

shortage of \$592,085 in Truty's requested balance of \$1.3 million, he said. The capital improvement fund would face a shortage of \$539,045, which Truty said would have an adverse impact on the possible planned reconstruction of Station 3.

Uniform allowance and wages

Truty advised that the uniform allowance line item would be reduced by 28.8 percent in the 2014 budget. He proposed that all firefighters receive a \$400 annual lump sum to use as they wish. They would then be required to pay for uniform needs out-of-pocket. The 2014 budget would provide a total of \$3.2 million in wages. That would amount to an 11.2 percent wage increase for district employees.

Treasurer's report

Treasurer John Hildebrandt reported that the September budget level represented 75 percent of the budgetary year. Property tax revenues had exceeded that amount and were at 98.49 percent of projected

budgetary income. The Specific Ownership Tax was 115.72 percent of budgeted projections, or 37.72 percent of projected revenue. Ambulance revenues, he noted, were at 83.55 percent or 8.55 percent ahead of projected revenues. He reported that expenses were high and will normalize as the year progresses. He noted in his report that expenses were 1.25 percent over the projected budget.

Expanding fire coverage

Resolution 13-003, which orders the assimilation of certain Black Forest properties for fire coverage, was approved again at this meeting. This resolution will now go to the voters for final approval.

Healthcare proposal

In a memo to the board, Truty noted that the healthcare insurance quote from Kaiser Permanente was nearly identical to the preliminary rate increase of 7.7 percent that was expected in the budget. "The final number is a 7.8 percent increase," he said.

He also stated that no change in the carrier (Kaiser Permanente) was contemplated and advised that the dental plan would not be changed.

Station 3 driveway reconstruction

For rebuilding the driveway along the north side of Station 3, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) submitted a quote of \$21,722. The fire district is allowed to use that driveway so that fire district vehicles may access the rear of the station as well as use it as a turnaround. WWSD is asking for a contribution from the district to assist in the payment for the project. Since the estimate submitted was for a 2-inch asphalt bed, Director Roger Lance recommended that the district pay the cost of about \$2,000 to add another inch to the drive surface to increase its strength and viability. The board agreed.

Board of Directors meeting schedule

The meeting schedule for 2014 for the Board of Directors directs that all meetings take place on the fourth Wednesday of the month with the exception of November and December. In those months the meetings will take place on Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 to accommodate the holiday season. All meetings will take place at 6:30 p.m. at 166 Second St., Monument This schedule was approved by the board.

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, in the Administration Center at 166 Second St. in Monument. For further information regarding this meeting, contact the district Fire Administration Office at 719-484-0911.

Bernard Minetti may be contacted at bernardminetti@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, Oct. 8

JUC will seek new discharge permit, with conditions

By Jim Kendrick

On Oct. 10, Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility environmental attorney Tad Foster and Manager Bill Burks recommended that the facility's Joint Use Committee (JUC) approve an application for an early renewal of the facility's five-year discharge permit to take effect at the end of 2013 rather than amend the copper limits in the current permit scheduled to expire at the end of 2016. The purpose of the state Water Quality Control Division's request for an early Tri-Lakes permit renewal is to align all permit renewals in the Arkansas River Basin with the five-year basin standards review cycle.

The JUC unanimously approved seeking a new permit, but only if the state agrees to an adequate compliance schedule for meeting the nutrient requirements in Control Regulation 85 that will ensure enough testing time for new phosphate removal equipment. The JUC wants to avoid otherwise inevitable costly civil penalties for discharge permit violations.

While the division has stated that compliance with the request is voluntary for the wastewater treatment facilities in the Arkansas Basin, the head of the permits section, Jane Kieler, has also stated that she may make new, more restrictive permits mandatory for facilities in the

Monument/Fountain Creek Watershed. Arkansas basin facilities must apply for permit renewals by the end of 2013 for Kieler to consider them voluntary.

The division has never before discussed revoking discharge permits before they expire. The division is under a great deal of pressure from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set a national precedent for tighter nutrient restrictions, despite the scientific controversy over the effectiveness of simultaneously imposing tighter total phosphorus and total nitrogen constraints. The EPA provides 75 percent of the division's funding via annual performance partnership agreements.

The Tri-Lakes facility operates as a separate public utility and is jointly owned, in equal one-third shares, by Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District. The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: President Jim Taylor of Woodmoor, Vice President Dale Smith of Palmer Lake, and Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Robinove of Monument. Several other district board members and district managers from each of the three owner districts also attended the meeting.

Foster said that agreeing to the division's unprecedented early renewal request now—but only under the condition that the division agree to a negotiated phosphate removal compliance schedule for the Tri-Lakes facility—may make it easier to negotiate incorporation of a new process to define more scientifically valid and economically attainable dissolved copper stream standards into the facility's discharge permit. Tri-Lakes' cost for developing this procedure over the past decade was about \$500,000.

The Tri-Lakes facility will also request that the division eliminate the current permit's requirement to test for selenium, lead, and hydrogen sulfide, since none of these has ever been detected in Tri-Lakes' treated effluent. The current discharge permit would require costly monthly testing for these potential constituents to continue for another three years, through the end of 2016, with no further apparent purpose.

Note: The facility just received approval to stop having to test for nonylphenol, a toxic surfactant found in most detergents as well as dry-cleaning fluid. This testing

requirement had been mistakenly added to the new five-year discharge permit for 2012 through 2016. The division had initially billed Tri-Lakes for a permit amendment fee of about \$2,800 for correcting its own nonylphenol error, but Burks got the division to cancel the amendment fee invoice.

Foster recommended that the JUC agree now to accept the economic and technical risks inherent with issuance of any new effluent discharge permit, wherein every existing permit limit is subject to tightening, and other costly testing procedures may be added. Agreeing now, he added, may give the facility more leverage in negotiations with the division to relax current copper permit limits to reflect the new relaxed stream standards for Monument Creek. The new standards were approved by the Water Quality Control Commission in June using the Tri-Lakes facility's new science-based procedure for setting copper standards—after the EPA concurred at this hearing and said it would accept use of the Tri-Lakes procedure nationwide.

\$2 million in improvements

Nutrient treatment equipment construction at the \$6 million Tri-Lakes facility will be completed in early 2016 at a currently contracted cost of \$2.007 million. Foster noted that the facility staff would use the remainder of 2016 to accurately determine how to operate the new equipment efficiently and effectively. The facility must meet the requirements of Control Regulation 85 with a margin of safety during the warranty period as well as determine the size of rate increases that will have to be imposed to pay the substantial additional operational costs required to comply with this new state mandate.

The facility will ask for a compliance schedule that includes a minimum of two years, 2017 and 2018. During 2017, the facility staff would experiment, adjust, and maximize the efficiency of the new phosphate removal technology throughout all seasonal influent wastewater and weather conditions. In the past, extremely cold weather has drastically reduced the facility's ability to remove dissolved copper.

The plant received a temporary modification that relaxed copper limits from 2005 through 2014 to conduct the research noted above. However, the copper excursions during this research period would likely result in permit violations in 2015 and 2016 under the copper limits in the

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Alpaca Holiday Extravaganza

Join the South Eastern Colorado Alpaca Breeders for our 8th annual Alpaca Extravaganza at the Black Forest Community Club.

Experience the luxurious feel of alpaca from fiber to fashion. Garments, fashion apparel, accessories, and more just in time for holiday shoppers as well as fleece, roving, batting and yarn available for hand-spinners & artisans/crafters. Alpacas will be present so you can enjoy their gentle, unique nature.

Mark your calendars!

Saturday Nov. 16 from 9 am - 5 pm
Sunday Nov. 17 from 10 am - 4 pm

Black Forest Community Club is located at
12530 Black Forest Rd., Black Forest, CO 80908.
For the latest info call 719-495-6693.

