



**DATE:** April 9, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

The Town received [information](#) from the state and FEMA reminding residents to stay safe and be prepared during wildfire season and during the subsequent flooding that occurs on a burn scar. It has been nearly three years since the Lake Christine Fire and it's a good reminder for residents to keep your home protected from wildfire by creating defensible space and using non-combustible building materials.

The Town, in cooperation with Eagle County, RFFA and other agencies, has sponsored the placement of rain sensors on Basalt Mountain to help us stay informed regarding flooding threat. This can give our law enforcement time to inform residents about an imminent threat of flooding. FEMA also reminds our residents to purchase flood insurance to help protect the community against catastrophic loss of property.

Staff continues to participate in the regional COVID-19 response. Vaccinations are now open to all community members, ages 16 and older. We are seeing challenges getting to some harder to reach community members. There also remains some skepticism regarding the vaccines so the public health departments are putting out information to educate the community on the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

Staff has been working with the Fire District to coordinate our use of the SWIFT Crew to help with wildfire mitigation. This year we will focus on the Ponderosa Park area. There is quite a bit of deadfall and snags that will be mitigated. We hope to do that work in the late spring.

## **Police**

The police department assisted with school lockdown drills at the high and middle schools. Administration, staff and students did a great job following our emergency operations plan.

Chief Greg Knott and Lieutenant Aaron Munch participated in a Pitkin County emergency evacuation planning meeting. Law, Fire and EMS agencies, in Pitkin County, met to develop additional plans for large scale evacuations. Lieutenant Munch is also working with Eagle County agencies to develop additional evacuation routes and safety zones for the Town and surrounding areas of Eagle County.

The Chief and Lieutenant also participated in a planning meeting for future Interstate 70 closures. We have identified impacts to Basalt when I-70, in Glenwood Canyon, closes due to debris flows or rock fall events. Traffic management plans and variable messaging signs will be deployed when interstate closures occur.

Chief Knott attended a planning and implementation meeting for a new wellness program that is being developed for our police officers. The Cordico Wellness App is being funded by the Town's insurance provider, CIRSA. The application will provide officers immediate access to mental health, wellness

programs and services from their smart phones. Implementation of this program will take approximately four months.

The Pitkin County Public Safety Council met this week. The focus of this meeting was discussion and planning for the upcoming fire season and area preparedness. Grand County Sheriff Brett Schroetlin gave a presentation regarding lessons learned during the 193,812 acre East Troublesome fire response and mandatory evacuation orders.

### **Public Works**

The contractor that was hired by Public Works to crack seal the streets has started the process and will continue through the weekend. The process is to put molten tar into any cracks in the asphalt to seal out the water to protect the street from freezing and expanding. On an annual basis it is determined which streets need the treatment. Crack sealing allows us to get more life out of our existing streets.

Public Works crews have been going out early in the morning to cleanup and reestablish the shoulders on Two Rivers Road. The rocks and dirt come down and fill the edges of the road with debris so it must be cleaned to keep it working as a catch area. This helps keep rocks out of the road and makes Two Rivers Road safer.

Public Works in coordination with the Stotts Mill Contractor raised the Town's waterline this week to accommodate the new wastewater connection. A small section of the Town's water main was raised up using fittings and valves. That raised section then had to be tested for both leaks and bacteria before it will be put back into service.

### **Planning**

**Town Engineer** – Staff welcomed our new Town Engineer, Catherine Christoff, to the Planning Department on Monday. Catherine is a Registered Professional Engineer (PE) and a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). The Town immediately put her to work on reviewing engineering details on Two Rivers Road and the Basalt River Park, as well as the fiber project in West Basalt. Having a Town Engineer on staff will lead to greater efficiencies and will free up the time that the land use planners were expending managing site work on Town construction projects and building permits.

**Arbaney Pool**- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items and details with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design and POST on the pool renovation project.

**Basalt River Park Development** – Staff continued to work with the Developer and consultants on addressing technical issues. The signs have been installed next to the development providing information on the project as requested by the Council.

**Basalt River Park Improvements** – Staff worked with the park, engineering and architecture consultants on details related to the park improvements, bus stop and restrooms. The Council will review the plans before going out to bid for Phase I of the Park and for the associated Two Rivers Road improvements at its meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Early Childhood Coalition** – The Coalition met for their monthly meeting today. Items discussed included progress toward creating the proforma for Parcel 2E, data regarding needs and capacity to inform the picture surrounding the development of Parcel 2E, potentially partnering with Kids First on a Needs

Assessment, the grant application for providers through Eagle County, and federal funding that will be forthcoming.

**Special Events** – Staff processed the approvals needed for the High School to have its Homecoming Parade today.



Also, St. Vincent’s Church has requested a temporary parking space and sidewalk closure in front of the church for the purpose of utility trenching for the new addition as well as the demolition of the existing driveway ramp, railroad tie wall, and the reconstruction of the sidewalk. The Applicant is working out the details for when this will begin but anticipates beginning next week. Staff granted approvals for Crave Coffee to have a temporary trailer in front of their location on Midland Avenue while they are remodeling the space previously occupied by the Art of Hair.

**BPAC** – Staff worked on the contracts for the mural project.

**Public Safety Council** – Staff attended Pitkin County’s Public Safety Council meeting. The group primarily discussed the current drought conditions and potential for wildfire this summer.

**Development Review/Applications** - Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with the construction activities. Additionally, Staff has been working on numerous administrative development review applications that take Staff time but that do not require review by the P&Z or Town Council. Staff also spent time on addressing complaints, land use preapplication questions and development inquiries.

### **Recreation**

Staff has received approval to replace some features at the Gisella Fiou Skate Park. American Ramp Company is the company that will be doing the replacement work. Staff signed a contract putting us in their que for building and installation of these features. Mid July is the current timeline for completion.

Youth soccer for 5-8 years old starts on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup> on the side field of the Middle School. Staff is still seeking instructors for a T Ball offering for this age group.

Staff received a bid for work on the Middle School tennis court fence. The front and back fence lines are leaning due to wind damage. Murillo Fencing will start the work in 4-6 weeks.

Staff have received a handful of applications and will start conducting interviews next week for summer employment at the Basalt Pool.

## **Finance**

*Basalt Forward 2030* – Cushing Terrell continues to work on the Facility Needs Study from their visit last week. Next week, they are meeting with all department heads to discuss facility space needs for the next ten years. Ryan and I will be meeting with the Police Department today to discuss the Basalt Forward 2030 project. Additionally, I have created a spreadsheet showing current staffing, and have a template to use for projected staffing for 5 years and 10 years from now. Benchmarks will be used to create the five and ten year scenarios to determine adequate staffing, and will account for anticipated population growth during that time.

*Sales Tax* – Sales tax collected through March 31 continues to be increasing overall. The month of March showed an 8.6% increase compared to March 2020, while year-to-date sales tax is up 13.2% year-to-date. The Lodging – (20.3%) and Restaurant Without Bar – (14.2%) sectors continue to trend downwards compared to year to date 2020. The Building – 62.9%, Retail Sales – 20.3%, and Sporting Retail sectors continue to trend upwards compared to year-to-date March 2020.

*Equitable Employee Retirement Transition* – Equitable met with most of the Town's staff on Thursday and Friday of this week. These meetings were a preliminary discussion regarding their retirement goals and Equitable options. Equitable will be meeting with Town staff again June 8 – 9 to get employees' final investment choices and allocations.