

cannot restrict that type of use. If we restrict it now, the town could be sued and would be liable. My position is that I am not here to let the town get sued. That's the challenge that we have. Whether we agree to it or not, we have laws we need to abide by."

The zoning for the downtown business district is general business district zone B, which was approved in 2002 and 2009 by the Monument Board of Trustees to promote and streamline business development in Monument as a way to solve budget shortages. See www.ocn.me/v2n12.htm#botnov18 and www.ocn.me/v15n6.htm#mbot0601.

The methadone clinic application could be accepted administratively because zone B includes clinics as one of its approved uses, so no public hearing was required. Town Attorney Gary Shupp said that the meaning of the word "clinic" was not defined in terms of the current zoning ordinance and that therefore the dictionary definition would apply.

Shupp said the administrative decision to approve the methadone clinic has now been challenged, and the appeal will be considered at the Monument Board of Adjustment hearing scheduled for Monday, Aug. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Big Red, the Lewis-Palmer Administration Building at 146 Jefferson St., Monument. The public is welcome to attend this and all posted meetings for the town, Principal

Planner Mike Pesicka said.

Shupp said the Board of Trustees had "no power here" to say no to the methadone clinic, "unless an inverse condemnation action is filed and essentially the town gets to buy the improvements and potentially the lost profits of the business."

Over a dozen people voiced their concerns about the clinic. Their comments included:

- A 1,000-foot buffer zone for homes, parks, churches, and schools should be part of any new ordinance.
- My daughter has been treated at methadone clinics in the past, and I can tell you, you won't like what this clinic imports into our town. These clinics contribute only a small percentage to addicts "getting clean."
- People, businesses, homeowners will be at risk. Property values will be hit. These people are not white-collar drug addicts at all.
- We may have to leave Monument if this thing goes in. I have small children that go to that park.
- How can we "have our hands tied"? You (town officials) are fighting for your community right now.
- Your job is to protect your city, not just keep it from being sued.
- It seems like the meaning of the word "clinic" is an important issue to fight this at the August 6 Board of Adjustment meeting.
- The company that owns the clinic has lawsuits filed against them and negative reviews from both clients and employees.
- Paying a \$250,000 "stupid tax" would be worth it to get them out of here. It would be cheaper than a lawsuit.
- The town has insurance, and sometimes you have to use it. You used it before to stop the concrete batch plant from going in. Sometime you've got to lead.
- Somebody should have asked, "What kind of clinic?" earlier in the process. I don't feel like you are representing the town of Monument.
- I was on a program like this, and it doesn't work. All



Above: Bill Clark III was one of about 13 citizens who spoke on July 6 at the Monument Board of Trustees against the methadone clinic that is planned to open at 192 Front St. "It seems like a horrible, horrible company to have in our town," he said. See related article on page XX, and see the Sept. 5 issue of OCN for scheduled coverage of the Aug. 10 Monument Board of Adjustment meeting on this topic. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

it is a means to let that addict keep going until he gets the real thing.

Shupp said that if any changes were made to a future ordinance establishing a buffer zone, this still would not apply to this current situation.

Dominguez asked Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman and Police Lt. Steve Burk to do more research about methadone clinics and the options the town might have.

One person spoke during public comments at the end of the meeting wondering why everyone was being so afraid and saying, "we have to trust policemen to do their job if there is a problem."

Mountain Community Senior Services

Robin Davis and Cindy Rush of Mountain Community Senior Services (MCSS) told the board about the free transportation and safety-related handyman services they provide to senior citizens in the Tri-Lakes area from Northgate Road to County Line Road and east to Highway 83.

The goal of MCSS, which is a nonprofit, tax-deductible program sponsored by Mountain Community Mennonite Church in Palmer Lake, is to help senior citizens live in their own homes longer. They provide ramps, railings, grab bars, and other safety repairs.

Transportation is free for those 60 and older, and they can get rides to medical appointments, exercise classes, haircuts, shopping, senior lunches, etc.

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