

Financial report accepted

BRRTA accountant Carrie Bartow, of management consultant Clifton Larson Allen, presented the first-quarter financial report, which was unanimously accepted as presented. Some of the cash figures as of March 31 that Bartow noted were:

- Cash assets—\$285,641
- Liabilities—\$14,150
- Road use fee revenue—\$17,488
- General fund expenditures—\$764,381
- General fund balance—\$271,491
- Debt service fund sales tax revenue—\$170,215
- Debt service fund expenditures—\$219
- Debt service fund assets—\$2.75 million

Bartow also noted that the total amount budgeted for all of 2014 for debt service fund expenditures for 2014 is \$1.472 million.

The engagement letter that was previously signed by Glenn for the 2013 audit already being conducted by Biggs Kofford LLC was unanimously ratified. The annual fee increased \$125 this year to \$4,375. To much laughter, Bartow thanked the board for approving the appointment letter “because we should have opinions on Monday for the audit” – on May 16.

The board also unanimously approved the final draft

of the 2013 audit financial statement. At the end of 2013, total BRRTA assets were \$4.15 million and total liabilities were \$15.9 million. Williams said that the Colorado Department of Transportation, which has already paid \$3 million to BRRTA for reimbursement, plans to pay more of its road construction debt to BRRTA in 2014.

West Baptist Road construction update

County Engineer André Brackin and Engineering Services Manager Jennifer Irvine gave the Public Service Department update on the status of the county’s portion of the West Baptist Road widening and railroad bridge construction project.

Brackin noted that the Baptist Road improvement project started in 1995. He said the existing and still “outstanding” Baptist Road bridge over Monument Creek was built in 1996—but does not span the railroad tracks.”

Some of the project items Brackin and Irvine discussed were:

- Project cost estimate —\$9.94 million (per Energy Impact Assistance Grant application)
- This project estimate is conservative, based upon the preliminary design, and the estimate will be updated with the final design.
- Current funding available is \$8.62 million from PPRTA budget (\$6.87 million), BRRTA (\$750,000), and DOLA Energy Impact Assistance Grant (\$1 million).
- The preliminary design for the rest of the improvements has been completed.
- Final design of the bridge and walls for grade-separated crossing, the single-lane roundabout at Old Denver Highway, and associated roadway and drainage improvements is proceeding.
- The initial concept has been submitted to and reviewed by the Union Pacific Railroad.
- Discussions/updates continue with key stakeholders and property owners.
- Property acquisition requirements and “challenging” utility relocation needs are being finalized.
- The project secured a \$1 million Energy Impact Assistance Grant from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the grant contract is being reviewed.
- The BRRTA contribution toward the project of \$750,000 has been transferred to PPRTA.
- The county is awaiting wetland permit approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and approval of the submitted biological assessment document related to protected mouse habitat.
- A conditional letter of map revision for the floodplain modification will be submitted to FEMA once the biological assessment is approved.
- Final design plan review submittal—mid-May.
- Public Utility Commission application and railroad submittal—May.
- Property acquisition underway.
- The county’s Baptist Road Santa Fe Trail trailhead will be expanded.
- County will advertise for bids in July.
- Construction will take place in 2014-15.

Brackin also reported that the engineers’ construction estimate will likely be reduced when the final design is finished. The contingency amount will also be reduced proportionately to the savings from a competitive bidding process for the construction contract. If needed, potential additional funding may be available from PPRTA reserves, revenue, and/or re-allocation of surpluses from other PPRTA projects.

Attorney items

The board unanimously approved a new intergovernmental agreement between BRRTA and the Town of Monument for town staff collection and forwarding of BRRTA’s one-cent use tax for construction and building materials to BRRTA’s district manager. The town will charge a 2 percent fee for collection and forwarding of each use fee check as town staff do now with BRRTA’s road use fee checks.

BRRTA attorney Jim Hunsaker, of Spenser Fane, announced he would be moving to Oregon and introduced his colleague and interim replacement Matthew Dalton, also of Spenser Fane, noting that Dalton had worked with BRRTA when it was first created. Dalton said his fees will be the same as Hunsaker’s for the rest of 2014.

Board member items

Williams thanked the town of Monument for working with the county to install a new permanent outdoor ballot box that can be used for county, town, and special district elections.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.



Above:After the BRRTA meeting on May 13, from left, County Commissioner Darryl Glenn, Monument Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Kaiser, Mayor Rafael Dominguez and County Clerk and Recorder Wayne Williams pointed out Monument’s new secure outdoor “Official Ballot Drop Box” installed at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. It was installed for the April town elections. This drop box location can also be used for regional special district elections. The town and the county split the costs for installation of the rugged drop box and all the required security cameras that protect it while supplementing Town Hall security year-round. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*



Above: At the May 13 Baptist Road Rural Transportation Authority meeting, Monument Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Kaiser and Mayor Rafael Dominguez, left, join County Engineer Andre Brackin and Jennifer Irvine to study the latest plan for the further widening of Baptist Road west of I-25, including a new bridge over the railroad tracks. *Photo by Jim Kendrick.*

The next meeting will be held at 2:30 p.m. on Aug. 8 in Monument Town Hall. Meetings are normally held on the second Friday of the second month of the quarter. Information: 884-8017.

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Academy announces efforts to reduce flight noise

By Lisa Hatfield

On May 29, the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) held a town hall meeting at the Discovery Canyon High School Campus to discuss changes to training activities in an effort to mitigate noise generated by the USAFA cadet airmanship program.

Two changes are intended to reduce the impact of the training activities over the communities directly east of USAFA by about 30 percent, said Col. Joseph Rizzuto, commander of 306th Flying Training Group. Neighborhoods affected by the new plan include Gleneagle, Jackson Creek, Sun Hills, Fox Run, Chaparral Hills, and others in the general flight corridor along I-25 to Baptist Road and east along Baptist Road.

Addressing about 50 residents who asked many detailed questions after the presentation, Rizzuto and David Cannon, academy director of Communication, outlined the two changes scheduled to begin June 2. A representative from Rep. Doug Lamborn’s office also spoke.

1st Annual Community Yard Sale
Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. -4 p.m.
Sunday, June 22, 10 a.m.-2p.m.
 Palmer Lake Centennial Park, Gazebo Area
 West side of Lake, on Hwy. 105
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