



DATE: March 22, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Good morning and happy Friday! We have been busy this week tying up loose ends before many folks leave for spring break. A few items to share in addition to the staff comments below include the progress made on the NRCS contract for flood mitigation. We now have that contract back from the Feds and are officially within our 220 day time period to complete the improvements.

Public Works staff has been doing some light clearing at a riverfront property we own near Willits. The property can be seen at the west end of Evans Road. This property was acquired by the Town quite some time ago when Sopris Meadows/Willits went through its annexation process. The intent with this property is to clear away some of the overgrown bushes and trees to open it up for public access. This is meant as a more passive open space as there will be rudimentary access. This will likely include a small foot bridge and trail with limited amenities. There may be a few natural log benches but because of its location in the floodway, we are limited in what is feasible in that area. The efforts will also help reduce fuels that could pose wildfire threat.

Public Works

- Spring has sprung. Public Works is busy filling potholes and moving snow piles out of parking spaces. We are also moving into the spring cleanup mode and have begun sweeping sanding material off sidewalks, out of flower beds and off grassy areas next to the streets. We are also making minor repairs to sod, planters and edging that have been damaged when they were covered with snow.
- The pre-bid meeting for the Two Rivers Trail connection was held this week. We had very good attendance from the contractors in the community. The project will provide a safe connection from the Roaring Fork Conservancy, west to the existing bridge next to Two Rivers Road.
- Sara with Planning and Boyd with Public Works attended a meeting with Eagle County and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) this week. The meeting is to study how power supplies could be made more secure and reliant in case of another natural disaster like the fire last year. We discussed potential vulnerabilities in our system that were brought to the forefront during the fire and how we might make the power supply and communications more dependable.

Police Department

- All officers are attending quarterly firearms and arrest control training. The State of Colorado mandates that officers receive a minimum of 12 hours of annual training in each discipline. We participate in the Roaring Fork Regional Range program and received 16 hours of annual training in each.

- Chief Greg Knott, Fire Chief Scott Thompson and Eagle County Sheriff James van Beek attended an energy resilience meeting at the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). The purpose of this meeting was to identify ways to strengthen the resilience of the electricity system in the Upper Roaring Fork Valley. In the near future, RMI will be partnering with Holy Cross Energy to engage the entire community to identify programs, projects, or policies to assist in maintaining critical electrical loads.

Planning Department

- Willits –Work continues on many Willits items associated with the Aspen Skiing Company Application, the 7 townhomes at One Willits Place, the building permit items for the gym and restaurant on Block 3, and reviewing tenant re-qualifications on the 50 rental apartments.
- Basalt Master Plan – The CTA team met on Tuesday with Staff and in the evening with the P&Z for a kick-off meeting. Tentative public meeting schedules were set with the first public meeting being scheduled at “The Temporary” on Thursday, April 18th.
- Building Department Interim Plan – Planning Staff spent quite a bit of additional time addressing items in the Building Department during the week.
- Green Team – a subcommittee of the Green team, including representatives from CORE and Holy Cross Energy, met with Rob Larsen, Basalt’s certified pool manager, to work through recommendations of how to incorporate energy efficiencies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the proposed Arbaney Park RFP for pool improvements. The Green Team will be meeting with POST on March 27th to discuss plans for an energy evaluation and proposed upgrades to equipment, and to ensure both committees are working compatibly with phasing projects for the Arbaney Park pool project.
- Basalt Childcare Coalition – The Basalt Early Childcare Coalition met on Thursday where they discussed submitting a letter to the P&Z and Council regarding the Aspen Skiing Company’s proposal at Willits Town Center. The proposed project includes additional affordable housing with a priority for childcare providers. Coalition members voiced their appreciation for these units as childcare priority, as retention of quality qualified childcare staff is an issue in the Roaring Fork Valley, often due to the inability to find adequate housing. However, the Coalition also voiced concerns regarding the affordability of the units, unit sizes, and questioned plans for adequate storage and off-street parking. A subcommittee is working on drafting a letter to share with Planning staff to pass along to the Town Boards.

Finance Department

- The Finance Department this week has been preparing for a CDOT audit for the Basalt Underpass project that occurred during 2016 and 2017. It is a very extensive audit as far as information requested. We are very grateful to Pitkin County and RFTA, especially to Ben Ludlow, who has been instrumental in obtaining most of the information needed for this audit. Thank you very much to our partners on this project!
- We are also pulling together information on the Basalt River Park parcel, which has proven to be a time consuming project due to the many years this project existed. A special thank you to

Jenny for her work in looking up information. I am pulling together costs and hope to have some answers for the Town Manager and Council shortly. We are also utilizing some part-time help from an accountant to help us to pull information together.