

basin water would not drain into the South Platte basin in violation of their CSU agreements and would be more amenable to discussions.

She said Monument was the only municipality of any size and should take the lead on what happens with water using Barber's access to statewide studies from his work with the Arkansas Basin Roundtable, including the PPRWA Water Infrastructure Planning Study. Trustee Jeff Bornstein said there must be other consultants that could help, but Konarski and Green disagreed, saying Barber was the most knowledgeable consultant available for Arkansas River Basin water issues.

After a question-and-answer discussion with the board regarding the town's and region's water history, the board asked Green to have Barber make a presentation on this new reuse approach at a future board meeting.

Later in the meeting, during staff reports, the board asked Green to publish options for water rate increases. However, the board did not vote on the size of the increase or whether the water rates would be the same for both residential and commercial customers. The board did not vote on the size of discounts for commercial customers for the option that calls for lower rates for commercial customers. The board also did not vote on a hearing date for approval of water rate increases.

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish stated that his proposed increases might only cover production costs for three years. Water rates would have to be raised again after that interval in order for the town's water enterprise to remain solvent.

Tharnish had offered two rate-increase proposals at the Nov. 19 board meeting that would result in the town having the second-lowest rates of seven water providers

in this region. Only Triview Metropolitan District's water rates would be lower. The rate increase is needed to allow the water enterprise to become self-sustaining again, as required by state statute, to keep the water treatment plant and distribution system in good condition, and to prevent the water enterprise from going into debt. Tharnish said the last town water rate increase occurred before 1998. The town's water enterprise has been losing money for years and the cash reserve in the water fund is almost gone.

The current monthly water rate structure for all town water accounts is:

- 0 to 10,000 gallons: \$4.99 per thousand gallons for the first 10,000 gallons
- Over 10,000 gallons: \$5.99 per thousand gallons over 10,000 gallons

Tharnish presented two tiered options—a "combined" rate structure for both residential and commercial or separate rates for residential and commercial.

**Option 1:** The proposed option for combined/equal monthly water rate structure for both residential and commercial accounts with the average number of accounts in each category was:

- 0 to 6,000 gallons: \$4.99 per thousand gallons for the first 6,000 gallons (334 accounts)
- 6,001 to 12,000 gallons: \$5.99 per thousand gallons over 6,000 gallons (192 accounts)
- 12,001 to 24,000 gallons: \$6.99 per thousand gallons over 12,000 gallons (268 accounts)
- Over 24,000 gallons: \$7.99 per thousand gallons over 12,000 gallons (117 accounts)

**Option 2:** The proposed separate monthly water rate structure for residential customers was:

- 0 to 6,000 gallons: \$4.99 per thousand gallons for the first 6,000 gallons
- 6,001 to 20,000 gallons: \$5.99 per thousand gallons over 6,000 gallons
- 20,001 to 40,000 gallons: \$6.99 per thousand gallons over 20,000 gallons
- 40,001 to 60,000 gallons: \$7.99 per thousand gallons over 40,000 gallons
- Over 60,000 gallons: \$8.99 per thousand gallons over 60,000 gallons

The proposed separate monthly water rates for commercial customers were:

- 0 to 20,000 gallons: \$5.99 per thousand gallons for the first 20,000 gallons
- 20,001 to 50,000 gallons: \$6.99 per thousand gallons over 20,000 gallons
- 50,001 to 250,000 gallons: \$7.99 per thousand gallons over 50,000 gallons
- Over 250,000 gallons: \$8.99 per thousand gallons over 250,000 gallons

For more information, see: <http://www.ocn.me/v12n12.htm#bot1119>

**Note:** See page 8 for the latest rate changes proposed by Tharnish, in the Jan. 22 board meeting article.

**Humane Society contract renewed**

There was a lengthy contentious discussion about a resolution for an annual renewal of the town's contract with the Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region for

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