

A town water customer using 24,000 gallons per month will see an increase of about \$16 per month, and one using 12,000 gallons per month will see an increase of about \$4 per month. Tharnish cautioned the board that water consumption may drop initially but may return to the current levels after the first summer season. Questions about meter accuracy will continue to be handled the same way.

Tharnish added that a consultant had drafted a combined water conservation plan for Monument, Triview Metropolitan District, and the Town of Palmer Lake.

Town Treasurer and interim Town Manager Pamela Smith also cautioned the board that the total 2013 water



Above: Gary Barber, president of the Arkansas River Roundtable and the Town's water broker and consultant, proposed a one-year consulting contract to the Monument Board of Trustees (left to right): John Howe, Steve Kaiser, Mayor Travis Easton, Stan Gingrich, Becki Tooley, and Jeff Bornstein. Also at the dais were: Brianna McEwen of the Lewis-Palmer High School student council, Town Attorney Gary Shupp, Town Treasurer and interim Town Manager Pamela Smith, and Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman. Barber offered to represent the town in creating regional renewable water partnerships; prepare a conservation, reuse, and recycling water plan; and create a financing plan to purchase additional renewable water rights. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

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\$650,000

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\$550,000

What a find & setting! Updated home on 5 acre horse property w/trees & amazing views. Gourmet kitchen w/granite, tongue & groove hardwood floors, formal dining, main level office, spacious living & walk-out family room.



\$525,000

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enterprise fund budget has a surplus of about \$1,800 and a \$30,000 contingency line. However, Public Works is already looking at an unbudgeted \$50,000 repair of well 7 at this time. Tap fees from new construction are no longer sufficient to maintain capital reserves. The town's current water rates are about the lowest in the state and a rate increase is necessary, she said.

Tharnish said the board package for the next meeting on March 4 would contain a five-year water plan.

There was a general discussion on suggestions for conservation education. Smith suggested that the next month's water bills ask the customers to reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The board unanimously approved the new rate structure and directed the staff to prepare an ordinance to enact this rate increase for board approval at the meeting on April 1.

Water broker contract

The board advised Gary Barber it would delay a decision on the draft contract he submitted on Feb. 4 until all board members had a chance to meet with Betty Konarski, the town's representative to the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority. Mayor Travis Easton asked that the town's water attorney, Bob Krassa, and the town's water engineer, Bruce Lytle, review Barber's proposed contract as well. The board consensus was to have Barber provide a new draft contract based upon a lump sum payment with specific measurable expectations and objectives for tasks and work products. Barber agreed to the request and stated he would submit the draft contract to Tharnish as a "water consultant" rather than as a "water broker."

Special liquor license approved

The board unanimously approved a St. Peter Church special liquor license for the annual "Hoe-Down" fundraiser event on April 13.

Sidewalk design contract approved

The board unanimously approved a contract for \$149,698 with Jacobs Engineering for surveying and design services for the downtown sidewalks project. The total funding available in 2013 for the project includes a grant of \$150,000 from PPACG and a town match of \$200,000. Jefferson, Washington, and Front Streets, Beacon Lite Road, and Highway 105 from about First Street to Fifth Street will have curb, gutter, and a sidewalk installed on one side of the street with PPACG grants and a town match over the next four years. Construction will begin in 2014 using another grant from PPACG with a similar town match. No bike lanes will be provided because these streets are too narrow.

Financial reports

Smith's request for approval of three disbursements over \$5,000 was unanimously approved:

- \$178,368 to Triview Metropolitan District for its share of December sales tax (\$172,027), January motor vehicle tax (\$6,300), and January Pikes Peak Regional Building Department sales tax (\$42).
- \$6,107 to Lytle Water Solutions LLC for water engineering consultant fees.
- \$31,112 to Spradley Barr Ford for a new Ford police interceptor car (\$24,591) and to LAWS Emergency Vehicle Specialists for the purchase and installation of specialized lights/radio equipment (\$6,521).

Smith said total sales tax revenue for 2012 was \$221,000 (8.5 percent) higher than the amount budgeted for the year. Total town sales tax revenue for 2012 was \$4.29 million, with Triview receiving \$1.47 million and Monument \$2.82 million.

Smith noted that a sales tax audit of a town business had resulted in a payment of an additional \$30,000 in revenue.

Kassawara noted that Mike Pesicka, the new town principal planner, started work on Feb. 11. He stated that the El Paso County Department of Community Services is in negotiations with Hillcrest Bank in Kansas to purchase the foreclosed Willow Springs Ranch property for use as a county park. About \$200,000 in additional private donations is needed to purchase the land. He reported that the property consists of 117 acres of open space and 66 acres of buildable land.

Tharnish reported that the water level in Arapahoe Well 7, on Highway 105 by the Santa Fe Trail, had been dropping rapidly over the past few weeks. A well repair contractor will pull the pump and motor to allow a video camera inspection of the 1,700-foot-deep well casing to determine if plugged screens are not letting the well refill at a normal rate. The screens possibly could be cleaned with chemicals and brushes.

As noted above, the estimated cost of repair is about \$50,000 but there is only \$30,000 in the contingency line. However, some sections of the pipe casing are also showing signs of significant corrosion after only 3 1/2 years, a sign of aggressive groundwater.

Tharnish also noted that this is the only well that can pump water to the town water tank at the top of the hill on Beacon Lite Road without the help of a booster station. It is fortunate that this problem is occurring during the lowest water demand period of the year, he said.

Kaiser asked Tharnish to provide the board with information from Krassa on when state ownership of the Monument Lake Dam will be transferred to the town, any studies available on the Laramie Fox Hills aquifer, and any information on stormwater fees, tax revenues, and potential future expenses. Konarski suggested an update on the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District objection to the town's water rights in Monument Lake. Tharnish said that significant treatment changes would be required to treat Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer groundwater.

The underground decorative wiring used for Christmas lighting of the new trees on Second Street from Beacon Lite Road to Front Street was originally installed in 1999. It will be removed and replaced due to deterioration that is a shock hazard at a cost of about \$9,000.

Monument water production for January 2013 was 7.14 million gallons, 179,000 gallons more than in January 2012, a 2.5 percent increase.

Police Chief Jake Shirk informed the board the Police Department is offering two new services: Safety and security inspections for church and faith-based organizations and CPTED (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.) Trustee Jeff Bornstein asked Shirk and Kassawara to look into illegal left turns being made onto northbound Knollwood Drive by cars exiting the new Kum & Go. Trustee Becki Tooley will prepare a resolution supporting the Second Amendment that the board could send to the state Legislature.

Smith advised the board that Finance Manager Monica Harder would receive a new title of deputy treasurer and make the financial reports at future board meetings. Work continues to restore operation of the town website.

Smith stated the town had donated a cemetery plot to Ryan Willhite and Scarlett Gallagher, the two children murdered on Feb. 13 in eastern Colorado Springs. Both children had strong ties in Monument.

Trustees' comments

Trustee Jeff Kaiser thanked the staff for their "can-do