



**Above:** On May 2, Mayor Jeff Kaiser and the Monument Board of Trustees recognized “an outstanding citizen,” Palmer Ridge High School junior Jasper Howald, right, who recently achieved a perfect score of 36 on the ACT college admissions test. Howald thanked the whole community and Lewis-Palmer District 38, some amazing teachers, and his parents. “It’s a really great honor to be here right now.” *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*



**Above:** At the end of the May 2 Monument Board of Trustees meeting, Col. Dennis Murphy was appointed to fill the trustee position vacated by Jeff Kaiser when he was appointed to replace Mayor Rafael Dominguez after Dominguez resigned on March 29. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

- Capital projects would not be able to move forward without funding, including aging distribution line replacement, treatment plant improvements, and pending regulatory requirements.

Trustees Bornstein, Coopman, Medlicott, and Mayor Pro-Tem Don Wilson asked many questions in the long wide-ranging discussion that followed. Some of their comments in this long discussion were:

- How much revenue would be needed “just to break even” and only pay for the water that is produced right now without borrowing from the general fund?
- Why does the base rate not cover the cost of producing water and also infrastructure projects? (See [www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#mbot0307](http://www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#mbot0307).)
- Is the unapproved water reuse project a “fait accompli”?
- Generating revenue for a project that has not been approved yet is putting the cart before the horse.

Tharnish said that having no revenue stream in place for a project makes it very difficult to get government loans to start those projects. When the March 7 water rate increase was approved, it was scheduled to be reviewed annually and potentially adjusted each year.

Smith explained to the trustees that since 2014 the town has had money budgeted for the reuse project. “With all respect to the new board, you obviously don’t know what has been ongoing the last several years. This reuse project is a budget has been in the budget (and invoices over \$5,000) the last three years. The board has been well aware of it.” Trustee



**Above:** On May 2, Nancy Swearengin, a Town of Monument water customer, spoke in favor of keeping the water rates increase that the board approved March 7. She said, “It’s time to pony up and pay what water actually costs, and look to the extended long-term future. You won’t be able to sell this town if you are short-sighted now and we need to be trucking water in here.” Since it was proposed as an emergency ordinance to rescind the water rates increase, the required vote to pass would have required a three-fourths of the trustees. However, the motion failed by a 4-2 vote, since that was only two-thirds of the trustees. Trustee Greg Coopman then proposed that the trustees attempt to rescind the new rates as regular ordinance where approval would only require a majority vote at an upcoming meeting. *Photo by Lisa Hatfield.*

Kelly Elliott and Kaiser concurred that they remembered the 2014 decision.

According to Forsgren Associates water engineer Will Koger’s presentation on March 7, the town’s goals for the water rates increase were to fund \$1.4 million/year in operations since the water enterprise fund was insolvent, pay \$300,000/year in debt service and \$1.77 million in repair and replacement capital costs from 2016-2021, and to have paid back 60 percent of the general fund payback by 2021. In his presentation, he mentioned the water master plan project needs and that capital funding for operations and management and reliability improvements would come from customer rates. See [www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#mbot0307](http://www.ocn.me/v16n4.htm#mbot0307).

There were some related citizen statements during public comments:

- The March water rate increases are outrageous.
- No one from the town has responded to repeated requests to allow xeriscaping.
- Money from the general fund should be used for the whole town rather than supporting the water enterprise fund, which does not serve the whole town.

- If you vote to go back to the previous rates, you hurt the town a lot more than if you raise the rates.
- Water has been treated as if it were a cheap commodity; it is probably your most valuable commodity.
- Keeping the current rate increase in place makes sense, since it would be re-evaluated at the end of the year.

The trustees voted on the emergency ordinance to rescind the March 7 water rates increase. The result was a 4-2 vote, with Kaiser and Elliott voting no. Since an emergency ordinance needs to have three-fourths majority, but this was only two-thirds, the motion failed.

Coopman then proposed that the trustees reconsider the same issue as a regular ordinance at the May 16 meeting,

so that only a majority vote would be needed to approve it. Wilson asked if the March 7 ordinance had already put the higher rates into effect, and Tharnish said they were in effect but the first meter reading

**TRI-LAKES  
REFORMED CHURCH**  
(RPCNA)

Woodmoor Community Center  
1691 Woodmoor Drive  
Monument, CO 80132

**Sunday Worship 9:45 A.M.**  
[www.trilakesreformed.org](http://www.trilakesreformed.org)

**Let us sell for YOU on the  
WORLD’S LARGEST auction site!**

Professional photographs,  
descriptions & shipping!

*We do ALL the work  
so you don’t have to!*

**ebay**  
PowerSeller

**The Blue Sage Merchant**  
[www.stores.ebay.com/thebluesagemerchant](http://www.stores.ebay.com/thebluesagemerchant)  
Call 488-1822 or visit us at 251 Front St., Monument

**Tuesday - Friday 10-5 & Saturday 10-3**  
**Closed Sunday & Monday**  
**Proudly serving the Front Range for 13 years!**

**One Man & a Little Lady  
Cleaning Services**

**FREE ESTIMATES** Because we’re not new,  
We know what to do!

**Family Owned & Operated Since 1996**

Homes • Move-Outs • Move-Ins • Weekly • Bi-Monthly  
Monthly • Quarterly Deep Cleaning

**ROCKY FORRY** Pgr: 719-386-1814 **719 495-1798** **SHARON FORRY** Pgr: 719-386-9117

**Camp Bow Wow  
Yappy Hour Series**

Join us at Pikes Peak Brewing Company  
**Tues., June 7th and Tues., July 5th**  
**4:30-6:30 pm**  
Additional Drink Discounts When You Bring Your Dog

**PIKES PEAK**  
Brewing Co.

- Free Hot Dogs
- Contests and Dog Tips
- Drink Specials
- Please Leash Your Pup

**Camp Bow Wow® Monument** **719-632-9247**  
Premiere Doggy Day Care and Boarding  
Behind Palmer Ridge HS  
[campbowwow.com/us/co/monument](http://campbowwow.com/us/co/monument)  
**Celebrating 11 years!**