



DATE: July 1, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff will have a budget kick off meeting early next week. This will allow staff to begin thinking about projects and equipment needs for 2023. Staff will also begin conversations with our citizen committees to brainstorm ideas for next years budget. As we have done for the past several years, the committees will attend a Council meeting to discuss projects and get support from Council. The budget will need to be reviewed by Council in October as an initial draft which is required by state statute.

Last week, I attended the annual Colorado Municipal League Conference. The topics covered included many of the relevant issues we are dealing with in our valley. These include issues such as affordable housing, the arts, green initiatives, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and several others. Many of the sessions include details of projects and progress from towns and cities around Colorado. While some places may have progressed further on these issues than we have in the valley, it was good to know that we are ahead of the curve on most of these issues. This is especially true for smaller municipalities in Colorado that have limited staff and resources.

Police

Assistant Public Works Director Matt Wagner and Chief Greg Knott attended a three-hour Hazard Mitigation Plan development meeting. The Town is participating in this plan with Pitkin County and other municipalities in the upper valley. With the assistance of Town Manager, Ryan Mahoney and Assistant Planning Director, James Lindt we have provided all required information regarding hazard identification and mitigation needs in Basalt. Once the plan is completed it will be forwarded to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval.

We have extended a conditional offer of employment, as a police officer, to a local applicant. Our other police officer applicant is completing his background investigation process. We hope to have these two applicants attend the Colorado Law Enforcement Training Academy, to become certified officers, in early August.

Our Community Police Academy met and learned about firearms, handling, and safety. Thank you to Officer's Jason Hegberg, Justin Clayton and Isabel Leach for instructing the class. Attendance at this class is mandatory for participants to attend our upcoming live fire range day. Students used non-firing training weapons to work on skills and demonstrate proficiency and safe operations.



Lieutenant Aaron Munch completed a 2022 work plan project by outfitting our patrol vehicles with mobile data terminal computer mounts with Wi-Fi capabilities. By implementing this, officers will be able to be on the street more often versus having to complete written reports in our office. Officers will have 'real time' information sent to them from dispatch as calls are being received. One additional benefit is our vehicles can be used as mobile data points in the event of widespread internet outages. When internet outages occur, we can strategically place vehicles in areas where internet access is essential to public safety.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle (BCC) Application – The Applicant has submitted a final plan application and Staff referred it out to the Town's referral agencies for review. The Planning and Zoning Commission completed their review of the BCC Final Plan Application. The BCC Final Plan Application is scheduled for initial review by the Council in July.

Basalt River Park Improvements – The architects on the bandshell and bus station/restroom continue to work on the designs for those elements of the park. POST reviewed the updated bandshell and bus station/restroom designs last week, and bid documents are being finalized. Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL has begun, topsoil is being delivered to bring the site to final grade, irrigation is being installed, and the first shipment of trees was delivered, and we should receive the 2nd shipment next week.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – the Design Team and Town staff, have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. The Design Team has been meeting with various stakeholder groups, and the owners/managers of the properties along Midland to gain their input. The Design Team has formulated conceptual plans which were presented to POST, P&Z and Council. The Town posted an RFP for Owners Representative Services for the Project and received three (3) proposals. Staff interviewed the proposers this week and is currently reviewing the proposals.

Green Initiatives and the Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project – Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project. McKinstry has provided a cost/benefit analysis on a handful of sites for review. McKinstry made a presentation to staff and representatives of the School District to discuss preferred options, the preferred options are now being developed to a 30% design level in preparation for seeking grant funding for the project.

Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – Phase 1A of the Project has been completed, and the landscaping has been installed. Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with permitting of the building. The building has been ordered and construction will begin in late July.

Basalt River Park Development LLC – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

Development Review/Applications – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits.

Willits PUD Amendment Application- The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed an application for a PUD Amendment to permit a retail marijuana store in the Willits General Store Building and made a recommendation to the Town Council. The Willits PUD Amendment application is scheduled for initial review by the Council in late July.

Green Team – The Green Codes Committee met and finalized topics of discussion with the intent of bringing the proposed Code amendments before Council on July 12th.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – Staff met with Ashley Perl of Pitkin County to discuss the Coalition and potential ways to support a regional childcare approach. Pitkin County has ARPA funds available and has collaborated with Staff on potential ways to spend funding in the Basalt area, including capital funding for the Stott’s Mill childcare center and incentives to programs to improve staff retention.

Finance

2023 Budget – The 2023 Budget process will kick off with Department Heads next week. We will be starting discussions of potential updates to the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan, as well as non-salary budgets. Each department head will be provided year-to-date reports and a budget spreadsheet, and will have through August 31 to submit their final budget requests to Finance and the Town Manager.

2023 Salary and Benefits – The Town Manager, Department Heads, and I are continuing to discuss and review various options based upon the recent salary survey that was provided to employees. We are comparing the employee’s thoughts with competitiveness with other municipalities in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Grants – The Town received its second payment of the Town’s \$1,044,000 allocation in SLFRF federal funding. This funding will be utilized under the revenue loss category of funding, to reimburse for revenue lost to the Town due to the COVID pandemic.

Public Works

Public Works assisted the Recreation Department this week to receive and spread material on the baseball fields at Basalt Elementary and Middle Schools. Two transport trucks with clay surface material were delivered to be spread to re-establish the playing surface. The fields are a shared responsibility between the school district and the Town.

Town of Basalt met with representatives from Pitkin County and Habitat for Humanity at Basalt Vista to discuss re-establishing some areas that had been used for storage of construction materials. All entities agreed to do a portion of the work to provide future access and parking for the popular trailhead area.

Public Works has been working diligently at street sweeping, mowing right of ways, trimming trees, repairing buildings, and repairing irrigation systems. Striping continues to re-establish crosswalks, stop bars and parking markings. Staff met with the Basalt River Park Contractor and have determined that the irrigation system and tree plan is satisfactory. Due to the Town having a small hydro power plant we fall under the direction of (FERC) Federal Emergency Regulatory Commission.

The Town must stay current with new rules and regulations. Matt presented the new information in a meeting this week that was very exciting and informative. Thanks Matt!

Recreation

The Basalt 7–8-year-old recreational baseball team had its second game of the year this week, falling in a well-played game against Carbondale. The kids and coaches have been having an awesome time learning and playing baseball together. T-ball has also been a huge success, with 19 five and six-year-olds having an awesome time learning the game together. Also related to baseball, this year the Recreation Department and Public Works are helping refill the infield dirt on one of the Basalt Elementary fields as a part of our Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). 48 tons of material were delivered this week and will be spread on the field next week to freshen it up!

The pool has been an awesome place to be this summer! We are fully staffed and have lap swim, free swim, and we are once again offering lessons to the community after a brief pause during COVID. We are also welcoming local preschools, camps, and other organizations like Ascendigo for open swim and some limited lesson opportunities.

