



DATE: January 31, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff has been busy this week following up on items from the Council meeting as well focusing on other projects. Yesterday I completed a final walk through on the Emergency Watershed Protection projects with the engineer and NRCS. We were able to discuss each element of the project and even met a few land owners that expressed their gratitude for completing this on their behalf. I have inquired again with the state to see if there may be any additional funds available to help with the overage. Additionally, I met with Eagle County representatives to discuss the issue and we have determined that absent other means, we will like share the costs evenly.

I attended the regional broadband forum on Wednesday afternoon. Those present were able to update the group on their own broadband progress. As I had learned in earlier discussions with these folks, there has been quite a bit of progress made with Pitkin County taking the lead on resolving broader issues of resiliency and access throughout the Valley. We also heard from Bob Farmer with Holy Cross Electric and their interest in building out a fiber line in the Valley. As we heard on Wednesday, there is no single approach to resolving issues of internet connectivity, and we are probably in a better position to work in conjunction to get the most out of our efforts. Staff will continue to work with this group and can bring updates to Council regarding progress and opportunities.

Police

Roaring Fork Fire Rescue and Basalt Police Department Officers hosted our second "Stop the Bleed" program training at Basalt High School. Stop the Bleed is a nationwide effort to teach students and school staff lifesaving skills to assist during traumatic injuries. Traumatic injury kits have been placed throughout the school. This week, 230 junior and senior high school students, along with all school staff, received the training and practiced practical skills with instructors. We are pleased to report that all high school students and staff have received this life saving training.

Lockout drills were held at all three public schools. These types of drills are conducted several times each school year to practice our Emergency Operations Plan with staff and students. All three schools did a great job.

School Resource Officer Thomas Wright gave a vaping and drug education training to the Snowmass Village Rotary Club. A post regarding the presentation can be found on the "Basalt Police Department" Facebook page.

On Wednesday evening two pedestrians were struck by a vehicle as they crossed Two Rivers Road near Midland Avenue. Both pedestrians were transported to Aspen Valley Hospital. The driver of the vehicle remained on scene and was not suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Our investigation continues with this traffic collision and should be concluded in the next few days.

Public Works

Breaking ice and moving snow seems to be the task of the week. We have had to open drains in the usual places but due to modification brought on by flood mitigation efforts we have to make some adjustments. Sopris Drive has some concrete barricades that are blocking a natural drainage and creating "Sopris Lake" as council members Auden and Jennifer referred to it. We will be adjusting the blocks to improve the drainage.

Public Works started taking the holiday decorations down and putting them into storage until next year. Every year we replace older lights that no longer work and we use LED lights going forward. Also, every year we have decorations that fade or break and we keep our eyes open for sales throughout the year to replace those.

We are currently getting bids for improvements to the Swinging Bridge Lane water main, Ponderosa Park trail improvement, Arbaney Park pool water line and trimming hazardous trees on Two Rivers Road.

Planning

Basalt Master Plan – The P&Z is holding a joint worksession with the Roaring Fork Valley Regional Planning Commission on February 4th and a joint worksession with the Pitkin County Planning Commission on February 18th. Staff met with Pitkin County and Eagle County Community Development Staff this week to prepare for these meetings. Staff also met with the representatives from the Roaring Fork Conservancy and Colorado Parks and Wildlife to discuss the draft plan. Additionally, Staff is looking to add a worksession meeting with the Council on February 13th and an initial public hearing with the Council February 27th.

Basalt River Park and Basalt River Park Development – The Council is scheduled to start its review on February 11.

Willits Town Center – Staff worked on several items associated with Willits Town Center. The building permit sets for Block 11 North and the Aspen Skiing Company Building on Block 9 are being reviewed by Staff.

Green Team – January 31st was the final day residents were able to drop off recyclables at the recycling center at Waste Management off of Willits Lane. Staff has created a poster and put it on the site that will inform users of alternate locations (free drop off at Pitkin County and South Canyon landfills) or suggest contracting for curbside pickup. Staff is working on an "hard to recycle" event with Eagle County and yard waste event that will help to divert compostable items from the landfills. Staff will post information on the Green Team page as it becomes available.

Early Childhood Coalition – Staff received the laboratory results of the geotechnical survey performed by CTL Thompson in December at Parcel 2E in Willits. A subcommittee of the Coalition, including a local architect, will analyze the results. The report will better inform the reality of suitable development on the site. A pro forma is expected to be completed for development on the parcel early in the year.

Finance

We are off to the races in Finance and Human Resources. We're currently working with Assured Partners to develop and send an RFP for employee retirement fund benefits and financial advisory services. That should be going out next week, with the final recommendation to Council in March. We're looking forward to giving our employees a retirement benefit that includes a lot of education with quality investment options.

Additionally, we are working with Compensation Studio to develop a full salary and benefit survey to see how our position ranges and benefits compare to the market. There will be continual discussions with department heads and staff regarding updated job descriptions, the survey process, and the final outcome of the survey. Staff and the consultant will then make a formal recommendation about our salaries and benefits moving forward, making adjustments as needed to keep with the current market rates.