

estimated to require repairs costing \$4,000 to \$6,000; the town has not insured the house.

McDonald suggested that a shower be added when the water damage is repaired, since the lack of a shower is making the house more difficult to sell. The estimate she gave includes the cost of adding a shower.

The cost of the needed repairs does not include inspection of the property for mold damage and remediation of any mold damage found. Agreeing that mold problems could already be present, the council voted unanimously to authorize expenditure of up to \$2,000 to investigate mold at the Vaile House, and took no action on the water damage or shower addition.

Palmer Lake contracts with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District

Mayor McDonald announced that earlier in January Palmer Lake had come to an agreement with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD) to pay \$500 each time a TLMFPD ambulance is dispatched to Palmer Lake. AMR will also play a role in some emergency calls; however, the nearest AMR ambulance is housed at the Donald Westcott Fire Protection District's Station 1 on Gleneagle Drive, and would take about 10 minutes longer to reach the scene of the emergency than an ambulance dispatched by TLMFPD.

Under the new agreement, El Paso County Dispatch will answer all 911 calls and will send the calls on to both the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department (PLVFD) and AMR. PLVFD staff will arrive at the scene of the emergency and determine if the call requires Advanced Life Support (ALS). If so, PLVFD will call TLMFPD to send an ambulance. The decision to engage TLMFPD remains with PLVFD.

Previous to this agreement, Palmer Lake had been faced with an annual assessment from TLMFPD of \$75,000 for ambulance service. According to Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster, based on the number of calls that require ALS, it will be less expensive to pay the per-call charge than to contract for an entire year's support at \$75,000. The agreement with TLMFPD ensures that TLMFPD will be reimbursed for all the ambulances they dispatch. Kuehster said that in 2014 PLVFD made 147 calls to TLMFPD, of which only 55 were reimbursed.

The town's lawyer, Larry Gaddis, pointed out that the contract with TLMFPD has a 90-day termination clause, and that the council needed to vote to ratify the contract. The council voted unanimously to approve the contract with TLMFPD to provide ambulance service for \$500 per ALS call.

Palmer Lake water dispute

Jeff Hulsmann, owner of O'Malley's Steak Pub, gave the council an update on the status of the Awake the Lake project. According to Hulsmann, non-native sediment has been removed from the lake, and it is ready to be filled with water. The sediment was removed on a time-and-materials basis by a company that already had the equipment in Monument; the same company also did preparations for a pedestrian bridge and a parking area on the west side of the lake for a total of \$80,000. The Lake Committee has raised about \$60,000 but has spent \$90,000, and is looking 30 people who will act as Patrons of Palmer Lake by donating \$500 each to the project.

Hulsmann also gave his assessment on Palmer Lake's effort to convert an industrial water right to municipal use. Hulsmann believes that Palmer Lake has the oldest right to water from Monument Creek, and will ultimately prevail if the case goes to water court. According to Hulsmann, several claimants to the water initially objected to the change in use requested by Palmer Lake, but now Monument is the only claimant that has not agreed to Palmer Lake's legal case. Hulsmann pointed out that most water cases settle out of court due to the expense of a trial in water court. Attorneys for both Palmer Lake and Monument are currently negotiating this issue.

Mayor McDonald provided some of the history behind this dispute. According to McDonald, the water case was not brought on only by the desire to fill the lake, but by the town's water attorney's assessment of the purchase

Palmer Lake made from the railroad. The railroad originally acquired the water to fill steam engines. In 1958, Palmer Lake leased the water from the railroad, and eventually purchased the water. The water was used to fill Palmer Lake in years when water levels were relatively

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