



**DATE:** December 14, 2018  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

It has been a busy week with progress made on a number of items that are important to the community. One big hurdle crossed was the adoption of the 2019 budget which required a great deal of energy and time by all involved. Thanks especially to Christy for devoting countless hours to the process and for delivering an excellent budget document. It is exciting to think about the possibilities for continued improvements both to the budget itself and the process.

Boyd and I met with our colleagues from Eagle County and DOW to prioritize the projects for the Emergency Watershed Protection efforts. We are planning to use our town engineer to manage the project given the tight timeframe for completion of improvements. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is asking for our prioritized projects and to finalize documents to secure the grants. That will need to happen in the next several days at which time the 220 day clock to complete improvements will begin. We will do site visits and begin outreach to private property owners next week.

## **Planning**

- BACH – BACH met on Thursday, December 13th and talked about next steps. Many of their tasks are dependent on the Regional Housing Assessment that will come next month. Kris Mattera came from the Chamber to talk about the housing needs of her generation. The group made various assignments.
- P&Z – The last P&Z meeting of the year is on December 18th. They will be reviewing the medical marijuana application for 175 Midland Avenue that was previously approved in 2017, but expired.
- US Forest Service Project – Sara and Susan attended an open house at the Basalt Library on Tuesday at 5 pm to discuss the Forest Services’ “Basalt Mountain Salvage and Rehabilitation Project”. The project area is approximately 8,000 acres accessed by two roads NFSR 524.1 and 509 located off of Cattle Creek Road. The trucks could potentially access the area through El Jebel. In these areas of Basalt Mountain, the Forest Service is proposing vegetation management activities, including removing hazardous trees, timber salvage harvest, and tree planting if deemed appropriate after a monitoring period. Unlike the Frying Pan Vegetation Project, logging trucks are not expected to drive from the area through the Town of Basalt. The Town has until December 29th to draft a response to the proposed plan. Staff plans on sending some comments to allow us to continue to be part of the process.
- POST – POST held a meeting to discuss trails and invited representatives from the Mid-Valley Trails Committee, Pitkin County and the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers. The group collectively decided to send a letter to the US Forest Service, including one message, that says that in salvage and reclamation efforts please incorporate the ability for one trail accessing El

Jebel/West Basalt Area through public lands to Mill Creek Trail and another trail from Old Town Basalt that provides access to Mill Creek Trail. Comments are due December 29th.

- New Basalt Master Plan Request for Proposals – Staff has the pre-proposal meeting next week. We are seeing interest from a variety of firms.
- Regional Clean Energy Corridor Roundtable – A large gathering of Roaring Fork Valley (and beyond) stakeholders met on December 13th to discuss a potential new climate change action network. RMI's Amory Lovins gave the keynote address, a positive and optimistic view of progress and the future of curbing climate change. Organizers will be following up to confirm interest in participating and setting up a workshop/meeting that will likely be during February.

### **Finance**

- This was an action-packed week in Finance! The 2019 budget and mill levy was formally approved and adopted at Tuesday's council meeting. We'll be posting the final 2019 budget online shortly, which will include the budget resolutions and ordinances.
- Additionally, we reviewed the quarterly financial report and updated sales tax for November at Wednesday night's Finance Committee meeting. The Town's Finance Committee now has two community members in accordance with the Town's Policy 110 for the Finance Committee. We are sincerely grateful for the significant community interest in sitting on this committee, and encourage public attendance at the Finance Committee meetings.

### **Public Works**

- Matt, Jeff and Boyd attended a Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS) training held by the Colorado State Patrol which focuses on the fundamentals of securing and managing an accident scene. Public Works may need to respond to an accident or may even be first on the scene so understanding how to keep staff and the public safe is important. Some of the skills learned included how to position vehicles to offer maximum protection from oncoming traffic and how to best serve the injured. It also provided best practices for setting up signs, cones and barricades. Common language usage on the accident scene was covered to allow accurate relay of information.
- Public Works received 6 bids for a three-year contract request for the Town's gardens and turf services. The companies are all good local contractors and the bids were very competitive. They are being reviewed by staff and a recommendation, along with a contract will be forwarded to Council in the near future.