

still pretty high," he said.

Economic Development Trustee Shana Ball reported, "We no longer have a bowling alley... We still have a bar though, O'Malley's." She said Pinz Bowling Center lost its sanctioned lease. Ball added that the building co-owners now plan to auction off the lanes and sell the building. Ball said, "Let's hope we don't have anymore businesses closing in Palmer Lake. It's really going to hurt us." McDonald added, "Something could come in that's really lucrative, too."

The roads report was given by McDonald. During the cold weather, preventive maintenance and repairs were being done to vehicles and the shop. No road grading was done, and pothole repairs were ongoing.

McDonald said the lane dividers at Spring Street had been repaired again, and a lively discussion about the merits of the lane dividers resulted.

Ball asked if this was a "money pit" since they had to

be replaced so often; her impression was that some residents break the plastic poles on purpose. McDonald said the Roads Department is considering installing a more substantial divider there in the spring, saying, "We're going to put cement in."

Grado, McDonald, and Maddox all had positive reports from residents about the helpfulness of the lane dividers. "There's a lot of kids there ... walking to and from school, and I'm worried they're going to get hit one of these days," said Ball, adding, "People fly up that hill." Maddox said, "A concrete barrier would be nice.... It's gonna save a life."

Mayor McDonald reported on the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG) new slate of officers and the presentation to PPACG by new Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Director Don Hunt. She said Hunt talked about an overall lack of money, saying some state highways that "lead to nowhere" would be

turned over to local authorities for maintenance. McDonald said Palmer Lake doesn't need to worry about Colorado Highway 105, which "will stay with CDOT maintenance.... That road doesn't go nowhere; it goes someplace!"

McDonald also stated that Hunt said weekend visitors to the mountains would be glad to know that CDOT plans to alleviate Sunday afternoon congestion on I-70 by using some shoulders as highway lanes between Idaho Springs and the Eisenhower Tunnel.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 14 in Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. Workshops are normally held on the first Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953, then press 0.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, Jan. 8

Facility running smoothly

By Jim Kendrick

On Jan. 8, Facility Manager Bill Burks advised the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee (JUC) that December had been a very quiet month. The most troublesome operational problem that occurred was two of three wastewater samples were lost due to freezing and breaking of the containers while being shipped by truck to Steamboat Springs for testing.

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 Whitelaw, Woodmoor
 - Vice President Dale Smith, Palmer Lake
 - Secretary/Treasurer Chuck Robinove, Monument
- Several other district board members, including the JUC alternate representatives and district managers from each of the three owner districts, also attended the meeting.

Financial report

Burks noted that the annual workers compensation insurance payment to the Colorado Special Districts Property and Liability Pool for 2013 was \$4,947.

Burks also noted that the total amount spent by the facility in 2012 was \$750,409, only 93.7 percent of the \$801,114 total amount budgeted.

The financial report was unanimously accepted as presented.

District managers' reports

Monument Sanitation District Manager Mike Wicklund reported that he had an anomalous alarm call on New Year's Day for a pump running too long at a Wakonda Hills lift station. There were no other issues after that alarm, so he concluded it was just a short moment of unusually high wastewater flows during a holiday.

Palmer Lake District Manager Becky Orcutt reported that there were no problems in her district. She noted that she had received a lengthy article from her recently retired predecessor Duane Hanson, who now lives in Minnesota. The article focuses on extensive problems caused by nitrates from agricultural runoff contaminating Minnesota well water. She provided copies of the article.

Woodmoor Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette said there had been no issues at Woodmoor in the past month.

Plant manager's report

Burks reported that the Tri-Lakes plant was operating smoothly and efficiently. There were no problems regarding any of the entries in the plant's November Discharge Monitoring Report.

Wicklund noted that Monument Sanitation District's total sanitary wastewater influent flows to the Tri-Lakes facility are currently about the same as they were 20 years due to relining most of the old vitreous clay pipes. The lining stops almost all of the inflow of groundwater through the cracks and leaks in the joints that had developed during 50 years of use. The district no longer has to pay the Tri-Lakes plant to treat this groundwater in addition to treating the wastewater.

The concentration of solids has greatly increased

because the number of Monument customers has doubled but less potable water per flush is being used by newer bathroom fixtures to dilute the solids. There is also less dilution by the groundwater that was infiltrating the clay pipes before they were lined.

Wicklund also stated that the "Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Plant Facility Evaluation Plan for Copper, Manganese, Mercury and Zinc," prepared by consultant engineering firm Tetra Tech, had not adequately reported all the various methods used by Monument Sanitation District to discover the sources of copper in the district's wastewater or the methods used by the district to minimize these concentrations and their costs. Tetra Tech should have contacted the district to learn about district actions before writing a report and submitting it to the state, he said.

Burks replied that the data in the Tetra Tech report correctly state that Monument drinking water is the largest source of copper in the Tri-Lakes Facility. This information was intended to help the Monument district in future negotiations with the Town of Monument for further reducing copper concentrations. He said he would add a list of regulatory and treatment actions that had already been taken in the next Tetra Tech report to the state. Burks asked Wicklund for a summary of data Wicklund would like to be reported in the future.

Monitoring report

The 11 wastewater entities that are now members of the new Arkansas River/Fountain Creek Coalition for Urban/Rural River Evaluation (AFCURE), from Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility down to the City of Pueblo, will join the new statewide Colorado Monitoring Framework association as a watershed member at a cost of \$2,850. AFCURE will have only one vote for the watershed, rather than each member paying an individual

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