



DATE: September 13, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The two attached photos were taken earlier this week of our detention pond above town. You can really see the amount of sediment that was held back during the flood on August 4th. This entire pond was also filled with water. This is a great testament to the work that is being done and a good snapshot of the volume of debris that was held back. Eagle County recently began the process of excavating the pond and the work you see there was to promote drying of the material so they can more easily remove it. They will be back soon to complete the removal of the remaining material.





The work at Pinon and Cedar is also underway and will be the main defense against flooding further down the hill. After this project, they will move down to the Frying Pan Road to complete the improvements down there. Our aim is to get the major improvements that require paving completed before the weather turns. Staff is also in contact with NRCS to look at a two month extension in case we need extra time to finish the projects in the area. Right now we have three crews working around Basalt Mountain to complete the mitigation projects.

The photo below shows the progress at Cedar and Pinon.



I was asked earlier this week about the stairs on the swinging bridge trail. These are being installed Monday and are the final piece to our Cottonwood Avenue Project.

Planning

Special Events – Here are the upcoming special events.

- **Fridays, September 20, and September 27** – 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 and Connect One Design will participate in a Worksession with the P&Z on Tuesday to talk about the results from the citizen participation effort, goals and objectives and next steps on key parcels. We are working toward an Open House on Wednesday October 30th. The survey on the Pitkin County – Basalt Junction closes on Monday September 30th.

Arboney Park Swimming Pool Project – Connect One is gathering public input on the pool project.

Basalt River Park – The Worksession has been scheduled for **Wednesday September 25 at 4:00 pm**. The purpose of the Worksession is for Connect One Design to present the two options and various board

members to provide input. The board members would review the two options being prepared by Connect One.

BACH – The Commission met on Thursday. Commission member Katie Erickson created a spreadsheet for BACH’s review that included down payment assistance options for purchasing a home in the region, including those that are employee sponsored programs (such as Eagle County). BACH discussed ideas of how this could translate to assistance in the Town of Basalt. The Commission also discussed the Regional Housing Study, indicating there may be different needs for the mid-to-upper Valley region as opposed to Rifle/Silt, etc. The Commission is looking to bring David Myler to the next BACH meeting to discuss their approach. BACH’s next scheduled meeting is on Thursday, September 26th.

BPAC – BPAC met on Thursday and discussed their 2020 budget, the Grant Program, other potential grant programs, and the Arts Master Plan. Both grantees of BPAC’s Grant Program that were approved by Town Council are close to finalizing their contracts.

Basalt Green Team – The Team had its monthly meeting on Monday where the projects and initiatives related to the 2020 budget were discussed. Working with the results of the recently released 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory provided by CORE, the Team supported new green initiatives, such as diverting organics from the Pitkin County Landfill and pursuing an electronic waste drop off day. The Team will continue to support ongoing initiatives, such as the Annual Leaf Drop event, compost pick up for Town Hall, and efficient energy at the Basalt Pool. The Team is working on releasing an RFP for the installation of a cold-climate air source electric heat pump at Town Hall, with the work anticipated to be complete mid-2020.

A small subcommittee continues to work on amendments to the Sustainable Building Regulations that were adopted in 2018. Those amendments will be brought before the Town Council for consideration and first reading of the ordinance on September 24th.

Police Department

The police department received an \$8000 grant from the State of Colorado Peace Officers Standards and Training Board to host a Level 1 Traffic Accident Investigation course. Two instructors were brought to Basalt to provide this five day nationally recognized training. Four Basalt PD officers attended along with ten other officers from Colorado and New Mexico law enforcement agencies.

Basalt High School had their annual Experiential Education (ExEd) trips this week. Several students went out of the area for the two days. Students who did not go on trips were given the option to participate in a day long self-defense course taught by the police department. Fourteen students spent the day with School Resource Officer Thomas Wright learning about personal safety and self-defense tactics.

The Basalt Emergency Management Committee met this week. Representatives from the police department, fire department, Eagle County Sheriff’s Office, Chamber of Commerce, Red Cross and citizen members were in attendance.

Testing of the FirstNet cellular and data networks has been completed. We will be changing our service to the AT&T FirstNet system at the end of this month.

Public Works

The State Water Commissioner and Public Works staff did an inspection on Lucksinger Springs. The commissioner was explaining how the production on several springs this year has either been late reaching maximum production and how some has varied production all summer. Overall, things look good with the Lucksinger Springs and the production.

Work got underway on the sidewalk from the Roaring Fork Conservancy to the “Bridge to Nowhere.” Wednesday, September 11th we installed traffic signals to reduce the traffic to one lane. It is the same procedure used in the past at almost the same location when the Roaring Fork Conservancy was being built, which worked well. The contractor’s equipment has been brought to the site and the existing guard rail has been removed.

Finance

It’s been a busy week of crunching numbers for TABOR refunds! We’ve received a total of over 2700 different property taxpayer accounts for four years from Eagle County and Pitkin County combined. I have worked to verify the information against the certification documents provided by the Counties for those four years to assure data integrity. Jenny has spot checked the addresses to the clerk and recorder’s records to assure all recent sales of property are included and that we have the current owners as of September 5, 2019. We’re working with Jeff Conklin to guide us with the legal nuances of the calculations. It has been a team effort for this HUGE undertaking. I’m especially grateful for the help of the County assessor’s and treasurer’s offices at both Eagle and Pitkin Counties. They have been fabulous in providing me a vast array of data and have answered dozens of questions for the Town. The partnerships with our local municipalities are so valuable and treasured!

Preparation for bidding the Certificates of Participation (COPs) has started this week. The total issued for the COPs will be \$2.2 million, which accounts for all of the TABOR refunds, the administrative and legal costs of issuing the refunds, and the costs of issuance for the COPs. Interest rates continue to decline, so this is a great time to go in to the market. The winning bid will be discussed at the September 24 Council meeting.

Ryan and I met with all department heads this week to discuss the 2020 budgeted expenses. The shift to additional budget and financial management by department heads has been working well, and the department heads overall understand their budget to a higher degree for this year. We still have a lot to do before the first Council meeting in October to complete the first draft of the budget, however, the integral involvement of department heads in the budgeting process is another important step towards completion of that draft.