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shooting. One explained that gun ranges are predominantly only for the use of members, making it either expensive or impossible to gain admission.

Many people came from the Spruce Mountain Road and Highway 105 north corridor. They uniformly appeared to be against the project due to noise concerns. One Spruce Mountain resident said that this was a defining moment for Palmer Lake.

Mayor Nikki McDonald explained that if the town does not accept the proposal, it could be moved nearby—exposing the town to the same noise levels without any revenue. She also noted that a gun range in the '80s and '90s was closed. She said it was the worst day of her life when residents became so deeply divided, unfriendly, and unneighborly over the closing of the gun range.

Commissioner Bill Fisher questioned whether a planned use development or conditional use permit in an M-1 zone would be required.

Mayor McDonald and others suggested visiting a gun range near a subdivision in Erie in order to gather information.

A motion passed unanimously to table the proposal for further consideration at the next meeting.

Verizon testing request goes to council

A proposal from Verizon Wireless for a cell tower on Town Hall property also was considered. Colleen Nebel, a representative of Verizon, said a 60-foot tall “mono-pine” or “mono-pole” was proposed for an area on the lot where the Town Hall sits. Alternate locations behind the Fire Department and at the elementary school were mentioned.

Nebel stated that a conditional use permit was required. There would be a 250- to 300-square-foot pad and town-required fencing. A generator would self-test weekly, and air conditioning equipment would produce a noise level of about 60 decibels. No lights would be required on the tower. Verizon was requesting right-of-entry to do testing of RF signals and site/soil inspections of potential locations. Once a site or sites are chosen photo-simulations will be presented for aesthetic consideration.

Planning commissioners raised issues about public safety, aesthetics, zoning, and location. Public safety was considered not an issue since the FCC controls cell tower safety at the federal level. The standard is,

“If it does not heat your skin, it is safe.”

Town resident Paul Banta presented images to commissioners of the tower at the fire station showing how tall the proposed monopole would be relative to the existing 45-foot antenna attached to the north side of the fire station.

A man considering moving to Palmer Lake was adamantly opposed to the proposed tower, claiming to have been a victim of electromagnetic poisoning in the past. He said that a half mile was the minimum safe distance to a cell tower.

Ball and others spoke in favor of the proposal in terms of benefit to the town in the form of rent, and to EMS, fire, and police services in the form of far superior communication abilities, especially up-canyon.

Commissioner Jim Adams called for a third party evaluation of current RF signal levels before the installation of any cell towers, followed by post installation evaluations by the third party. This would establish a baseline from which to examine future exposure to electromagnetic radiation from the cell tower. He also suggested that the town get free phone service for the duration of the lease.

Verizon’s right-of-entry request for testing was passed to Town Council unanimously.

Jim Adams can be reached at jimadams@ocn.me.

Monument Board of Trustees, Feb. 3

Two recognized for contributions to town

By Jim Kendrick

During the Feb. 3 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, Town Manager Pamela Smith presented an employee appreciation certificate to Bob Schubert of Public Works for his 15 years of service to the town. Smith also thanked his wife, Marie, for her support throughout the past 15 years.

Monument Police Chief Jake Shirk presented a chief’s commendation to officer David Schott for his exemplary service to the community during a burglary-in-progress call after midnight Nov. 19 at the closed Monument Marketplace Coldstone Creamery. Schott observed that the front window was broken, someone inside was breaking into the cash register, and another suspect was in an idling car outside.


The first suspect ran out of the store

to the vehicle. Schott pursued the vehicle and performed a high-risk vehicle stop taking the two into custody after backup vehicles arrived. Shirk added, “Officer Schott thinks that this is just part of doing your job. I can count the number of times I encountered a crime in progress on one hand. It just does not occur very often. Thank you and great job.”

Trustees Becki Tooley and Jeff Bornstein were absent from the meeting.

Wahlborg annexation amendment approved

The board unanimously approved an ordinance approving an amendment to the annexation and development agreement for the Wahlborg annexation and Village at Woodmoor. The amendment transfers ownership of the development’s roadways



2014 Mountain View Electric Association BOARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

At MVEA’s Annual Meeting on June 5, 2014 at Calhan High School in Calhan, two directors will be elected to Mountain View Electric Association’s (MVEA) Board of Directors from the following districts:

District 2 Simla, Matheson and a portion of the surrounding areas.
(Incumbent Rick Gordon)

District 7 Monument, Woodmoor and a portion of the surrounding areas.
(Incumbent Donna Andersen-Van Ness)

The procedure for Director Elections & Member Voting is available on MVEA’s website at www.mvea.coop.

If you are interested in being a candidate, please contact a member of the nominating committee. The Nominating committee members are Allan Moore, District 2 and Edward “Kelly” McGuire, District 7. A candidate must be a MVEA member and reside in the district where there is a vacancy. Before applying, please contact either MVEA office at 719-775-2861 or 719-495-2283 to verify your district.


A member may also petition for nomination. Petitions and procedures are available at the Limon Headquarters, 1655 5th St., Limon; or at the Falcon Operations Center, 11140 E. Woodmen Rd, Falcon, or online at www.mvea.coop. Petitions must be signed by 15 members of MVEA and returned to either MVEA office by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2014.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

District 2
Allan Moore
13217 County Road 141
Simla, Colorado 80835
719-541-2180

District 7
Edward “Kelly” McGuire
4810 Abo Lane
Monument, Colorado 80132
719-481-9377

A candidate questionnaire must be completed for either nomination by the committee or nomination by petition. This questionnaire can be found on MVEA’s website or you may pick one up at either office. If you have questions, please contact a member of the nominating committee. Candidate applications must be received by the nominating committee by 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 7, 2014 for the committee’s consideration. If you are petitioning for nomination, the candidate application must be submitted to either Association office with your petition no later than 5:30 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2014.



Limon Headquarters
1655 5th Street
Limon, CO 80828
(719)775-2861

Falcon Operations Center
11140 E. Woodmen Road
Falcon, CO 80831
(719)495-2283

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