

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, June 12

District hopes to improve communication

By Nancy Wilkins

At the June 12 Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board meeting, District Manager Jessie Shaffer asked the board for input on WWSD's publication, The Pipeline, and sought ways for the board and staff to improve communication with district residents.

Director Beth Courrau suggested using Internet-based software to allow written questions and answers to be communicated between the district board and staff and WWSD residents. Courrau said she is already using Internet software among Woodmoor communities to successfully communicate community information.

Other suggestions from the board and Shaffer included holding classroom seminars, maintaining a booth at the Monument Farmers Market, organizing events at local high schools, and organizing a barbecue event for district residents. No motions or votes were taken on this topic.

Financial report for May

Significant income sources to

WWSD for May include the renewable water investment fee, which generated \$163,802. Water and sewer taps generated \$93,894 of income, the water use fees generated \$139,691 of income and sewer use fees generated \$93,388 of income. Total operating income received in May is \$498,281.

Total operating expenses for the same period were \$997,756. Significant expenses for WWSD for the month included a bond interest expense of \$627,781 and construction, costing \$79,151.

Operations and water report

Assistant Manager Randy Gillette said the telemetry equipment is installed at Chilcott Ditch, but until the accuracy of the equipment can be proven, WWSD will continue to receive manual readouts of the water measured into JV Ranch.

Gillette expects WWSD will incur the cost of realigning several manhole covers along County Line Road to the proper depth as the road is expected to undergo a two-year construction

project.

The monthly water report showed 2.8 million gallons of unaccounted water between April 30 and May 30, representing 11 percent of water billed. Total potable water billed for the same period was 24.0 million gallons. Shaffer reported that additional meters will be installed to track down leaks in the water delivery system between the start and end points of the system.

Gillette reported to the board that WWSD sent out an email blast to about 1,265 people to announce that WWSD is now providing Lake Woodmoor water to district customers.

JUC report

WWSD's new representative to the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility's Joint Use Committee will be Director Rich Strom. Current representative Director Jim Taylor reported that the facility is running normally.

The board voted unanimously to go into executive session.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, July 10, at

1 p.m. at 1846 Woodmoor Drive. Please call 719-488-2530, or visit www.woodmoorwater.com for more information.

Nancy Wilkins can be reached at nancywilkins@ocn.me.

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Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department's Future, June 7

Committee explains problems, provides options and solicits community input

By Jackie Burhans

The Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department (PLVFD) Future Committee held a community meeting June 7 to talk about PLVFD's status and future. Members of the Palmer Lake Town Council, PLVFD volunteers, and 35 residents attended the meeting.

The committee provided a questionnaire to solicit community input on the following options which, except for the last option, would increase taxes to pay for bond and operating costs:

1. Renovate current building and build an additional structure
2. Build a new fire station
3. Build a public safety building to include police and fire
4. Join the Tri-Lakes Fire District
5. Do nothing

Town Trustee Richard Kuehster noted that the PLVFD budget has been declining each year. The current budget is \$99,000, of which \$47,000 is restricted funds that come from the town's 1-cent sales tax that it shares with the Police Department. The budget is down 10 percent due to lower property values and declining sales tax due to loss of businesses under the recession. Insurance costs continue to rise and consume half of the unrestricted budget funds.

Kuehster indicated that the Fire Department's building is falling down and equipment is not being maintained. Medical

calls now represent over 90 percent of the calls and provide first responders to residents, often before the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Department can respond. He stated that, besides life and property protection, the Fire Department is one of the glues that hold the community together.

Palmer Lake Fire Chief Margo Humes spoke about the volunteers, four of whom live in the district. The remaining 23 live elsewhere and come to service the community. Volunteers

require training to be certified. They pay for training and uniforms from their own pockets unless it comes from a donation. Everyone in the department has gone through wildland fire training and sawyer training and all have been wildland certified. Keeping the community safe requires fire mitigation on residents' part, she said.

Humes reiterated the run-down condition of the building and the deferred maintenance on the equipment resulting in



Above: From left, Palmer Lake volunteer firefighters Allison Quinanta, Weston Oesterreich, and Logan Noel are pictured outside the Palmer Lake fire station built in 1938 as a federal Works Progress Administration project in cooperation with state and local governments. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

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