



DATE: January 15, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Pitkin County will move into Red Level this Sunday. That will affect the restaurants that are in the Pitkin County side of Basalt. Since the County had already implemented many of the restrictions in Level Red, that is the biggest change for our local Basalt Businesses.

Eagle County remains in Level Orange which allows indoor dining to remain at 25% capacity. This includes the restaurants in the historic downtown area and Willits Town Center.

Both Counties continue to move through Phase 1B of the vaccination schedule which focuses on residents that are 70 and older. More information can be found at <https://sites.google.com/eaglecounty.us/covid/vaccine> or <https://covid19.pitkincounty.com/vaccine/>.

The Town closed on Mid Valley Center PUD - lot 4, this morning. The one-acre site will allow our Public Works Department to expand its operations. The Town has operated from its current one-acre site for many years and the growth of the Town necessitates additional space. After a great deal of searching, the Town found this centrally located site which will allow the staff to service both east and west Basalt. We will keep our existing site and will focus on making improvements to each so that our equipment can be stored out of the elements. Additionally, this will allow more space for our service needs, such as storage of sanding material for snow operations and road base for streets and other maintenance projects. We are excited for this opportunity and after nearly 15 years of discussion, it has become a reality.

Police

We continue to educate motorists about our 2 minute idling laws. We continue to make many contacts, many of which are at the convenience stores in the early morning. We were also made aware of issues in the afternoon at school pickup times where more education needs to happen with parents. This will be added to our list for the extra patrol.

We have had a couple different reports of ice jam releases on the Roaring Fork River recently. When these reports come in, officers have been making trips up and down Two Rivers Road and Willits Lane to alert fishermen and other people who may be near the River.

PD has been receiving multiple reports of an unknown male selling nicotine, vaping products, and cannabis products to middle school youth. The PD continues to investigate in an attempt to find this male and arrest him.

PD just received a report of a sex assault which occurred on New Year's Eve. The victim is under 18 years of age and Police continue to investigate.

A handful of members of the PD are currently in quarantine due to a close exposure to COVID-19. Even being short staffed, the PD continues to patrol during required shifts. The PD has also entered into an agreement with the other up valley agencies (Pitkin County SO, Aspen PD, and Snowmass Village PD) in the event we do not have enough staff to cover shifts. No agency has needed to do this so far but the option is available.

Recreation

Staff have applied for and gained approval for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Safety's (CDPHE) most recent sports guidance for safe play. CDPHE has changed their guidance to match the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) sports guidance. Staff have received approval for youth sports in the Basalt schools as of this morning- Friday the 15th. Usage is limited due to several school sports squeezing in shortened seasons. Staff will be creating a program for youth basketball.

Public Works

This week the Public Works Department has mainly been doing routine maintenance due to the break in snowy weather. The Streets Department has been busy breaking up icy patches on the roadways and sidewalks in the high traffic and shady areas. Due to the below normal temperatures anything that is slippery and compacted to the pavement is not melting on its own at this point. We have been updating and changing out winter plow blades and installed a new sand spreader on the Tool Cat for large walkways and the underpass.

The Parks Department has been pruning the right-of-way trees on Evans Road (on-going) along with brush cleaning and pruning in Midland Park and around the Gisella Fiou Skateboard Park. Our new arborist Chris Beiser started working on getting his pesticide applicator license. We cleaned more brush up around parcel 10 (Willits and Evans fishing access) and assembled and installed new lounge chairs and a table there. They are also working on the installation of the new irrigation controllers and software system, dug up and repaired a curb stop on an old irrigation line at Linear Park, and installed a new aerator compressor for the pond at Old Pond Park.

We have been working with Northline GIS and have our new GIS antenna calibrated which should give us around a sub-foot of accuracy. Next week we will work on getting the Verizon account set up which with the wireless data plan will allow us to update our current maps and infrastructure maintenance while out in the field. The device will be shared between the different departments as needed.

We are working with the Planning Department on updating the water code and Public Works Manual which will be going to the Planning Commission in a couple of weeks for its first review.

Planning

Arboney Pool- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items with the Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design as the pool renovation project is underway. The plan is to complete construction by late May so that the pool may reopen for the summer.

BACH – At its meeting, the Commission discussed the proposed 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance program criteria and the reappointment of members as well as a request to Council to appoint one new member. BACH also discussed the state Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) which provides mortgage and rental assistance. BACH intends to meet with Council on January 26th to provide an update

on their work from 2020, to discuss the framework of the 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance program, for Commissioner reappointments, and for the Council to appoint a new potential BACH Commissioner.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition discussed greater detail relating to its categories of Capacity, Affordability, Needs Assessment, Public Outreach and Quality. The Coalition will be employing Bruce Kimmel to create a proforma for Parcel 2E in Willits. The Coalition is interested in leveraging resources with Eagle and Pitkin Counties, Early Childhood Network (ECN) and other local entities to produce and disseminate messaging related to the importance of quality early childhood education. Eagle County discussed changes in their funding structure and will still finance the in-program coaching position, as well as quality improvement and retention initiatives. ECN will assist Staff in its efforts to get survey data from each individual area program.

Basalt River Park – Staff has been working with the Applicants on the entitlement documents that need to be recorded and to work through details on the next steps for construction.

Green Team – The Green Team discussed plans to provide compostable take-away containers to local restaurants with a flyer intended to educate the consumer on the benefits of composting and their local hauler options. The Green Team considered a public compost drop off site for restaurant scraps and take-away containers, as implemented in Aspen and Carbondale, but ultimately decided the oversight required to avoid dumping and contamination as well as providing a service that may not last is not in the Green Team's best interest. Other discussion items included utilizing radio spots for messaging, starting with vehicle idling, and finding ways to better highlight Basalt's green construction.

2020 Leaf Drop – Per Alyssa Reindel, the Basalt leaf drop remains undeniably successful in terms of environmental and social benefits associated with collecting and delivering lots of clean, quality materials to local composting operations. This year, despite the global pandemic and significant rain or snow every weekend, the program was still enormously popular and held in high regard by residents. Per Reindel's cover email, despite the hurdles of weather and COVID-19 we still recovered more leaves compared to previous years. And for the most part, folks were pretty good about wearing masks and social distancing themselves, with the need for only occasional reminders by EGZW staff.

POST – The POST team met this week. POST approved the new informational signs at Ponderosa, discussed naming the Town-owned Parcel 10, and recommended the reappointment of current members.

Development Review/Applications - The Lot J, Basalt Commercial Park Development Sketch Plan Application for 12 residential units was recommended for approval by the P&Z at its meeting on January 5th. The resolution for Sketch Plan approval for Lot J is scheduled for the Council's consideration at its January 26 meeting. Stott's Mill is still working with its bank to provide the required security. Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with our other construction projects throughout Town and dealing with complaints and inquiries on development potential.

Purchase of Lot 4 – Mid Valley – Planning Staff participated with the Town Attorney and Town Manager with the documents needed to close on Lot 4 of the Mid-Valley Center which occurred today.