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Sidewalks project to begin Sept. 15

Planning Director Mike Pessicka, representing the Development Services department, said that the residents who attended the downtown sidewalk projects meeting on Aug. 27 asked good questions. He anticipated actual

construction of sidewalks to begin Sept. 15.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The Sept. 15 BOT meeting was canceled. The next BOT meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 6 at Town Hall, 845

Beacon Lite Road. Meetings are usually held the first and third Mondays of each month. Check <http://monumenttownco.minut.esondemand.com/> to see future meeting agendas and packets. Information: 884-8017.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Town Council, Sept. 11

Audit gives town highest rating

By James Howald

The financial health of Palmer Lake was the principal topic at the Palmer Lake Town Council meeting on Sept. 11. The trustees heard the results of the audit for 2013, performed by RubinBrown Certified Public Accountants & Business Consultants. White Mountain Accounting Services also made a presentation on the town's accounting practices.

Town receives clean audit

Russell White, assurance partner at RubinBrown, presented the audit report. Palmer Lake's total net position for 2013, which White compared to a business's equity or worth, is \$4.19 million. He summarized this as a "good position." The town's change in net position from the previous year, or net income, was \$401,289, an increase due mostly to increased revenues. White also pointed out the town's total net position in its water fund was \$3.45 million, and that the audit found the town's core operating expenses were covered. He said the audit gave the town a clean "unmodified opinion," which was the highest possible rating.

White added the town has "sufficient resources and funds to pay back debt and pay your bills" and that it is not on the verge of bankruptcy. Proponents of the upcoming vote to legalize the sale of recreational marijuana in Palmer Lake have made the town's solvency an issue by arguing that the town needs the tax revenue those sales would generate to remain out of receivership.

Trustee John Russell asked White to elaborate on the \$87,907 unfunded amount listed for the Volunteer Firefighters Pension Fund. White said this represented an unfunded liability for the town that should be a matter of concern. He added this liability would be affected by upcoming changes to the Public Employees' Retirement Association, but that those changes were not yet clear.

An unidentified attendee at the meeting asked White how much the audit had cost the town. White replied the cost was \$35,000, and that the cost resulted from extra work required by the town's use of two different accounting packages over the last three years.

The council voted unanimously to accept the audit report as delivered.

Town simplifies bookkeeping

Two representatives from White Mountain Accounting Services spoke to the trustees about recent changes to Palmer Lake's bookkeeping practices. 2013 was the last year during which the town used both QuickBooks and White Mountain's accounting software. In the current year, only the White Mountain software has been used, simplifying bookkeeping efforts.

Business license approved

The council voted unanimously to approve a new business license for Purple Mountain Pilates, doing business at 860 Highway 105.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Oct. 9 in Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second Thursday of the month. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me.

Tri-Lakes Facility Joint Use Committee, Sept. 9

New discharge permit delayed again

By Jim Kendrick

On Sept. 9, Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Bill Burks reported to the Joint Use Committee (JUC) that he had paid \$11,504 for the annual

fee for the facility's current five-year discharge permit that runs through 2016. He also noted that the Colorado Water Quality Control Division had not issued the new discharge permit for 2014 to

2018 that the division had asked the facility to apply for early.

At the five-year Arkansas River basin hearing held by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission in Alamosa in 2013, the division had asked all the Arkansas basin wastewater treatment facilities to apply early for new permits starting in 2014 to realign all of their periods with the five-year Regulation 32 basin



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10:45 AM: FAMILY SERVICE WITH CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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