

Triview Metropolitan District, April 14 and 24

Board schedules rate increase hearing May 12

By Nancy Wilkins

Triview Board President Robert Fisher, Treasurer/Secretary Marco Fiorito, Directors Reid Borlander, Missy Franklin, and Mark Melville scheduled a rate increase hearing to be held at the next regular board meeting May 12 at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, suite 300 at 5 p.m. The board meeting and rate hearing are open to the public.

Triview's board is carefully considering a 2.6 percent increase in usage rates to help balance the budget, manage costs, and plan for future staffing needs. Also on the table is a consideration in creating a tiered rate structure for commercial users where at a certain point in water consumption, estimated at 100,000 gallons, rates would increase.

The board also held a special work session April 24 that was open to the public to further discuss rate increases. At the work session, Fisher said the district has not increased its rates for some time, and a 2.6 percent increase was estimated to be needed to balance Triview's annual budget.

There was some concern from Fiorito that a 2.6 percent rate increase, if implemented within the next few months, would only affect the later half of 2015 and may not entirely cover 2015 costs. One challenge the board faces is to predict variable expenses such as snow removal. Although the board seems to be in agreement to raise rates, Borlander said, "We want to operate at cost." Fisher commented that Triview is operating with about \$47 million of bond debt that is being paid down at about \$2 million per year.

At the work session, District

Manager Valerie Remington discussed staffing needs, saying that when you hire additional summer help, at some point, you also need to hire an additional person to supervise their work. Remington said, "They just show up with a shovel." Remington also said that as far as landscaping goes, "We're always playing catch-up." Fisher also said that at some point in the future the district should consider an additional staff person for water, as Triview also shares the expense of the wastewater treatment facilities. Remington said the wiggle room for increased staffing is almost zero.

In addition to the rate hearing, at the next board meeting, representatives from Colorado Springs Utilities are scheduled to appear, as well as personnel from

Triview's waste water treatment facility. Attorney Gary Shupp said the board is required to hold a rate increase hearing before it can vote to raise rates. No motion to raise rates was made at either the April 14 meeting or the April 24 work session, and the board maintains the ability to change the amount of the rate increase at the next meeting.

Triview Metropolitan District board meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m. at 16055 Old Forest Point, (east of the Ent building) suite 300. Information: 488-6868 or visit www.triviewmetro.com. The next meeting is May 12.

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



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Thursday, May 21

The **third Thursday** of each month, May through September, the galleries, restaurants and boutiques of historic downtown Monument stay open until 8:00PM for a celebration featuring art openings, book signings, great food, live music and other special events.




<p>1. Purple Mountain Jewelry 47 Third Street, Unit C 719.487.0444</p> <p>2. Frog on a Limb Primitives 341 Front Street 719.481.8888</p> <p>3. Bee's Knees Embroidery Co. 251 Front Street, "2" 719.487.2986</p> <p>4. Lillians 251 Front Street, "4" 719.488.3550</p>	<p>5. Posh Pineapple 251 Front Street, "9" 719.487.2866</p> <p>6. The Love Shop 251 Front Street "13" 719.598.3348</p> <p>7. La Casa Fiesta 230 Front Street 719.481.1234</p> <p>8. Wisdom Tea House 65 Second Street 719.481.8822</p>	<p>9. Bella Art & Frame 183 Washington St. 719.487.7691</p> <p>10. Catriona Cellars 243 Washington Street 719.481.3477</p> <p>11. Bliss Studio and Gallery 243 1/2 Washington Street (alley access) 719.244.8992</p> <p>12. Covered Treasures Bookstore Corner of Second and Washington 719.481.2665</p>	<p>13. Shades of Amber 125 Second Street 719.265.9921</p> <p>14. The Roost 135 Second Street 719.481.5688</p> <p>15. Bella Casa 155 Second Street 719.559.4133</p> <p>16. Santa Fe Trail Jewelry 215 Chapala Plaza 719.481.0250</p> <p>17. Hangers to Hutches 245 North Jefferson Street 719.488.2300</p>	<p>18. The Village Merchants 155 North Jefferson Street 719.375.5438</p> <p>19. Lewis-Palmer School District #38 146 North Jefferson Street 719.488.4700</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: x-small;"><i>For more information, please visit our website at monumentarthop.org</i></p>
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