

sions for ensuring the town's water supply.

Resident John Dominowski spoke in support of restoring town rebates for low-flow toilets and the town installing drip/micro irrigation systems to provide leadership by example. He supported education programs for area children and highlighting them in newspapers and the town newsletter, when the town website resumes operation. Resident Nancy Swearingen also spoke in support of low-flow fixtures.

Kassawara stated zoning rules call for a maximum of

33 percent bluegrass and 50 percent fescue in landscapes. He is still working on a water demand study for existing and new developments with new annual irrigation flow limits that he will present in a couple of months. Public Works Director Tom Tharnish stated a consultant has been working for a year on a joint water conservation plan for Monument, Palmer Lake, and Triview that includes efficiency rebates. The town website will be updated with all water saving ideas as well as completed projects as soon as the website conversion is completed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m. for a public workshop to educate the new board members on the town's capital improvement plan.

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

**Monument Board of Trustees, Feb. 19**

**I-25 expansion details discussed**

By Jim Kendrick

On Feb. 19, Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Project Manager Dan Hunt and Kiewit Infrastructure Co. Design Manager Wes Kindt briefed the Monument Board of Trustees and staff on the I-25 expansion from Woodmen Road to Highway 105. The board also approved a combined residential/commercial rate increase for Town of Monument water customers on the west side of I-25.

Trustee Stan Gingrich was absent from the meeting.

**I-25 project summary**

Some of the items Hunt and Kindt noted were:

- CDOT selected Kiewit and Parsons Brinkerhoff to design and build this 11-mile project.
- Mike McDonald is the Kiewit project manager.
- The expansion starts at the north end of the new I-25 concrete paving at Pine Creek, north of the Woodmen interchange.
- One lane will be added in each direction.
- Auxiliary lanes from each on ramp to the next off ramp will be built from Woodmen to Interquest.
- The loop ramps at the Northgate Road interchange will be eliminated.
- The Ackerman Overlook by the Air Force Academy airfield will be redesigned and moved to improve safety and traffic flow.
- Two lanes will remain open both ways except for some closures from 8:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.
- Speed limits may be reduced by 10 mph in construction zones during daytime hours, with a single lane speed limit of 45 mph.
- There will be a courtesy patrol to provide jump starts for dead batteries and water for overheated radiators during the peak traffic periods of 7 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 6 p.m.
- Kiewit proposed a "capacity completion" to have a new lane completed in each direction by the end of 2013.
- Milling and an additional layer of asphalt will be installed on the existing lanes beginning in 2014.
- The project will cost \$66.4 million for engineering design and construction (200,000 man-hours).
- Funding consists of \$50.5 million from CDOT, \$8 million in federal funds, and \$8 million from Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG).
- Design-build teams have met with environmental agencies to minimize environmental impacts.
- The contract will bring \$30 million to the local region in labor, supplies, and materials.
- Construction will begin in mid-March.
- In the first two phases, traffic will be moved to the outside lanes from Woodmen to Northgate to expedite work on the medians, and then outside widening will begin.
- Asphalt will be installed in a 6-inch base layer and a 2-inch stone mastic asphalt top layer.
- There will be a construction trailer materials testing site on the southeast corner of Baptist Road and Old Denver Highway.
- The main project office will be in downtown Monument.
- The second layer may be postponed until spring 2014 if weather holds up installation.
- The project hotline phone number is 719-247-8339, and information updates will also be available at www.cotrip.org.

**Water rates increased**

Public Works Director Tom Tharnish stated that the last Town of Monument water rate increase was in 1998, and the town's water enterprise fund currently is not self-sufficient. The new water rates he was proposing were probably high enough to restore the fund's self-sufficiency

for up to three years and may result in some water use reduction, he said. The new rates were published in OCN and the Tri-Lakes Tribune, and were mailed to water customers as an enclosure with their water bill.

There will be no increase in the current basic service charge of \$8.80 per month paid by every customer. The new additional charge for actual water use will be:

- \$4.99 per thousand gallons up to 6,000 gallons
- \$5.99 per thousand gallons over 6,000 gallons
- \$6.99 per thousand gallons over 12,000 gallons
- \$7.99 per thousand gallons over 24,000 gallons

In the summertime, about 36.7 percent of the town's water customers use no more than 6,000 gallons per month, and their bills will remain the same. In the wintertime this percentage would increase to 74.6 percent.

Cyndee Henson  
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happytailstrilakes@gmail.com

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