



DATE: January 18, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

This week our Public Works crew has been kept busy with plenty of snow to move around. We are in a freeze/thaw cycle which is making it a bit messy out there, but all hands are on deck and doing a great job keeping our roads and sidewalks clear.

Staff continues to meet with Eagle County and Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) staff to work through the grant process for the Emergency Watershed Protection grant. This is proving to be more challenging than initially anticipated as is usually the case when federal money is involved. We are working through the challenges and will eventually get through the paperwork required for the project. Unfortunately we find ourselves in a situation where any work being done by our engineer will not be covered until the grant paperwork is complete and approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). We have needed our engineer's expertise to help prioritize projects and determine the viability of each. We have incurred some minor costs so far and those should be split between Basalt, Eagle County and CPW. I have stopped any further work with them until the grant is in place but this means that we will have to re-do some of the assumptions for project costs and priorities once we get the go-ahead to re-engage our engineer.

I received a letter from Councilor Riffle that had been sent to her from the Western Leaders Network regarding a recommendation to the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) that they adopt stronger regulations on hydrocarbon emissions. The letter asks for support from individuals and government agencies by signing the draft letter to the AQCC. Prior to signing this letter I would like to make a few phone calls to ensure this would be an effective way to achieve the intended outcome of reducing hydrocarbon emissions. I am not familiar with the Western Leaders Network and therefore do not know if standing with them politically would be as effective as we may hope. I will follow up with you regarding a recommendation at the Council meeting on Tuesday evening.

Planning

- Willits – Staff is in the process of finishing the completeness review of the application. There are some additional materials that will need to be submitted before the application is complete. It will be sent out for referral and scheduled for P&Z review once the application is complete. It also requires review and approval by the Town Council at a public hearing.
- POST Committee – The Worksession with the Basalt Town Council is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23rd at 5:30 pm on POST's work program for 2019.
- Green Team – The Green Team met on Monday. The Team discussed the recommendation of the Basalt Energy Program subcommittee that had met the prior week. The subcommittee recommended electrifying Town Hall through upgrading the heating system to install a cold weather heat pump. The subcommittee further recommended performing an energy audit on

the Basalt Elementary School, as a big energy user that has had limited improvements and has indicated the principal is on-board.

Representatives from CORE and Holy Cross Energy informed the Team of upcoming events, which included Imagine Climate – a celebration of climate art and technology that will take place in March, and Brats and Kilowatts – an event centered around the Renewable Energy Purchase Plan (REPP) that will take place at Capitol Creek Brewery in February.

- Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition met on Thursday. Eagle County representatives were unable to attend the meeting and so the Coalition was unable to advance the discussion around health screenings and the Eagle County teacher awards initiative. It was noted that Mountain Family will not be signing on as the party to perform the health screenings as previously discussed, and so the Coalition has offered Eagle County to revisit the proposal to have Early Childhood Network take on this role.

The Coalition discussed looking into expanding potential coaching needs for area programs. A subcommittee agreed to compile a list of existing resources and explaining their roles in order to identify any gaps that may exist. The Coalition discussed ongoing capacity issues and how to move forward with funding for a center on the 2E parcel in Willits.

Police

- Officers and high school staff conducted a "Shelter in Place" live exercise at the school. During a shelter in place event, students and staff are asked to go to designated areas within the school. If evacuations were needed, instructions would be given to students and staff to facilitate the evacuation.
- A conditional offer of employment was given to Lindsay Duddy for our open police officer position. If, and hopefully when, Lindsay successfully completes our background investigation she will be given a full offer of employment and begin our training program.
- The police department received an \$1800 grant for the purchase of Narcan nasal spray. Narcan can be used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Officers will begin carrying the spray in the near future after receiving additional training.

Finance

- Ryan and I met with the TACAW board to review the balance of the Arts portion of the RETA received by the Town. We are working on fostering trust and transparency in financial reporting, and will continue to work towards that end. We will meet with TACAW with additional financial information at their March board meeting.
- The Town's 2018 state collected sales tax showed a 5.2% increase for the year versus 2017, and a 7.2% increase when comparing the month of December 2017 vs. December 2018. Our largest category of sales tax received is from retail food, which totals \$2.26 million for the year. Retail Food sales increased 3.2% between 2017 and 2018. Building vendors were up 27% in sales tax for 2018, and restaurants overall were up 5.5% including all restaurants.
- State sales tax collected for 2018 for the Town totals \$5.4 million. Other sales tax collected is rounded to \$700,000. The total sales tax collected, adding the prior 2 numbers, is approximately \$6.1 million for 2018. The General Fund portion of that sales tax totals \$4.3

million, representing (\$150,000) unfavorable compared to budget, and the POST (Public Open Space and Trails) portion totals \$1.8 million, which is \$20,000 favorable compared to budget.