

Monmouth debates extending water line

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

MONMOUTH — The residents of 10050 Hoffman Road have requested a hookup to Monmouth city water service because their well failed.

The Monmouth City Council discussed the topic at a November work session and again on Dec. 5.

"It's a pretty tough policy issue," City Manager Scott McClure said. "The options are, do a one-time connection for the person requesting it, making out the existing waterline. If the next person comes in, we have to say no, we can't do that because the line's maxed out."

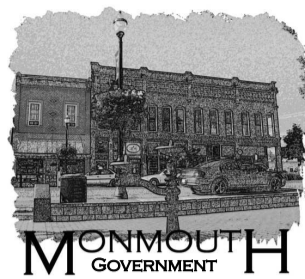
"How do you tell one person we can do that and the next person, we can't?"

The other option is to continue Monmouth's longstanding policy of not providing water and sewer services to properties outside of city limits, McClure said.

"One argument (the council had) was we shouldn't do this onesie-twoisie stuff," he said. "Install a waterline, run it down Hoffman."

However, who would pay the estimated \$227,000 to make that happen?

"The city could say, 'we'll do it,'" McClure said.



MONMOUTH GOVERNMENT

"That's challenging because now you're spending water ratepayer money to service outside city limits."

Another option could be a local improvement district, where the residents of Hoffman Road who need city services could pay for the waterline to be installed and hooked up, McClure said.

"You're the one getting the benefits; you have to pay for it," he said.

Other options includes making provisions for future annexation, McClure said.

"When we come up there and say we're going to annex you, it's an automatic yes," he said. "A property owner would have to weigh that one. We're going to do some research to see if there even is a mechanism to do that."

Overall, McClure said the issue is a challenging one, with many options and arguments for and against each.

Dallas fire gets 'extra hand'

Grant pays for machines to aid in lifesaving CPR compressions

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — Dallas Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responded to 3,278 calls for service in 2015, with just two ambulances working full-time.

Of those, 2,453 required taking a patient to the hospital.

Those numbers are up from the year before, 13.7 percent and 16.6 percent, respectively.

In the last eight years, only in 2010 did total calls drop, and just slightly, in an overall pattern of an increasing need for service in the Dallas area.

Dallas Fire & EMS spokeswoman April Welsh said the trend is an outgrowth of the city's demographics, which are skewing older.

"We are a bedroom community and a lot of people come here to retire," Welsh said.

While Dallas doesn't have the resources to staff another full-time ambulance to handle the growing number of calls, a \$171,402 grant enabled the department to purchase some mechanical help.

An Assistance to Firefighters grant paid for three AutoPulse units, which perform chest compressions on patients, and four cardiac monitors that can double as defibrillators.

"They do perfect chest compressions," Welsh said of AutoPulse machines.

She noted that they won't replace what emergency personnel can do, but with a small crew, they can free up a pair of hands, so to speak, to perform other duties.

"We need all the help we can get," she said.

EMS paramedic Frank Ehrmantraut said, unlike humans, the machines don't



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Frank Ehrmantraut demonstrates how the Dallas Fire Department's AutoPulse units work. With grant funding, the department also purchased four cardiac monitors.

get tired, so chest compressions are more consistent. He said chest compressions and defibrillation are the two proven methods of increasing a person's chance of surviving a heart attack.

The heart monitors replace unwieldy and aging machines that were starting to have maintenance issues. Ehrmantraut said the new ones are more accurate and can send information about a patient's condition to the hospital before the ambulance arrives.

In other fire department business, Ehrmantraut, who

is in charge of the department's "public access to AEDs" program, was a key piece in a partnership to provide Kids Inc. with three AEDs.

With tournaments that can attract thousands of players and spectators over a weekend, Kids Inc. contacted the fire department in hopes of receiving AEDs to keep at its fields in case an emergency arose.

Ehrmantraut wasn't able to find a small grant for that, but approached West Valley Hospital with the request.

Pam Cortez, WVH's direc-

tor of clinical operations, said the hospital was more than willing to provide the \$4,000 necessary to pay for the machines.

She said part of the mission of the hospital is not only to help its patients, but to improve the health of the community as a whole. Providing AEDs to Kids Inc. matched well with that objective.

Kids Inc. President Walt Markee said the organization is grateful for the donation.

"It's a perfect example of a partnership and how they work," Markee said.

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