Green made to Gallegos and the board were:

- She had not spoken with Gallegos for two years.
- The staff was trying to reunite the two markets after they split apart two years ago.
- The staff created a new category to prevent all vendors from having to purchase their own \$75 license.
- Trustee Rick Squires proposed a flat \$200 business license for each of the two



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## Three Summer Sundays

**June 17th: The Indulgiers**  
5-8p

**July 15th: The J Miller Band**  
6-9p

**Aug 12th: Urban Island**  
4-7p



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