

Town Manager Chris Lowe clarified that it might be possible to take a vote on June 20 then, but, "You may make significant changes ... and I don't want to lock us in (for a vote)." He said he has been meeting with each of the trustees. "I think everybody is way more informed than they were. I'll take ownership of that mistake. We probably should have been pushing that type of information out before we did... I inherited this situation."

In answer to Trustee Dennis Murphy's question, Lowe said part of the long-range water plan includes reaching out to other entities involving regional systems and agreements in an attempt to procure water from more sources. Those costs have already been considered and included in the long-range billing structure (such as the one approved March 7) and should impact fees and rates.

Public comments

The majority of public comments also involved the current debate about the water rates increase approved by the previous Board of Trustees on March 7.

Comments in favor of keeping the March 7 rates included:

- Nancy Swearegin – I'm glad you are offering to have another public forum and put a timeline on this. I'm afraid if it goes too long you are up there fiddling while Monument burns.

Comments vehemently opposed to way town has handled the issue included:

- A.B. Tellez – How much money is being generated and used? It is simple.
- John Dominowski – We know there is a need for a water rates increase. I find it insulting that the town did not think we were intelligent to see all the information in the first place.

Lowe said, "One of the mistakes we made in presenting this whole thing was that we tried to sim-

plify it to explain to the public. We should have gotten this (complete spreadsheet) document out the first time. We won't make that mistake again." He asked Will Koger of Forsgren Associates to update the spreadsheet, which had been prepared for the October water rates discussion, before the public forum on June 9. Koger said he could have it updated in a week or two.

Other comments included a question about a confusing tax statement from a builder concerning Triview Metropolitan District that indicated that the town of Monument should answer the question. Treasurer Pamela Smith said she would help the resident get in touch with Triview.

Public input on agenda topics

On April 18, Bornstein had requested that staff draw up an ordinance for a more formal process to get items on the agenda. That night, he said, "(During public comments), if a secondary speaker begins to repeat what was already said, then a topic that needs additional attention might be added to the next agenda. A majority agreement is needed to schedule topics for future agendas. It is not the responsibility of the board to initiate topics for the agenda; it should come from the public. This will increase productivity of meetings." Medlicott and Coopman agreed that more avenues were needed so that the community could get items added to the agenda. www.ocn.me/v16n5.htm#mbot0418.

On May 2, Town Clerk Cynthia Sirochman had prepared a draft of an ordinance to cover what Bornstein requested, but he asked that the ordinance be continued because he had not had time to read the whole 125-page board packet.

On May 16, Sirochman presented the ordinance to the board,

including guidelines for agenda preparation and formalizing the public comment process. However, Bornstein said while his intent was to make it so that any citizen had an option to get topics on the agenda, he did not mean it to be as formal as this turned out, "even though Cyndi did what we said."

After 20 minutes of discussion, the consensus of the board was to add a quick discussion of possible future agenda items to the end of each meeting instead of trying to use an ordinance.

Lowe said this board only has power when it sits together, and when there is a majority, staff can be directed. "That gives staff a lot of comfort. It means we are not off chasing ghosts," he added, explaining that if one trustee wanted to talk about a topic, it would be added to a future agenda, "not for action, but for discussion."

Moratorium on clinics extended

The trustees unanimously approved an extension to the emergency moratorium with respect to the new establishment or new opening of any business that classifies itself or seeks approval for itself as a "clinic" in the B and C zoning classifications. It will be in place until July 19.

Lowe said, "We are comfortable with 60-day extension to give the new board fresh eyes on the issue options on land use issues. We do not anticipate another extension. We want the town to be protected on this (methadone clinic) issue."

Liquor licenses approved
Code Enforcement Officer Laura Hogan presented four liquor license items. Each was unanimously approved after questions from the board:

- Murphy Oil USA Inc., DBA "Murphy Express," new 3.2 percent off-premises liquor license

- It's Monumental Inc., DBA "Cork'n Bottle," renewal after violation
- Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce's Fourth of July Beer Garden (July 4) and Bines and Brew (Sept. 17), special event liquor permit, Limbach Park
- Trinity Lutheran Church (Aug. 6), special event liquor permit, Limbach Park

Checks over \$5,000

The following checks over \$5,000 were approved as part of the consent agenda:

- Triview Metro District, March sales tax, April motor vehicle tax, April Regional Building sales tax – not to exceed \$155,111
- Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber and Schreck, land use attorney – \$8,007
- Kerr Properties, stormwater project easement purchase, offset by developer fees – \$120,000

Town Treasurer Pamela Smith mentioned to the trustees that there were also a few additional checks that had come through after the board packet was posted for the public and that she had emailed that information to the trustees and given them a printed copy of the additions. They did not have any questions and approved those as part of the consent agenda. As of May 22, that information was not added to the meeting information posted on the town website.

LPHS art students recognized by town

Public Works Director Tom

Tharnish presented certificates of appreciation to Lewis-Palmer High School (LPHS) art teacher Stephanie Crow and the LPHS Art Group students for the murals they painted on the new retaining wall at Monument Lake. The students named were: Brynnon Elmer, Chantel Keens-Dumas, Katherine Swaim, Kate Lindsay, Lauren Sharp, Jaqueline Vaughn, Hannah Held, Ailsa Young, and Heather Young. Tharnish said, "We look forward to more projects in the future. Thank you for leaving your mark on the town!"

Rodeo presentation

The Girl of the West and the Aide to Girl of the West made a 20-minute presentation inviting the public to the 76th Annual Pikes Peak or Bust Rodeo, which comes to Colorado Springs July 13-16. See information at PikesPeakorBust.org.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 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 June 6. Call 884-8014 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.

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Palmer Lake Town Council, May 12

New marijuana license granted; two new board members appointed

By James Howald

In May, the Palmer Lake Town Council departed from its announced schedule and met only once, on May 12. The meeting was divided into two parts: a meeting of the Palmer Lake Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority (PLLMLA), and a meeting of the Palmer Lake Town Council. The PLLMLA considered a request for a medical marijuana dispensary, and the Town Council appointed two new board members, named Nikki McDonald mayor emeritus of the town and heard requests for two special event permits.

New medical marijuana dispensary approved

Brenda Woodward and Curtis Reese of Premier Organics LLC asked the PLLMLA to grant them a license to add medical marijuana cultivation and a medical marijuana storefront to their existing cultivation business.

Trustee Mark Schuler expressed concerns about the license request. Schuler said there was no overall plan for marijuana

businesses in the town and he would prefer to table the request until a plan was in place. Mayor John Cressman reviewed the history of medical marijuana in Palmer Lake, arguing that the business was already highly regulated.

Trustee Glant Havenar questioned the appropriateness of a storefront close to residences and bus stops.

Trustee Richard Kuehster pointed out that while the town had a moratorium in place for sales of recreational marijuana, medical marijuana dispensaries were an approved business under the town's existing statutes.

The board went into executive session to discuss the request with Town Attorney Maureen Juran.

Returning from executive session, the board heard comments from the public. Resident Matt Stephen expressed concerns about the marijuana business's water usage and proximity to residences. Reese told the board that the business had put in a new

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