

Financial report

Treasurer Tommy Schwab said “we are still staying above water,” but he foresees a problem with revenue in the future since “no one has turned on a sprinkler.” Shaffer said the district could be 20 percent short in water usage revenues by the end of the year since the rain had been so heavy this spring.

According to the report, as of May 31, which is 41 percent of the year:

- Total operating income amounted to \$451,000 or 47 percent of budget
- Total expenditures \$305,000 or 24 percent of budget
- Total cash – \$17.3 million

Manager’s report

Shaffer reported that the Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority (PPRWA) regional water supply infrastructure project preliminary engineering study for Area 3 Facilities had received grant funding of \$100,000 from the Colorado Water Conservation Board and \$26,000 from Arkansas Basin Roundtable.

Also, he said Triview Metropolitan District had joined the Town of Monument, Town of Palmer Lake, WWSD, Donala Water and Sanitation District and the City of Fountain to share the remaining \$39,000 in costs for the Area 3 engineering study for northern El Paso County.

Operations Manager Randy Gillette said Lake Woodmoor is getting so full that the district might need to divert

water out of it or let water run over the spillway on Lake Woodmoor Drive. The district is using 100 percent lake water and no well water as of June 11.

Gillette said that sump pumps in homes should not be connected to the sewer system, but instead should pump water outside into the yard.

Shaffer said that the pressured raw water system is ready to use, and Village Center at Woodmoor is interested in discussing become a customer for irrigation.

At 2:16 p.m. the board went into executive session to determine positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and instructing negotiators; and for a conference with legal counsel for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions; all related to the Joint Use Agreement and water leases.

Office Manager Marsha Howland reported that after the executive session, the board approved interim funding of the Phase 1 contract for construction and construction management between WWSD and Palmer Lake Sanitation District. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 9. Meetings are usually held at the district office at 1845 Woodmoor Drive on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. See www.woodmoorwater.com or call 488-2525 to verify meeting times.

Lisa Hatfield can be reached at lisahatfield@ocn.me.



Above: George Labesky was one of about 20 residents of the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District who attended the June 11 meeting to protest the potential increase to the Availability of Service Charge (ASC) on vacant lots in the district. Residents also asked questions about the \$45 monthly Renewable Water Investment Fee (RWIF) and tap fees, even though those were not topics planned for the meeting. Woodmoor Improvement Association President Jim Hale offered to host a community information session with Woodmoor Water and Sanitation representatives this fall at the Woodmoor Barn. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Academy Water and Sanitation District, June 16

Connection plans continue on track

By Susan Hindman

Dave Frisch of GMS Engineering updated the Academy Water and Sanitation District board June 16 on the timeline for replacing the current lagoon treatment system and connecting to Donala Water and Sanitation District’s system for sewage treatment. Academy’s wastewater permit, issued in October 2013, mandates that plans and funding be in place by October 2016 and that new operations start in October 2018.

The first draft of an intergovernmental agreement between the two districts was sent to Donala in March. Frisch said he expects a reply and comments back from Donala by the end of June.

Frisch discussed the three-step process required for applying for money from the state’s Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund. He asked the board for permission to start the first step, the prequalification process, which introduces the basics of the project to the funders; the board agreed. Frisch said he would also be looking into interim financing that could pay for work required by El Paso County: the 1041 Regulation and the Site Development Plan submittal.

Frisch said the latest cost estimate puts the total for the wastewater system improvements, plant investment fee, engineering costs, and project contingencies at \$3 million.

Director Ron Curry asked Frisch to prepare a simple document “that says, ‘Here’s what we’re doing’” that could be distributed to residents.

Other things that will need to be decided are whether the board will vote to set up an enterprise for the sanitation side, to secure the revenue bond. This is an easier route for getting funding and would bypass the need for an election; the bond would be paid for through user fees rather than property taxes. Curry also asked Frisch to prepare a synopsis about enterprises.

Departing director recognized for his service

In May, Director Jim Weilbrenner informed the board that he would be moving out of state. At the June meeting, he was acknowledged for his 11 years as a director. Weilbrenner was instrumental in the creation of two important documents: the 200-page Contingency Plan, which was used as an example by other Colorado districts; and the Source Water Protection Plan, which led to the district receiving state grant money for projects that might not otherwise have been able to be done and resulted in the district receiving the 2014 Outstanding Achievement Award from the Colorado Rural Water Association.

Steve Callicott, a Pleasant View resident since 1998, will be sworn in at the July meeting to take Weilbrenner’s place.

Conflict of interest?

Treasurer Walt Reiss said the district’s auditor asked him if OCN readers are aware that the secretary of the board also writes up Academy’s meeting articles for the newspaper and if that presented a conflict of interest. The auditor wondered if a disclaimer should be published with the article. Director Susan Hindman said that writers are volunteers and sometimes have some connection with the district they are writing about. Reporters can only write about what happens at the meeting, so the only bias that might occur would be the decision over what topics to include in the article.

Starting in July, the Academy Water and Sanitation District board will meet at 6 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the fire station on Gleneagle and Jessie Drives. The next meeting is July 28.

Susan Hindman can be reached at susanhindman@ocn.me.


Monument Sanitation District, June 18

Rate increase hearing July 16

By Jim Kendrick

On June 18, District Manager Mike Wicklund reported to the Monument Sanitation District’s Board of Directors that the district’s notice of a public meeting on July 16 to consider an increase in its wastewater sanitary sewer rates, wastewater tap fees, and plant investment fees was published in the Gazette on page C7 of the June 15 edition. He said these sewer rate increases are necessary to cover the cost of construction and operation of a new total phosphorus removal tertiary chemical clarifier expansion that is currently under construction at the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility located at 16510 Mitchell Ave. The new clarifier is being built in a vacant field within the facility property, south of the three existing

activated sludge aeration basins and east of the existing ultraviolet light treatment disinfection building. The total budget for this expansion project is \$3.642 million.



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