



**DATE:** April 24, 2020  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

Department Heads Staff has been following upcoming changes to the health orders at both the state and county levels. We anticipate that three new health orders will be in effect within the next few days and we are working to understand what the effect will be on Basalt residents and businesses. We had completed a matrix comparing the rules in each jurisdiction but that will now be obsolete. We will update that matrix and provide a new one to staff and Council early next week.

I have also continued to work with my regional colleagues to discuss the framework of a long-range economic recovery plan. As it turns out, this is a complicated framework since there are several jurisdictions and business categories to address. We will start our own local outreach to businesses in the next week or so. The new Council members will participate in a listening tour with different businesses to better understand their needs. Ultimately this information will be shared regionally, and we are hopeful that common themes will emerge. This will allow the regional governments, non-profits and chambers of commerce to tailor their responses to those specific business needs.

### **Police**

The police department assisted with the weekly food donation and distribution sites. On Wednesday, two pallets of non-perishable food were generously donated to The Food Bank of the Rockies by Basalt residents and businesses. On Thursday, 350 families were served at the food distribution site. Over 8000 pounds of food was distributed. I am happy to report that no families were turned away this week due to lack of food.

The police department continues to educate our residences and businesses about the most current public health orders. It is expected the State along with Pitkin and Eagle Counties will revise their orders on Monday, April 27th. We are planning for the changes to assist and educate our community.

Congratulations to Officer Xavier Portillo who has successfully completed our three-month field training program. Xavier is now operating as a solo officer with our department.

We are pleased to announce that Officer Justin Clayton will begin his field training program this Sunday. Justin recently completed his state certification academy at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs. Justin has moved to the New Castle area with his fiancée and two children.

The police department has one vacant police officer position. With the current hiring freeze we have stopped advertising for this position.

### **Public Works**

Public Works has been repairing the casualties of winter. We have identified and repaired curbs, edging, sod, grates, landscape lighting, sprinkler heads and fencing that needed some attention. Once the snow blankets the ground, objects tend to get covered and the operator cannot see them. The snow gets pushed and piled up and it forces the weight to damage things. Public Works goes out through the winter and does maintenance but in spring, when the snow is gone, we see everything that needs repair.

Public Works is receiving bids to repair a water main valve. The valve is on an older part of our water system. The valve is located on Homestead behind Two Rivers Café. In the same area Black Hills Energy had to make a repair to their natural gas service this week. Also, Holy Cross Energy will be on West Sopris and West Homestead undergrounding their electrical services over the next few weeks.

We are removing and servicing our sanders after a long winter of service. They must be cleaned, repaired and lubricated before we store them. We have been getting our summer equipment prepared for mowing and cleaning. The small mowing tractor has been serviced and the blades sharpened. The sweeper, dump trucks, and water wells have been serviced and switched over to summer mode.

### **Planning**

Construction/Development – This week considerable Staff time was spent in working with Pitkin County, Aspen and Snowmass Village to respond to the amended Pitkin County Health Order allowing construction to resume as early as Monday, April 27th under strict guidelines. Builders began submitting “Site Safety Plans” to the Town on Thursday under those rules. Rick Fout, Basalt Chief Building Official, is reviewing those that have come in. Construction with approved Plans can start on Monday. Updates on the requirements for construction in Basalt for both the Pitkin County and Eagle County portions during COVID19 is provided on the Town’s webpage – [www.basaltcovidconstruction.com](http://www.basaltcovidconstruction.com). That webpage includes the link to the Site Safety Plan that builders must complete and submit to the Town along with the link for the daily log to be completed by the contractors (which goes directly to the Pitkin County Health Department).

Willits Town Center – The Aspen Skiing Company received its full building permit this week. Considerable time this week was spent working on the details of the streetscape on Robinson and Market Street such as the location of outlets and car charging location and discussing construction management coordination, particularly parking.

Other Development Review/Applications – Work continues on other building permits including TACAW, Steadman Clinic and some building remodels. Staff is scheduling additional pre-application conferences by video conference. A new development review application for an expansion to St. Vincent’s Church on Midland Avenue was also received for review.

Green Team - Staff had a virtual meeting with CORE to discuss SolSmart, which is a program to increase solar in communities by removing barriers and streamlining the process. The program is points-based

and has different-tiered levels. Staff will investigate this program further to determine if it is a good fit for the Town in helping to achieve its green goals.

Basalt Sunday Market - Staff has begun receiving applications from returning vendors and inquiries from new potential vendors for the 2020 Sunday Market season. Staff is keeping apprised of Eagle County's rules and regulations regarding farmer's markets, recognizing that there may need to be adjustments to the market's start date and rules due to the pandemic. Vendors are aware of the need to be flexible.

POST – POST met on Wednesday and discussed rules for the use of Willits Lake. POST recommended the Town retain flexibility in its ability to change and enforce rules for the lake. Staff gave several updates about other park projects. Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) also participated in the meeting. They are currently active in the Roaring Fork Valley and have multiple campaigns that are being developed and that are compatible with social distancing requirements.

BACH - At BACH's meeting on Thursday the Commission discussed the impacts of the pandemic on the local affordable housing tenants. At Roaring Fork Apartments, it is reported that 20 tenants are having difficulty paying rent due to the pandemic. The management at Willits Seven in Willits reported they will not be increasing rental rates this year. The Commission also discussed impacts to the local mortgage lending market. The Commission directed Staff to reach out to Eagle and Pitkin Counties for further information on their assistance programs to call attention to the Basalt area, which has populations within its Three-Mile Planning Area that may be disproportionately impacted by loss of employment due to the pandemic.

2020 Census – The Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (A2PCCC) held its monthly meeting open to the public on Wednesday. The Committee will begin to wind down its advertising soon now that Census Day (April 1st) has passed, with the intention of doing an “it’s not too late” campaign later in the summer. The deadline to respond to the Census has been extended again, so people now have until October 31st to respond.