



DATE: August 19, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff met with partners from Eagle County, Roaring Fork Fire, National Weather Service and others, to discuss the post-fire alert and warning project on Basalt Mountain and decided not to continue funding the rain gauges in 2023. Reasons for this include the strong recovery on Basalt Mountain and the lack of debris flow activity across the burn scar. In addition, the National Weather Service alert and warning team is confident that they can continue to provide the public and first responders with high-quality flash flood watches and warnings with their existing radar equipment.

It is important to remember that debris flows, and flooding happened before the fire and will continue in the future. This is especially true for those areas that are built on hillsides and steep slopes. It is important to be prepared and stay informed about your risk. The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management website has good information on how to [prepare for flooding](#). Some basic reminders include buying flood insurance, preparing a 72-hour kit; preparing your home and staying informed on weather conditions.

Police

All three public schools are back in session this week. The police department is making a presence in and around the schools. We also have our speed trailers placed on Two Rivers Road to raise awareness. Drivers are asked to be aware of students, buses and increased traffic during the morning and afternoon hours. Please obey speed limits and traffic control devices throughout Town.



Over the weekend, School Resource Officer Jason Hegberg attended "Single Officer Response to an Active Shooter" training. This three-day training provides officers options to interrupt or interdict an active shooter event. Completion of the training makes officers well versed in reading and manipulating environments, gatherings and understanding information, and employing effective tactics to save lives during an active shooter event.

The police department is finalizing our 2023 annual budget. Many meetings have been had with staff and vendors to build a comprehensive budget to guide the police department next year and beyond.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle (BCC) Application – The Applicant 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. Town Council provided their initial review and continued the public hearing to July 26th. The Application received first reading approval on July 26th and is scheduled for 2nd reading review on August 23rd.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Town Council approved a contract with Burlingame Construction and ID Sculptures for construction of the bandshell. The bus shelter/restroom facility was put out for bid and the Town received one bid. The bid received was higher than expected, Staff is working with Z-Group Architects on next steps. Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL is well underway. RMCL has installed the irrigation and planted a good portion of the trees and perennials. RMCL is working on preparing the great lawn for sod by scarifying the ground and placing topsoil.



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. Work sessions with P&Z and Town Council were held to review the preferred alternative design on August 9th, at which time P&Z and Council provided direction to move into design of the preferred conceptual plan. The Design Team and Planning Staff continued to meet with emergency service representatives this week to work through their comments on the preferred alternative.

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, and staff and McKinstry are working on a DOLA grant application for the project.

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

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 Application was approved on first reading at the July 26th Council meeting. Council is scheduled to review the application on second reading at the August 23rd meeting.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 –Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with permitting of the building. The building has been ordered, potholing and utility connections are underway. The plumbing for the building's drain system was installed last week, and the subgrade was prepped for the foundation this week.

Water Utility Master Plan – Town staff issued an RFP for the development of a Basalt Water Utility Master Plan which will serve to inform the planning of capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and rate increases that may be necessary to help fund the water enterprise. Staff received two proposals for this work from well qualified teams and are now in the process of reviewing the proposals.

Linear Park Irrigation – Town staff received two bids for the rebuilding of the Linear Park irrigation system. The project was awarded to RMCL during the last Town Council meeting.

Whitewater Park Construction - Pitkin County is going to start construction on improvements to Fisherman's Park and the area around the Whitewater Park next week. The improvements that are going to be made include improving the condition of the Fisherman's Park Boat Ramp, constructing a boardwalk between the Whitewater Park and the boat ramp, and improving the shoulder of Two Rivers Road by the boat ramp for better access to the boat ramp. Additionally, Pitkin County will be clearing sediment from the Whitewater Park structures and making slight adjustment to the in-river wave structures.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition discussed its plans for Quality Improvement funds, including touring schools in three different regions over the course of three different days, and identifying best practices and concepts related to continuing education goals. Other initiatives may include helping ECN with trainings.

Public Works

Public Works has been busy this week dealing with the runoff of mud and rocks from the large and heavy rain we received earlier in the week. We were notified by the Police Department that a significant amount of rain had fallen and there was many rocks and mud that had come down on Two Rivers Road and the Frying Pan Road creating road hazards. Public Works employees responded and made the roads safe and passable. The next morning a crew came in and did further clean up and opened some clogged culverts. Additional cleanup will occur when the slide material has dried out.

Due to the extra heavy rain, we have had several citizens call because there drain systems that usually work could not handle the large volume of rain coming off the street. We are going out and evaluating

their individual situations and we will be working with the Town Engineer to try to make modifications for future events.

The Public Works West shop is progressing, and the contractor is compacting and preparing the soil in preparation for the concrete slab. The Pinon Tank Rehabilitation Project is going well. The two tanks that are being reconditioned now have been drained so the sandblasting can continue. The electronic water level alarm in the remaining tank that is still in service has been adjusted and the drain ditches were cleaned out to accommodate the drainage of the leftover water in the tanks.

Public Works is starting to prep for the winter season. Supplies can be hard to find, so we are trying to be proactive. A new gas valve was installed on a boiler at one of the Town's affordable housing units. The final watermain in the River Park Project has been tested and passed. Stotts Mill has asphalt being installed on the streets.