

Town board hears watershed report, transit request, more

By REGAN TUTTLE

Editor | Posted: Monday, December 1, 2014 12:00 am

Last Wednesday's Norwood Town Board meeting had a full agenda, with board members hearing everything from a transit authority request to an update on needed historic renovations.

Christopher Hazen, on behalf of the San Miguel Watershed Coalition, told the board that the SMWC was preparing a report card that includes data collected in terrestrial, aquatic, climatic and land-use categories.

Hazen said the report card "is going to press next month and a draft can be provided soon to the Norwood Town Board." He would like more representatives from Nucla, Naturita and Norwood, rather than just Telluride, to participate in the SMWC.

The Wright's Mesa Historical Society also reported to the board.

According to Charlotte Royer, "This summer [the WMHS] will make an active run for memberships, and in April will do other improvements to the cabin."

Those include new paving and lighting, as well as an estimate on the foundation that needs repair on the cabin at 1120 Lucerne St.

Additionally, they would like "a new heating system, new flooring in the kitchen and bath, and would like to redo the kitchen as a display," Royer said.

The town has agreed to renew the WMHS's lease on the cabin.

Lynn Black, administrator for the San Miguel Board of County Commissioners, asked for support to send the intergovernmental agreement for the formation of a Regional Transit Authority to surrounding communities and CDOT for review.

Black said that the county is running out of money for the bus service. The funding will end in 2016. Meanwhile, the BOCC is still working on ideas that include letting voters decide on whether they want an RTA and potentially imposing a car registration tax of an additional \$10.

"Unless we have great real estate sales, we'll have to make a correction in 2015, so put it in your budget, keep it in the back of your mind," said Black.

In other matters of importance, Town Administrator Patti Grafmyer said the Feb. 6 town audit was 100 percent successful.

Grafmyer also said that the planning department is updating the Norwood zoning district maps for the first time since 1994.

With regard to the fireworks, both Grafmyer and Town Clerk Gretchen Wells have sent out 46 letters to businesses, and have personally spoken with 14 of them, asking for pledges to assist with costs of the show. So far, they've received \$3,900 in pledges. The town has budgeted \$2,500, but still needs to raise the difference for the 20-minute fireworks presentation, which is projected to cost \$7,000.

"Businesses have until the 28th to let us know if they can donate," said Grafmyer.

Grafmyer and Wells met with Carrie Andrew, Norwood Public Library director, last week to discuss revitalizing the main street.

"Gretchen and I walked away feeling good, with vision for Norwood," Grafmyer said.

Andrew is currently applying for a planning grant, and discussions of a complex that could include a rec center are in order. The town is interested in using the 19 acres south of Cottonwood Creek.

"We will need a ballot question in April regarding being able to sell the land in question to Park and Rec District ... They are not ready to purchase the land at this time," Grafmyer said.

Lastly, Mayor Kerry Welch has been busy working on getting the last Habitat for Humanity House complete, while assisting the sale of a previous HFH house. "We've had quite a few applicants," Welch said.

The next Norwood Town Board meeting is March 12.