

(this week) is I gave more money out of my (general) budget out to fire and police to make you guys have more revenue.”

McDonald said, “This is why you have an outside accountant.... For years everything was done in the office, and there was no double-checking of what’s going on.” Berreth said, “The budget has to be done and in to the county by Dec. 15.... or we’ll get no property tax money.”

Dave Bresnahan also asked about the large increase in overall salaries and wages when there was a \$40,000 reduction in full-time salaries. “But the police chief salary went away, so somewhere there’s more money going out for salaries and wages?” Ball said, “That’s money we took away from what we were paying the police chief and is now being ... rolled into the part-time officers getting a pay increase.”

McDonald said, “People did get raises this year.” Berreth added, “The staff got \$2 an hour, police got \$3, fire got \$3.... We haven’t had a raise increase in five years.” Police Trustee Bob Grado explained, “We did a complete re-org... now we have one full-time employee on the police department, and everybody else are part-time.... We have police officers working for \$13 an hour and they have to maintain certification and risk their life every day.” Part-time police officers will earn \$16 an hour in 2013, and the town still has 24-hour police coverage by state certified officers. Grado said, “We’re as lean as we can be.... The police department has taken some shots this year. It’s unbelievable that we even have officers willing to work here at this point.”

McDonald said, “This girl (Berreth) is getting herself so educated (on budgets).... She’s been gone a lot, and it’s because she’s been going to school.... There’s things we’ve been doing so wrong.... She’s put her heart and soul into this.”

Berreth told the trustees, “You need to stay within your budget. If you can’t make it within that budget, then we have another problem. I can’t share (general fund) money with you. Now if revenue doesn’t come in, that’s

a different ball of wax.” Ousnamer added, “Or if the expenses go up because the government decides payroll taxes are going to go up.... We won’t know that....”

The trustees approved the 2013 town budget by a vote of 5-1, with Davis opposed.

Business licenses approved

The council unanimously approved two business licenses:

- D’Amado Leather, at 78 S. Highway 105, co-owned by Amado and Deborah Almada, will make custom-made leather motorcycle accessories such as saddlebags and chaps. It will soon have a small storefront sign and a parking area inside the gate.
- JA Girlando Financial Planning LLC, at 401 Durango Way, is owned by former Palmer Lake Water Trustee Jim Girlando, a certified financial planner. He will operate out of his home with no storefront.

Committee reports

McDonald presented Rock House owner Jeannine Engel with a gift of appreciation for her work organizing the Chili Supper. Engel said, “This is my hometown, and the traditions need to be carried on. It makes it special for all of us.”

Grado explained that Police Chief Kieth Moreland’s contract had not been renewed as a cost-saving measure. Grado introduced Jason Vanderpool, the acting administrator/lieutenant during the 90-day moratorium starting Dec. 6, Moreland’s last day of work. Vanderpool worked for the El Paso County Sheriff’s Office for 13 years and has been with the Palmer Lake Police Department for two years, so “he is very familiar with the town.... He’s experienced and well-liked in the community and lives up here in our neck of the woods,” Grado said. “I will do whatever I can to make sure it works,” Vanderpool said.

Water Trustee Maddox said the town used 4,214,000 gallons in November, with 157,000 gallons for single-day high. “This is the same as last year, which means we’re not conserving. We need to take measures to conserve water,” Maddox said. He recommended residents look at the town website (see <http://www.ci.palmer-lake.co.us/index.php/departments.html>) for ideas on conserving water.

Maddox explained the need for a lot of water infrastructure repairs in the town. “In the long run, it’s more efficient to replace instead of repair,” he said, since many pipes are 70 to 80 years old and leaking. “Leaks lose a



Above: Palmer Lake Water Trustee Michael Maddox displays the sample of an approximately 70-year-old galvanized steel water pipe section he showed at the Palmer Lake Town Council meeting on Dec. 6. The pipe is typical of the water lines needing to be replaced in Palmer Lake, with calcification narrowing the diameter of the pipe and multiple leaks requiring metal patches to keep drinking water from seeping into the ground. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

valuable commodity to the ground. Water for bathing, drinking, and cleaning ... not filling the lake.”

Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster said there had been 27 calls in November and 358 for the year so far, totaling 27,723 volunteer firefighter hours. Zach Hier and Matt Gladin were elected as new lieutenants. The Chili Supper had 612 attendees, and Kuehster thanked the Restaurant Association, the town office, and those who ran the hayrides. Engine 2015 had maintenance done and is “ready to go.” Kuehster said there will be a fire station maintenance day in April, and they will be looking for volunteers to paint and repair stucco on the building.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Jan. 10 in Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally the second Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953, then press 0.

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HAZARDOUS INTERSECTION (Cont. from page 1)
 (HOA) board and who owns several lots in Brookmoor through Mountain Desert Investments LLC. The wall

belongs to the Brookmoor HOA but sits on land owned by individual property owners. County Commissioner Darryl Glenn was the first to discover that the wall, built on the north side of the community, was constructed without amendment of the Brookmoor final PUD site plan. At that point, El Paso County Code Enforcement Officer Gayle Jackson issued the notice of violation against the HOA. At the Dec. 20 meeting, Mark Gebhart, deputy director of the Development Services Department, was seeking to pursue litigation by the County Attorney’s Office to bring the property into compliance.

The wall extends east and west of the main entry/exit gate that accesses the Woodmoor-based community. Because of its position and construction, it blocks a large part of the sight visibility of vehicles exiting from Moveen Heights onto Lake Woodmoor Drive. It also limits vehicles on Lake Woodmoor Drive from having a clear view of those vehicles exiting Brookmoor.

Gebhart said the original approval of the property—which occurred in 1995—contained “an iron wall, not really a wall, one that you could see through.” In 1998, that was changed by an administratively approved minor site plan amendment to be a split-rail fence with some berms. But in 2005, Brennan constructed a more substantial stucco and masonry wall without informing the county or seeking county approval.

Gebhart stated that Brennan hired an engineering firm after the previous BOCC hearing on Aug. 9. Consultant traffic engineer Jeff Hodsdon of LSC Transportation Consultants prepared a separate sight distance analysis at the request of the county, and the county Department of Transportation and the county engineer reviewed it.

Gebhart said, “Comments were provided to Hodsdon by the county engineering staff, but they have not yet been responded to by the applicant or the firm’s engineer.” He advised the BOCC that this violation was viewed as a safety item and suggested there might be other methods of correcting the problem, including the moving of Lake Woodmoor Drive, to solve the sight distance problem.

Commissioner Sallie Clark asked Gebhart whether

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