

## Donala Water and Sanitation District, Dec. 5

# 2014 budget approved

*By Jim Kendrick*

On Dec. 5, the Donala Water and Sanitation District board unanimously approved its budget, mill levy certification, and appropriation resolutions for 2014. There were no public comments during the open portion of the public hearing. The board also unanimously approved a roof repair bid, a budget amendment to the Flaming Gorge water study, a participation agreement for the Water Authority infrastructure project, and appointment of a designated election official.

### 2014 budget finalized

Some of the items noted while the board was approving the budget, mill levy, and appropriation documentation were:

- Total 2014 expenditures were \$9.61 million.
- Total 2014 revenues were \$17.91 million.
- Total budgeted funds available at the end of 2013 were \$21.0 million.
- Total budgeted funds available at the end of 2014

- were \$17.9 million.
- Total 2014 appropriations were \$17.91 million.
- The Area A mill levy of 21.296 mills on \$70 million of assessed district value will raise \$1.49 million.
- The Area B mill levy of 10.648 mills on \$271,910 of assessed district value will raise \$2,895 and apply only to those few Chaparral Hills homes receiving water service only)

### Manager's report covers several projects

General Manager Kip Petersen reported that the district's insurance company had determined that seven structures had experienced hail damage totaling \$150,000 during August and September. The board unanimously approved the lowest responsible bid of \$66,217 from Holiday Grace Roofing.

Petersen expressed concerns about Donala contributing another \$5,000 to the Flaming Gorge water study until the Bureau of Reclamation has completed its peer review of the computer modeling program that will be used for about 25 runs by Hydros Consulting Inc. The cost for the computer runs is an additional \$40,000 to the partner water entities in the project for this feasibility study. Donala has already invested \$10,000 in the project to date. These prior payments already cover the cost of model development.

The board unanimously approved making the next

\$5,000 contribution after the Bureau of Reclamation peer review validates the accuracy of the model. The project calls for water to be transported from southwest Wyoming and northwest Colorado to the Reuter-Hess Reservoir of the Parker Water and Sanitation District (<http://www.pwsd.org/projects.html>.) The other six entities participating in this eight-member Flaming Gorge project were: South Metro Water Supply Authority; Douglas County; Castle Rock; Laramie County, Wyo.; City of Torrington, Wyo.; and City of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Petersen reviewed the proposed project participation agreement for the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority's regional infrastructure study. The project consists of the joint study of combining other water entities' proposed potable water pipelines and related facilities with those planned to be constructed by Cherokee Metropolitan District for the mutual benefit of all potential authority participants. The other six entities considering partnering with Cherokee are Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU), City of Fountain, El Paso County, Town of Monument, Town of Palmer Lake, Triview Metropolitan District, and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District.

Cherokee will be transporting water south from its Sundance Ranch well field on Hodgen Road to the Cherokee water system. Woodmoor needs infrastructure to transport its renewable JV Ranch water north. Woodmoor could exchange water with Cherokee and transport water from the Sundance Ranch over a much shorter distance at a lower cost.

Petersen said the project would provide an alternative to being solely dependent on CSU's internal water distribution system for transport of Donala's renewable Willow Creek Ranch water from the north end of CSU's Southern Delivery System to Donala's system. The pipeline project may be able to facilitate water exchanges between Donala and other participating entities that may reduce Donala's water transport costs.

The board unanimously approved a 2014 allocation of \$10,000 from the 2014 budget for Donala's contribution to the first phase of this study. The total project study cost will be about \$180,000.

The board unanimously approved a resolution appointing Office Assistant Ginnette Ritz as the district's designated election official for the Donala special district election to be held on May 8. Ritz will process nomina-

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