

Academy Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 20

Planning for crucial 2016 TABOR election continues

By Lisa Hatfield

At the Jan. 20 meeting of the Academy Water and Sanitation District (AWSD), board members discussed ways of educating residents about the importance of their “yes” votes on several related ballot measures in the May 2016 election. Approval would allow the district to receive and spend money above limitations set by the state’s Taxpayer’s Bill of Rights (TABOR) amendment. The district will be applying for federal and state monies to help pay for the debt incurred as it works to meet new mandated state standards for sewage treatment. But in order to keep and

use state monies, district residents must vote to remove TABOR restrictions.

Last year, AWSD’s board determined that connecting with Donala Water and Sanitation District’s wastewater system made the most financial sense for the district and its 300 homes. (See www.ocn.me/v15n9.htm#awsd0728 and www.ocn.me/v15n11.htm#awsd1027.)

The district is searching for grant money that might pay for some the \$3.1 million in connection costs. However, if AWSD is awarded that grant money, it will appear as “income” on the books; this is a problem since current

TABOR law restricts the amount of grants the district general fund, water enterprise fund, and sewer enterprise fund can receive and spend.

The May 3 election, which will be done by mail-in ballot, will ask the district’s 625 eligible voters, who reside in Pleasant View, to allow AWSD to keep that grant money to help pay for this required project. (See www.colorado.gov/pacific/awsd/state-compliance for more information.)

In addition, four director positions are up for a vote—two for two-year positions, and two for four-year positions. A call for nominations will be published in the Gazette later this month. If no other district residents step forward to run for a board position by sometime in March, then the current directors will stay in their positions and their names will not appear on the ballot.

Engineering progress review

Engineer Dave Frisch of GMS gave a status report on the project compliance schedule for connecting AWSD to Donala. He said the bulk of site surveying is complete, and the engineering design process is starting. He has begun the 1041 regulation submittal process and the site development plan required by El Paso County Development Services. Discussions about interim financing (to pay GMS) have begun, too, Treasurer Walter Reiss said.

Frisch said AWSD’s water rights attorney Gib Marchand was talking to Donala about details of that district’s transit loss agreement with AWSD. After the sewer connection to Donala is complete, AWSD’s effluent will be going out of Donala’s point of entry, and both districts have to account for that water to comply with state regulations through separate augmentation plans. Frisch also said that Marchand had not heard of any statements of opposition to AWSD’s updated augmentation plan.

District manager’s report

District Manager Anthony Pastorello’s report included:

- District operations are running smoothly.
- He will replace the meter at the water tank’s booster station. This will help to be more accurate with distribution loss calculations, which are reported as a percentage of the total amount of po-

table water that entered the system.

Rate increase review Feb. 17

President Richard DuPont said that a water and/or sewer service rate increase will be considered at the Feb. 17 meeting. The public is welcome to attend, express opinions, and ask questions.

New vice president position

The board has not had a vice president—only a president, secretary, and treasurer—and Director Ron Curry felt that there should be one. He nominated Director Steve Callicott, and the board voted unanimously to appoint him vice president.

Meeting dates changed again

As of Jan. 20, regular board meetings for AWSD will be at 6 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Donald Wescott Fire Station, 15415 Gleneagle Dr.

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

The Academy Water and Sanitation District board meets at 6 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Donald Wescott Fire Station, 15415 Gleneagle Dr. Contact District Manager Anthony Pastorello at 481-0711 for information.

Would you like to help Our Community News report on the Academy Water and Sanitation District? Please contact Lisa Hatfield at lisahatfield@ocn.me.

Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 14

Board plans to update billing system

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District board met on Jan. 14 to begin planning for an update to the process they use to accept customer payments, to discuss relocating a tap at the Country Club at Woodmoor, to decide some details about the upcoming board election, to hear a proposal to change the structure of sewage billing fees from a customer, and to review operational reports from staff.

Customers will have an easier, cheaper time paying online

District Manager Jessie Shaffer updated the board on his work to add Xpress Bill Pay software to the software tools currently used by the district to allow customers to pay for their water and sanitation services. Xpress Bill Pay will facilitate payment online using credit cards, and will provide a paperless process, Shaffer said.

According to Shaffer, Xpress Bill Pal will let customers log into a secure account to pay their bills, and will also let them re-

view their transactions, which the current process does not allow. The \$15,000 in operating costs required have already been planned for in the 2016 budget, Shaffer said. The implementation of Xpress Bill Pay will also require the district to switch to a different online credit card processor, and Chase Paymentech is the preferred vendor, according to Shaffer.

The new software would mean that customers would no longer pay a “convenience fee” for settling their bills online, Shaffer said.

The board voted unanimously to authorize Shaffer to sign an agreement with the software companies once district lawyer Erin Smith completes a legal review.

Board approves request from The Country Club at Woodmoor

The Country Club at Woodmoor asked the board to approve the relocation of a non-potable water tap that was connected to a shed at the end of fairway one. According to Shaffer, the shed

Upcoming Events at the TLCA

- **Fri., Feb. 12, 7 p.m. - Cheryl Wheeler Concert.** Singer/songwriter whose songs have been covered by Dan Seals; Peter, Paul, & Mary; Kenny Loggins; Suzy Boggus; Melanie; Bette Midler; & Kathy Mattea.
- **Fri., Feb. 19, 7 p.m. - Jerry Barlow Concert.** Acclaimed Celtic fingerstyle guitarist Jerry Barlow is a virtuoso musician, a warm and accessible performer, and a world-class storyteller.
- **Fri., Mar. 4, 5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Visions of Light** Photography Exhibition Opening Reception.
- **Fri., Mar. 11, 7 p.m. - Permian Basin String Quartet Concert.**
- **Fri., Mar. 18, 7 p.m. - Olivia Mainville & The Aquatic Troupe Concert.**

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