Draining the budget?

At least $166,492.68 in legal expenses
—Totaled from legal invoices since Sept. 2011

In total, about $250,000 in legal fees, $40,000 in surveyor fees, $150,000 in labor to put the system into emergency repair
—according to former City Clerk George Barnes

There’s a lot of money invested in fixing the springs. The lawsuit isn’t something we can just back out of.
—Mayor Steve Schmidt

First thing we should do is apologize to the Forest Service. We aren’t going to get any federal grants if we continue with the lawsuits.
—Ward 4 Councilman Herb Linn

There is a lot of money invested in fixing the springs. The lawsuit isn’t something we can just back out of.
—Mayor Steve Schmidt

For city attorney’s research on issues of declaratory judgment and quiet title against US Forest Service.
For Nancy Sosa to do research “servicing Tombstone.”
—Source: public recordsof all legal invoices

Mayor Steve Schmidt

$750
For when the city attorney “walked the mountain”

$1,125
For city attorney’s research on issues of declaratory judgment and quiet title against US Forest Service.

$2,406.25
For Nancy Sousa to do research “servicing Tombstone.”

LITTLE THINGS ADD UP

With the election over, council weighs water woes

By Bethany Barnes, Brenna Goth and Jessica Canchola

The Tombstone Epitaph

Tombstone's newly elected city council has a lot on its plate.

There’s a street that may collapse at any moment.

It’s unclear if Black Tech is the business dynamic the town needs or a shady deal of questionable legality.

But the most pressing issue might be the multifaceted lawsuits over the town’s water rights — a battle that is siphoning money from the city’s already strained budget. And not everyone appears to see eye to eye.

The lawsuits have the city in so financially deep that there’s no getting out, said Mayor Stephen Schmidt.

“There’s a lot of money invested in fixing the springs. The lawsuit isn’t something we can just back out of,” Schmidt said.

The Tombstone Epitaph filed two requests for the total spent on all lawsuits, but City Hall did not return a number for the lawsuits pertaining to the water case. The Epitaph was told that City Hall does not keep track of the lawsuits and the city employee said she wouldn’t know where to get that information.

The Epitaph was able to determine from a public records request of all legal invoices dated since Sept. 1, 2011, that the city has spent at least $166,492.68 on the water lawsuit — most likely more because many of the invoices were vague.

While the invoices from City Attorney Randy Bays are unclear at least $19,312.15 of that total went toward the water fights. Tucson firm Strickland and Strickland took a $80,126.03 cut and Atlanta firm Smith, Currie and Hancock took $67,054.50.

Newly elected Ward 4 Councilman Herb Linn said he thinks the water issue has been overblown and that the often-touted grants expected to cover expenses aren’t coming.

He wants the city to end the battle. “First thing we should do is apologize to the Forest Service,” Linn said. “We aren’t going to get any federal grants if we continue with the lawsuit.”

Linn said a lack of communication between the previous city administration and the U.S. Forest Service caused the lawsuit.

He believes that after Tombstone apologizes to the Forest Service, the city needs to work out a plan to get the water pipes fixed.

Ward 3 City Councilwoman Stacey Korbeck-Reader said that for anything to get fixed, Tombstone would have to abandon the legal battle.

“There are lots of grants out there that we probably can get,” said Korbeck-Reader. “But we really just need to pull away and try to work together.

Not working together has its costs.

The lawsuit has depleted the cushion you usually try to have in a city budget, said former City Clerk George Barnes.

“(The lawsuit)”s been extraordinarily expensive, you can see the impacts on the budget,” Barnes said.

It doesn’t help that the suit was filed against the federal government, which is good at “turning the water on you,” he said.

At the federal level

Tombstone has sued the U.S. Forest Service for federal limitations created by the Wilderness Act, which protects the area that Tombstone’s water pipeline runs through.

The pipeline, which runs through the Huachuca Mountains, was damaged in the Monument Fire in 2011, and the Wilderness Act requires workers to use only hand tools in repairs.

In the suit, Tombstone argues the water is the city’s property and that the city should be able to do with it what it wants.

Battling it out with the Beattys

One element of the case was recently

Draining the budget? At least $166,492.68 in legal expenses —Totaled from legal invoices since Sept. 2011

In total, about $250,000 in legal fees, $40,000 in surveyor fees, $150,000 in labor to put the system into emergency repair —according to former City Clerk George Barnes

There’s a lot of money invested in fixing the springs. The lawsuit isn’t something we can just back out of.
—Mayor Steve Schmidt

First thing we should do is apologize to the Forest Service. We aren’t going to get any federal grants if we continue with the lawsuits.
—Ward 4 Councilman Herb Linn

For when the city attorney “walked the mountain”

$750

For city attorney’s research on issues of declaratory judgment and quiet title against US Forest Service.

$1,125

For Nancy Sousa to do research “servicing Tombstone.”
—Source: public recordsof all legal invoices

Mayor Steve Schmidt

Without all at them for to do. What are the Tombstone kids up to?

Page 4

Former councilman speaks out:
Get the scoop at theepitaph.com

By Bethany Barnes, Brenna Goth and Jessica Canchola

The Tombstone Epitaph

In total, about $250,000 in legal fees, $40,000 in surveyor fees, $150,000 in labor to put the system into emergency repair —according to former City Clerk George Barnes

There’s a lot of money invested in fixing the springs. The lawsuit isn’t something we can just back out of.
—Mayor Steve Schmidt

First thing we should do is apologize to the Forest Service. We aren’t going to get any federal grants if we continue with the lawsuits.
—Ward 4 Councilman Herb Linn

For when the city attorney “walked the mountain”

$750

For city attorney’s research on issues of declaratory judgment and quiet title against US Forest Service.

$1,125

For Nancy Sousa to do research “servicing Tombstone.”
—Source: public recordsof all legal invoices

Mayor Steve Schmidt

“Nothing at all for them to do.” What are the Tombstone kids up to?

Page 4

Former councilman speaks out:
Get the scoop at theepitaph.com
Prison labor saves city thousands each week

By Anthony Raelheim

The Tombstone Epitaph

The city plans to finalize an agreement with a local prison to save the city thousands per month and put the old jail to use.

The City Council plans to take a trip to the prison in the next few weeks to tour the facility and finalize the agreement that would allow us to house inmates at the old jail who will work on doing road maintenance for the city.

The city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison.

“The city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison,” said Anthony Raelheim, the city’s public information officer.

The city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison, according to Raelheim.

The city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison, said Raelheim.

Raelheim said the city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison.

The city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison, Raelheim said.

Raelheim said the city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison.

The city has been trying to get inmates to work for the city for years, but has not been able to come to an agreement with the prison, Raelheim said.
Those of age go out to play...

By Emily Dory
The Tombstone Epigraph

Teenagers in Tombstone have angst. Children who are 18 and under represent 220 people in town, making them one of the smallest populations age ranges. With a total population of approximately 1,200 individuals, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Data, the youth are outnumbered.

And to keep them busy, no saloons, beer and adult activities the youth all seem to have one thing in common: They’re bored.

“We had a few names, no saloons, beer and adult activities the youth all seem to have one thing in common: They’re bored.”

“Most of my classmates just do crack in their spare time,” stated Tim, a 15-year-old homeschooled junior. “Kids need to get bored,” said Andrade. “If we have kids getting in trouble, we weaken our community, the drug is only making it worse.”

Some local groups have already started to create youth-oriented nighttime activities. The Tombstone Cowboy Church has recently opened a youth center for anyone ages 5 to 25.

“The kids used to just walk around town and do nothing,” said Pastor Dave Bales, from the Cowboy Church. Bales opened the center to provide youth with somewhere to socialize and have fun off the streets.

“The youth center features a ping-pong table, a pool table, numerous television and video games. The center has a drum set in the corner, and even a cotton candy and popcorn machine. On Wednesday and Friday nights, Bales opens the youth center at 4 p.m. The center remains open until about 8 p.m. on Wednesdays and 9 p.m. on Fridays.

“I like to come here to play games,” said Ashley Torres, a 15-year-old homeschooled sophomore. Torres said she believes most of her peers spend their time getting in trouble. At the youth center, Torres also likes to hang out and see friends.

On a normal Friday night, the center will have around 25 youth in attendance. Dinner is provided. The Longhorn Restaurant and Big Nose Kate’s Saloon donate the food, which often includes pizza, tacos, or macaroni and cheese.

“I want to go to college when I graduate at the University of Arizona,” said Kara Bales, a 19-year-old senior. Kara Bales aspires to learn more about agriculture, but knows she has to leave Tombstone to advance her education.

“Most of my classmates just do crack in their spare time,” said Karla Bales. Bales said she does not want that lifestyle for people her age. She said she believes that people just get bored, and boring places are allowed to hang out in important, Andrade said. She wants to keep the children safe and attract more families to the community. Plus, Andrade thinks keeping the children of tourists entertained could attract more business.

“We get a lot of visitors, especially in the big season, but the children have nothing to do,” Andrade said. “What if they could hang out with other children their age, and play some games, or make up a play? Then they wouldn’t be so bored while visiting.”

“Nothing is to do. Well, some people do drugs,” said Destiny Bales, a 17-year-old homeschooled senior. Destiny Bales said she likes Tombstone, but for her people, there is nothing to do on the weekends.

In the future Dave Bales and Andrade hope that more youth-centered programs will open up, to stop the boredom and keep children safe on weekend nights.

Helping the children is important, Dave Bales said: "Kids are worth the while."