

pet animal control and licensing services.

Green reported that the town had renewed this contract every year since 1997 to have the Humane Society patrol, pick up stray animals, and impound them as well as be in charge of licensing of town pets. She noted that the cost of the 2013 contract had gone up to \$16,568, an increase of \$6,568 over the 2012 contract. She also noted that the contract cost had not been increased since 2009 and that Lt. Steve Burk had verified that there had been a substantial increase in Monument's calls for service to the Humane Society in 2012 that had prompted the cost increase.

"So it was a legitimate number and this is the cost and that's I'm afraid what we're stuck with," Green said. However, she had no documentation available to answer questions on specific increases in each category of billings.

Shupp pointed out that hiring an extra town code enforcement officer to provide animal control at night would be considerably more expensive than \$16,568. The town would also have to buy an animal control truck and establish and maintain a kennel. The town would be liable if there is no enforcement mechanism for controlling animals due to cancelling the Humane Society contract.

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith stated that the \$16,568 contract was approved by the board in the 2013 budget and that the first payment for January under the new rate had already been paid. She listed the charges for the annual Humane Society charges for the past several years that had been flat with very little increase until the rate of town calls increased substantially in 2012.

Shirk reviewed his meetings with the Humane Society and stated that all their costs have gone up substantially. Also, the town staff has no other options

for a place to drop off dogs, cannot provide medical care, and does not have the equipment or liability coverage to pick up animals. He noted that if a trustee picked up a dog in Monument and took it to the Humane Society, the town would be charged for handling the animal.

Cynthia Sirochman, who was the town's code enforcement officer before taking over the town clerk position, noted that the town staff has no equipment or training for handling vicious dogs and that the Humane Society will not respond to barking dog calls unless the complainant files a formal complaint and gives their name and address. Shirk laughed, as did several board members, when asked if the Police Department wanted to respond to barking dog complaints at night.

After several trustees and a citizen asked numerous questions and made statements that questioned the negotiations by Green, Shirk, and Shupp with the Humane Society and the price of the contract, Trustee Rafael Dominguez said he had a problem with the board not taking care of these pet issues.

After 25 minutes of discussion on this increase of \$6,568, the board approved the contract renewal by a 6-1 vote, with Trustee Jeff Kaiser opposed.

Triview Metropolitan District office moving

The board unanimously approved a three-month extension of the existing intergovernmental agreement between the town and Triview Metropolitan District for the town to provide office space, furnishings, and administrative services, such as phones and computers, to Triview through March 31. The cost of this short-term agreement is \$2,181 per month

In other matters, the board unanimously approved an annual liquor license renewal for Brinker Restaurant Corp.'s Chili's Bar & Grill at 15898 Jackson Creek

Parkway.

Request made to move fireworks to Monument

During public comments, Monument resident Bill Brown of the Palmer Lakes Fireworks Committee asked that the board consider moving the annual Palmer Lake Fourth of July fireworks show to Monument. Brown suggested using the former Lake of the Rockies vacant lot on the southeast corner of Monument Lake as the base location for parking and viewing the fireworks display. He said the committee had obtained permission from the property owner, Ernie Biggs, for parking cars on his vacant property that is currently being used for grazing livestock.

Brown said, "I know there's a lot involved in asking this" and that the pyrotechnics launching equipment would direct the launches over Monument Lake. He added that he thought it would "be a better event" if held in Monument since the parade and street fair events are held in the downtown area.

Chief Shirk said he had "some pretty heavy concerns. If held at the lake, there's only two ways in and out." Mitchell Avenue, North Monument Lake Road, and Peakview Boulevard are only secondary roads and are not designed to handle thousands of vehicles at one time for traffic to exit to the north toward Palmer Lake.

Shirk stated that Second Street would require separate traffic control personnel other than police officers who will "have their hands full" with other specific duties already assigned for the annual event. With the hundreds of cars trying to exit at the end of the fireworks display, cars could be stuck on the railroad tracks with no way to move forward or backward and in danger of being struck by a train. **Note:** The modification made to the Second Street crossing by the railroad in 2009 to meet the Board of Trustees' request—in-

cluding \$12,495 for curb removal and replacement—to achieve quiet zone status are specifically designed to prevent vehicles from maneuvering off the road at this crossing. Similar modifications cannot be constructed for the Palmer Lake railroad cross-

ing on County Line Road due to insufficient space between the tracks and the adjacent Spruce Mountain Road.

Shirk also noted that there was no preliminary estimate at this time regarding how many vehicles could park on the vacant

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