- using. For this month it just says "Usage: 81" (Tharnish said this means 81,000 gallons a month.)
- Tellez: My base rate now is \$10/month. It is going to go up to \$160/month? And with compounded interest, it goes from \$160/month to \$235/month by the sixth year. That is a \$900/year increase. It's a significant hit.
- Tellez: The site plan for Rosie's from 2000 required all this landscaping, grass,

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and trees. My water bill doubles in the summer when we are running the sprinkler system for this required landscaping. Do I have to get permission from the town to take out the grass and trees and go to rocks?

- Steve Marks, Monument Plaza: You're going to hurt all of these businesses. I would have to double the cost per load at the laundromat. If this rate increase happens, that little business is going to go away.
- Charlie Williams, Home Builders Association: The new \$40/month base rate is not even high enough. It does not cover costs of \$1.8 million for one year of operations with 875 residential and 128 commercial customers. This will make impact fees be raised even higher when you do consider them in the near future.
- Williams: The chart on the town website does not include current 2015 rates. It is hard for people to determine their current rates to compare to the new rates. Not enough information about

calculations was provided in the Jan. 4 board packet.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jeff Kaiser asked Koger to clarify why the increase in base rates for the larger tap sizes base rates was so much greater than for the smaller taps. Koger explained that the current base rates were not taking into account the higher pumping demands for the larger tap sizes to maintain the higher flow rate and to achieve instantaneous pressure over a larger diameter pipe.

Tellez asked about the "exorbitant tap fees we paid to begin with" and why they did not cover these costs. Koger said the initial tap fees pay for initial infrastructure connections to town water service and that monthly operations expenses were a different piece of the puzzle.

Lowe reiterated that the estimated 68 percent of costs for monthly operations not covered by the new base rates would be paid for from the revenue from volumetric water use by residents and businesses, not by impact fees from new development.

The board consensus was to continue the water rates discussion to the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, Feb.

16. (The Feb. 1 Board of Trustees meeting was canceled.)

Bulk fill station relocation contract approved

The trustees voted unanimously to approve a contract for \$66,438 with Global Underground Corp. to move the existing bulk water station on Wagon Gap Trail, a residential neighborhood, to a commercial location between Conoco and Arby's on Highway 105.

Resident Tammy Barber thanked the board for continuing to listen to the residents and resolve their neighborhood's concerns about traffic and noise. See www.ocn.me/v14n8. htm#mbot0721 and www.ocn. me/v15n4.htm#mbot0316 for some background.

Checks over \$5,000

- Triview Metro District,
 Sales and Motor Vehicle tax
 \$163,053
- CIRSA Insurance, firstquarter workers' comp – \$14,238
- CIRSA Insurance, firstquarter liability insurance – \$14,238
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce \$5,000

- Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber Schreck LLP, land use attorney through November 2015 - \$5,263
- Wildcat Construction, water line loop project from 2015 - \$76,807

Pamela Smith's report said that sales tax revenues were running slightly ahead of 2015. For many details included in her report in the board packet, see http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com and click on Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 16. Call 884-8017 or see www.townofmonument. org for information.

To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for the Monument Board of Trustees, see http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com and click on Board of Trustees.

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

Palmer Lake Town Council, Jan. 28

Town changes dates and times for public meetings

By James Howald

In 2016, Palmer Lake Town Council meetings will move to new dates and times, and will be subject to some new rules. Meetings will be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, and will begin 30 minutes later, at 6:30 p.m. Meetings will continue to be held at the same location, the Town Hall at 42 Valley Crescent St. Details about the scheduled meetings can be found on the town's redesigned website (www.townofpalmerlake.com).

On Jan. 28, the Town Council met to update two ordinances, to hear a presentation from White Mountain Technology and Consulting about the town's implementation of its accounting software, to hear a request

for funding from Palmer Divide Productions, and to listen to a suggestion from Jim Bergeron of American Legion Tri-Lakes Post 9-11

Board passes ordinances to allow voting and to transfer land

Ordinance 1, 2016, which the board passed unanimously, repealed a previous ordinance that disallowed voting at "working sessions." Now both monthly meetings will be voting meetings, which will eliminate the need to wait until the next voting meeting before decisions can be made, according to Town Administrator

Kathy Green-Sinnard. The board retains the option to table motions and vote on them at a later meeting if more study is required, Green-Sinnard said.

Ordinance 2, 2016 authorized the transfer of land owned by the town to United Congregational Church. The church sought the land to allow the construction of a road to be used for fire prevention and mitigation, according to Economic Development Trustee Judith Harrington. The church provided fire mitigation work to the town in exchange for the land, Harrington said.

Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster asked why the church sought ownership of the land, rather than an easement to use it. Green-Sinnard said ownership of the land provided the church a more permanent solution. The board voted unanimously to transfer the land.

White Mountain accounting software yields benefits and savings

Ken Rogge of White Mountain Technology and Consulting LLC gave the board a report on the town's switch to accounting software from the company, which has been underway for more than a year. The transition has brought the town a number of process improvements and other benefits, Rogge said.

According to Rogge, the town's ledger balances every month, and all expenses now have a complete audit trail, so they can be tracked from invoice through payment. In addition, a "two-touch protocol" is now in place that requires a minimum





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