

BOT Aug 18(Cont. from page 7)

of Transportation (CDOT) would not agree to these locations. The town will continue to pursue CDOT to open up a more commercial location for the bulk water station, she said.

Smith, Public Works Director Tom Tharnish, and Mayor Dominguez said they cannot guarantee that the town will move the station or find a new space, but they will keep trying to find an alternate location. Smith encouraged residents with questions to email her at psmith@townofmonument.net.

Tharnish said a resident's comment at the July 21 meeting was not accurate. The resident said "Kiewit used 1 million dollars in water ... and that would have paid the town for moving the site," but Tharnish said she should have said Kiewit used 1 million gallons of water.

According to the bulk water revenue generation history included by Smith in the board packet, selling 1 million gallons of water using the current rate structure would generate about \$7,890 in gross revenue.

Tharnish also noted that Kiewit, the contractor building the new lane for I-25, was now temporarily using a town fire hydrant on the east side of Old Denver Road south of Wagon Gap Trail instead of the Trails End auto-

mated bulk fill station to partially minimize homeowner concerns. However, there is not enough land available between the Santa Fe Trail and the road right-of-way around this particular hydrant to build a permanent bulk fill station in this location, Tharnish said.

Smith said because the town drinking water system is an enterprise fund, the town has an obligation to its bondholders to maintain a certain level of reserves. After the redrilling of Well 7, the reserves are down and need to be built back up, she said.

All customers, whether industrial, commercial, or residential, pay the residential rate to buy water, using a tiered rate structure that charges higher rates as volume use increases, Tharnish said. The consensus among the Trails End residents at the meeting was that commercial customers should pay commercial rates for water, not residential rates.

"They should pay 'tooth and nail' to get into our neighborhood," one resident said. Tharnish said in the future the Public Works Department might ask to compartmentalize the rate structures to commercial, residential, and industrial rates, but he is "not ready to do that now."

In the board packet, Smith included a bulk water revenue generation history for 2003-14. It indicated that:

- The rate charged per 1,000 gallons of bulk water has ranged from \$2.02 in 2006 to \$7.89 in 2014.
- The number of bulk customers from 2003 to July 2014 has ranged from seven in 2012 to 71 in 2006, with 24 customers in 2014 to date.
- The number of bulk gallons used has ranged from 627,000 in 2009 to 2.1 million in 2006.
- However, through July 2014, 1.77 million gallons have been used.
- Bulk annual gross revenue has ranged from \$3,300 in 2009 to \$14,000 in 2014 through July.

In response to questions about the budget process for 2015, Dominguez told resident Cheri Hysell that even if

a new location is not identified by then, the town could allocate some funding as a line item to pay for moving the bulk water station if a new location is found. Tharnish had estimated it would cost \$45,000 to \$55,000 to move the water station. Resident Bobby Padilla and several other residents volunteered to be part of a working group to help the town staff look for a new location, with hopes for a donation.

Trustee Jeff Kaiser said that the upcoming budget meetings and workshops would be open forums and that citizens are welcome to participate. Smith noted that these meetings will begin in October and will be posted on the town website.

Tumbleweeds plague Monument Villas

Monument Villas residents George Hamburg, Red Stephens, and Marilyn Falk complained that the noxious weeds in the Pine Tree Properties field between Knollwood Boulevard and Jackson Creek Parkway are inundating their neighborhood with tumbleweeds. Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman said noxious weeds such as diffuse knapweed, which turns into tumbleweeds when dry, are a statewide issue.

Sirochman said the town code enforcement officer has inspected the location, and since the 12-foot right of way has been mowed, the property owner has met the requirements of the current town ordinance for big properties. "We would like to see something done about this," Stephens said. "I don't care what the town ordinance is." Sirochman said the problem has been reported to El Paso County and that she would give Stevens contact information for the county representative to discuss the matter further.

Dominguez said town staff will review the current town ordinance.

Water plan tabled

The trustees voted unanimously to table the discussion on adopting the new 20-year water master plan that was presented by Forsgren Associates at the Aug. 4 BOT meeting and the final report included in the Aug. 18 board packet. The trustees agreed they needed more time to review the report (see related article on page 12).

To read the 75-page Water Master Plan Final Report, see the Aug. 18 board packet at <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com/>.

Special events coming to Monument

The trustees unanimously approved three special event permits for two upcoming events announced by Terri Hayes, executive director of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce:

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