Water storage tank explained; eminent domain approved

Moore explained about the tank’s need for a second water storage tank so that the first one could be taken offline for much-needed repairs. It would also provide storage for daily demand fluctuations, water leaks, and fighting fires. He said the second tank would provide water at a lower pressure, reducing the need for mechanical pressure reduction valves (PRVs), and would improve system reliability in case of electricity failure when pumps couldn’t run.

Moore said after a failed attempt to obtain a tank site on national forest land, the town purchased property at 744 Forest View Way for the new tank. This is outside the town limits at a particular elevation that Forsgren’s study recommends. It would require building water transmission lines from the tank directly east to the town, and “the alignment is yet to be determined.” The tank would be painted forest green, screened by 14-foot trees, and partially buried in the ground to make it less noticeable, Moore said. It would cost an estimated $3.9 million.

Moore said the pre-application meeting held with El Paso County went well regarding the required 1041 permit, which eventually must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Lowe said the purpose of the 1041 process was to identify that a public purpose was being served by placing a water tank in that area, since there is ‘not water tank zoning’ in the area.