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cific legal questions.”

The next meeting will be held at 5 p.m.

on Jan. 8 in Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are normally held on the second Tuesday of the month. Informa-

tion: 488-6868.

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

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 14

2013 budget approved

By Candice Hitt

At the Dec. 14 Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) meeting, board members adopted the 2013 budget, which included setting water rates and fees for the new calendar year.

- The Renewable Water Investment Fee (RWIF) will remain at \$45 per month for a single-family home.
- Volumetric rates for water use were not increased for 2013, nor was the base water rate. This is the second year that volumetric rates have been

held constant.

- Sewer use fees will increase 3 percent to \$26.04 per household. This is a flat monthly fee for residential customers.
- Water tap fees for new service will increase by 3 percent in 2013.
- Sewer tap fees for new service will not increase in 2013.
- The district has no mill levy and therefore no property tax collections.
- Availability of service fees were not collected in 2012, but will start being collected on Jan. 1. The fee was set at \$425 per vacant lot per year for full-service lots.

A letter with an overview of the budget will be sent to customers to inform them of the 2013 rates, fees, and services of the district as well as the progress on the JV Ranch water rights change case and other projects in progress.

The district has completed its long-range planning guide. This planning allows the board and staff to assess the water and sewer needs of the WWSD over the coming years and plan projects that the district will need to complete to maintain reliable and sustainable water and sewer services. A copy of the plan can be viewed at the district's office. The guidelines were adopted at the meeting.

The district expects to be able to offer credit card payment options to customers

sometime in early 2013. It is working with the Statewide Internet Portal Authority to provide this additional service.

Operations and construction update

Assistant Manager Randy Gillette gave the operations report and said there have been nine water main breaks recently due to the changing weather. He also said Well 6 has been cleaned and was scheduled to be reinstalled on Dec. 26.

Gillette said the Kum-N-Go gas station on Knollwood and Highway 105 was open with a temporary access permit until the water main on the property is realigned.

The district is working with El Paso County on the update of the county's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan. This plan is updated every five years. It is designed to highlight measures that minimize impacts from natural or manmade disasters. It also preserves the county's ability to obtain certain types of federal financial aid in the aftermath of a disastrous event.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 1 p.m. Jan. 10 at the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District Office, 1845 Woodmoor Dr., Monument. For information: 488-2525 or www.woodmoorwater.com.

Candice Hitt can be reached at candicehitt@ocn.me.

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Academy Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 19

Board works to finalize well easements

By Susan Hindman

The Dec. 19 meeting of the Academy Water and Sanitation District board focused on 17 acres along Spring Valley Drive that are for sale and drew a handful of interested buyers and Realtors. Two of the district's wells, which supply water to residents, sit on that property, and for several years the district has been attempting to work with the property owner to formalize conveyances of easements to those wells. Steps toward achieving this were taken at the meeting.

According to the district's attorney, Paul Murphy, Academy has what's called

a prescriptive easement to the well sites on the property. But there has been nothing on record that bears a legal description, and until a survey was done recently, the dimensions of the easement were uncertain.

Murphy prepared a grant of easement document with a legal description and a diagram. When the property owner signs that, the district will execute a quitclaim deed of all of the current rights and titles that the district has on that property—including some abandoned wells and an old underground line. The board voted to require this conveyance to the district

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