



DATE: August 9, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

This week has largely been spent dealing with the effects of the flooding that occurred on Sunday evening. Staff has been out in the neighborhood speaking with homeowners and trying to gauge the degree of damage that occurred.

On Tuesday following the flood town staff was attempting to get the water plant back on line and had to flush the system. This has usually been a simple task but the ditch that runs along the road and directs water from the plant to the culvert at Cedar and Pinon was plugged and sent water down the hill. The back-flushing was stopped as soon as this was noticed but some water made it back down the hill which caused some consternation and worry from the residents below.

Public Works did place some sandbags, which were in accord with the mitigation design that NRCS had contemplated in that location, to help direct water away from a home that received quite a bit of debris and water on Sunday night. The sandbags should help divert debris and water to a different part of the property and help keep it away from their front door.

We have been asking people to use sandbags to protect their homes but to be cognizant of not directing flow to a downstream neighbor's property. As an example, I had to inform residents on Cedar this morning that sandbags placed in the Town's right-of-way would need to be removed and placed on their own private property. The worry there was that the diversion created by the sandbags would concentrate flows to the downstream property.

The Town is expecting that NRCS will be back around next week to investigate solutions to the Cedar/Pinon drainage. This drainage was not initially identified in our mitigation work which is why we have not had work completed in that area. The drainage at the top of Pinon near The Basgerg was completed and in fact held back a great deal of water and debris. This effort undoubtedly reduced the effects to the flooded properties downstream.

It's also important to remind people that these mitigation efforts are aimed at helping people this year but also for the foreseeable future as Basalt Mountain recovers from the fire. It is certainly a big burden and we are doing everything we can to ensure these projects are completed in a timely manner.

On the lighter side, we organized a staff appreciation lunch at Town Hall this afternoon. We had a good turn out and enjoyed a brief break from our town duties. I feel truly blessed to have such a dedicated staff and am thankful to them for their consistent dedication to our community. We snapped a quick photo of everyone to commemorate the occasion.



Finally, I wanted to share that after 17 industrious years serving the town, Dorothy Howard will be leaving for Washington State to hopefully enjoy a slightly less hectic schedule. She and her husband, Virgil, have purchased a house near the beach and plan to kick up their heels a bit. This is a big loss for the Town for sure. I will be starting the recruitment to replace Dorothy next week.

Public Works

This week started off with a flashflood. Public Works staff was called in Sunday evening to start preliminary clean-up of the run-off debris. The first step was to work with Fire and Police personnel to ensure safe passage for citizens of Basalt. We start by responding where we were needed to get rocks and debris clear from slides. Next, we did an assessment in the downtown to look for other areas impacted by debris. We then opened up drainages to try to get the run-off back into drainages. The filling and plugging of ditches and culverts is what contributes to flooding. Staff used the backhoe and dump truck to pick up mud where it is a thick deposit and then we use the water truck and the sweeper to pick up the remaining dirt.

The Town's summer street maintenance will be coming to an end soon. The contractor still has to refresh the long-line stripes throughout Town. This is where the lines that run on the sides and in the middle of our streets get refreshed.

The Cottonwood Avenue Safe Routes to School Project should be wrapping up soon. The contractor is pouring the sidewalks and speed bumps. Then the new stairs will be installed to Swinging Bridge as well as the new signs and striping.

Planning

Special Events – Here are the recent and upcoming special events.

Tuesday, August 6 – National Night Out was held at Triangle Park from 5:00 to 8:00 pm with Basalt first responders.

Friday, August 9 – Market Street Block Party with live music on Market Street from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Wednesday, August 14 - Basalt Wednesday Summer Music Concert Series at Lions Park in Downtown 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Final Concert: Starwood.

Friday, August 17 – The Art Base Gala Fundraiser will be held at Lions Park from 5:30 to 9:30 pm.

Fridays, August 23, September 6, and September 20 – Additional events in Willits organized by TACAW from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Sundays through September 29 – Basalt Sunday Market on Midland Spur 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Basalt Master Plan – CTA is working on options for key parcels. Connect One is working with Pitkin County and Town staff on the area east of Town to the Snowmass Conoco. This includes Holland Hills, Wingo Junction, and Lazy Glen. We are having a neighborhood meeting on August 26th at the library for these areas.

Arbaney Park Swimming Pool Project – Interviews with two consultant teams were held on August 7th. The Council will be asked to authorize the contract at its meeting on August 13th.

Willits Town Center – The 110 Harris Apartments were sold at the end of July. The Aspen Skiing Company purchased Block 9 on July 31st. This involved working through and recording several documents such as the floor area transfer form and an escrow agreement to secure the street improvements for the Arts Campus at Willits required by prior land use approvals. Staff has started work on the documents required in order to obtain a building permit for the workforce housing project.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – Staff has been working on agreements with the two grantees of the BPAC Grant Program and also interviewed a prospective BPAC member to replace the spot vacated by Bear Matthews.

Charger Grant – The reporting requirements for the Charge Ahead grant have been completed and are currently under review by the Department of Energy. The Level 3 electric vehicle charging station has been operational since the end of June and is slowly seeing more usage. Staff is coordinating a ribbon cutting with Town Council, CORE, CLEER, and Holy Cross Energy prior to an upcoming Town Council meeting to bring some press and further attention to the presence of the charger. Sara also

recently applied for free signage from CDOT to alert Highway 82 corridor users to the presence of the EV station.

Basalt River Park – POST met at the offices of Connect One last week to review two conceptual options for the River Park. Connect One will work on refining those concepts based on input provided by POST, Sopris Engineering and the Developer of the Basalt River Park Development. The Council and P&Z should see the two options within the next two weeks.

2020 Census –The public may have its first direct contact with Census employees beginning in August as they verify addresses. It is important for the public to know that it is just prep work taking place, not the actual Census.

Basalt Affordable Housing Commission (BACH) – The Commission met on Thursday at noon. The agenda included a discussion of existing down payment loan and grant programs (Eagle County, Garfield County, Pitkin County, and CHFA), and the potential for such a program to exist in Basalt. Katie provided an explanation of R.O. unit financing, and changes that have occurred in the ratio of commercial to residential within mixed-use projects. BACH also discussed their desire to maintain existing rental rates for Town-owned affordable housing units at the current time. BACH will invite Dave Mylar to a future meeting to discuss land trusts.

Police Department

On Sunday, Basalt experienced our first major mud and debris flow from the Lake Christine Burn Scar. Our previously developed incident action plan was placed into effect and an Incident Management Team was stood up to direct emergency response, damage assessment and recovery efforts. The following agencies assisted the police department during the event. Basalt Public Works, Eagle County Road and Bridge, Colorado Department of Transportation, Pitkin and Eagle County Emergency Managers, Colorado State Patrol, Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, Aspen Police Department, Snowmass Village Police Department, Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority, Carbondale Rural Fire Protection District, Aspen Ambulance District and the Basalt Chamber of Commerce. We are scheduling an after action review to identify opportunities for improvement in our incident action and response plans. If you know of areas where improvement can be made please reach out directly to Chief Greg Knott.

Officer Thomas Wright attended the three day State of Colorado School Resource Officer training conference. This conference provides training in best practices for SRO's throughout the state.

We held our 5th Annual National Night Out event at Triangle Park. An estimated 450 people were in attendance. Thank you to our sponsors, volunteers and first response agencies who joined us. We look forward to hosting the event for many years to come.

Finance

Hello! We are happy to report in Finance that year-to-date June is reconciled and ready to start our quarterly reporting. We've distributed the year-to-date expenses to each department for their use in budgeting. The quarterly financial report will be completed for the August 27 Council meeting.

Budget season is a great time to consider the opportunities and the Town's potential direction for the future. The processes that we've put in place for the 2020 budget will give the Council and Town Manager the opportunity to intentionally set an awesome direction for the Town. I've created excel spreadsheets that will allow for budgeting detail by account for every department, which will give the departments the ability to understand their budgets more fully throughout the year, and will improve understanding of the budget for the entire Town. The department's first budget request for all expenses is due August 23, which will give the Town and Council time to consider budget options and contemplate the aforementioned awesome future direction for the Town.

We sent out a request on basalt.net for applications to fill the three open seats for the Finance Advisory Board. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please have them visit our website under the newsfeed section.