

- At the candidate forum on March 9, a question was asked whether a trustee should follow the law or their conscience, but this is not a choice! We have to follow the law from town to federal level.
 - It was disturbing to me, figuring out ways to go around the law. If the law is not right, then let's change it, but meanwhile we need to uphold the law.
- Jeff Smith's comments included:
- At the candidate forum, I was rather disappointed. One of the staged questions was how a candidate would handle an 'unethical' vote like the water rates increase. Our community is smart and good willed, but we are being painted like a bunch of hicks and bigots because of comments like that.
 - It always comes down to people throwing mud out to see what sticks when they

don't get their way. That is sad, because it does not represent the town of Monument.

- I hope that good and upstanding people will talk to friends and neighbors and put an end to a very sad reflection on the whole town caused by a very few people.
- Please be active and engaged in your community. Don't commit sins of omission by not speaking up when you see things that are not right.
- This is my last night here as a full functioning board member having to tolerate the constant assaults and blanket accusations of personal interest and unethical behavior.

BRRTA one percent sales tax ended April 1

Kaiser said that April 1 was the end of the one percent sales tax on businesses in the BRRTA jurisdiction. Citizens had approved

the tax in 2006 to fund the improvement of the interchange at I-25 and West Baptist Road, "which was a real mess," he said. BRRTA was created to govern the administration of the additional sales tax to pay for the construction, since the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) did not have the funds then.

He said it was such an open-ended agreement with CDOT that they dragged their feet on repaying the \$16 million, but due to constant badgering by BRRTA, CDOT found the money to repay the debt. See www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#brrta0318 for Jim Kendrick's detailed explanation of this milestone.

Board retreat summary

Town Manager Chris Lowe reported that the February board retreat in Estes Park was helpful in providing direction and priorities from the trustees to town staff. He appreciated that it was a safe environment for both negative and positive comments in creating vision for Monument in 2026. A vital question he mentioned was, "How do we talk to each other, even when we disagree?"

Measurable milestones from trustees for the staff to achieve included:

- Increase quality of life amenities: cemetery beautification, Lavelett Park, Park Trail Park, downtown.
- Community engagement: more accessible town web-

site to include bill-paying feature and interactive discussion, better use of social media for two-way communication, increase number of downtown events and participants. "(Community Liaison) Madeline (VanDenHoek) is fantastic at promoting events," he said.

- Fund management and planning: identify operational possibilities for saving. Town Treasurer Pamela Smith will be in charge of developing a Capital Improvement Plan for the town General Fund (such as the one the town already has for the water).

Lowe said the goals set by the trustees were for "vibrant parks, east-to-west trails, open spaces. Places for children of all ages. Aesthetics, not just a two-truck-stop town. Commercial and residential attention. We can be a bedroom community of distinction." He said the comprehensive plan will be updated and will involve the park plan that John Howe and Becki Tooley have worked on so hard and to which they both contributed ideas.

Smith commented that it is important that the public would see that the trustees have given this direction and that Lowe has received it.

Downtown sidewalks 2016 phase

The trustees unanimously ap-

proved a contract for Phase 1B of the downtown sidewalks project, which will be 80 percent funded by CDOT, to go to NORAA Concrete Construction.


The work in 2016 will add sidewalks to the east side of Washington Street from Fifth Street to Third Street, the west side of Jefferson Street from Fifth Street to Third Street, and the east side of Beacon Lite Road from Buttonwood Court to Woodworth Street and from Third Street to Second Street.

Checks over \$5,000

As part of the consent agenda, the trustees unanimously approved the following checks over \$5,000:

- Triview Metro District, January Sales Tax, February Motor Vehicle Tax, January Regional Building Sales Tax - \$139,195
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, second-quarter support - \$5,000
- Forsgren Associates Inc., reuse plan engineering - \$9,351
- Forsgren Associates Inc., well 9 treatment issues - \$5,706
- Forsgren Associates Inc., water rate and fee study - \$9,483
- Monumental Building Services LLC, reconfigure Town Hall downstairs administration office - \$6,388
- Brownstein Hyatt Farber

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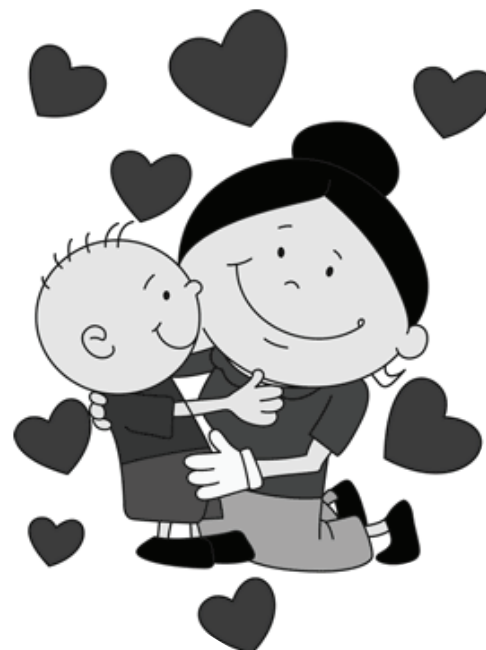


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