



**DATE:** May 24, 2019  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

Good morning and happy Friday to you all. As we gear up for a long (and hopefully sunny) Memorial Day weekend, staff has been busy getting the Town ready for summer. Several projects that have been in the planning stages will soon begin in earnest. The weather has delayed the start of our street maintenance by a few weeks as the asphalt plants have delayed their opening. We are likely a few weeks behind but will certainly catch up as the temperatures increase. The projects which are less dependent on the weather, such as improvements in our parks, have gotten off to a good start. Ponderosa Park (Seed Garden) has a new flagstone walkway and a new planter bed is being installed along the Emma Road fence line. Parks maintenance has also begun and the turf and flower beds are quickly starting to grow.

The Basalt community pool will open this weekend which considering it was snowing earlier this week may seem strange. The solar heaters (with some help this week from our boilers) have steadily increased the water temperature to a balmy 86 degrees. I am certain this will be a big hit for the kids (big and little) this weekend.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will have it public meeting to discuss the findings of the citizen committee regarding the shooting range. This will detail both their short and long term solutions. The meeting will take place on Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8:30 pm at the Basalt High School.

### **Public Works**

The Water Department just purchased a new hardware and software upgrade for the filter plant's operating system. The system in place now will no longer be supported and therefore is set to become obsolete in 2020.

The sidewalk at the intersection of Elk Run Drive and Cemetery Lane was repaired after an irrigation leak damaged the sidewalk. Public Works took advantage of the repair to do an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) upgrade in the sidewalk.

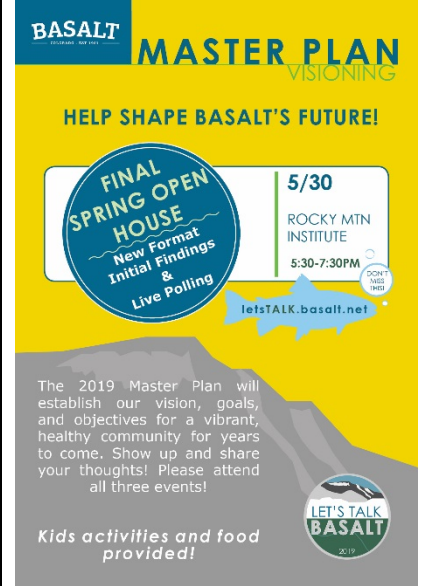
Public Works has been improving the Town owned water backflows to meet new state standards. Backflow devices prevent the introduction of contaminants into the water system. Several of our backflow devices were placed underground as an aesthetic improvement but state law requires that they be above ground.

The irrigation systems throughout town are coming on line and being repaired as needed. Due to the weather, the irrigation staff has had some extra time to help with preparing the street benches that are placed at some intersections and in the parks.

In other news, Public Works and the Sign Committee are working to get electricity and irrigation to the new Southside sign. Matt Wagner has been working with the Aspen School District as they complete

their due diligence on the Old Snowmass property. Finally, we replaced a number of street signs around town including a damaged solar panel for one of our blinking signs.

## Planning

	<p><b>Last Open House is at RMI on Thursday. Staff is scheduling a Joint Worksession with Council on June 4, 2019 to hear an update of the work done to date.</b></p> <p><b>CTA plans on using real time polling to check in on key findings from initial work. They would start that about 5:45 pm in the evening. Participants vote by using their cell phones.</b></p> <p><b>For other master plan information, check the <a href="https://letstalk.basalt.net/">https://letstalk.basalt.net/</a> website. The results from the initial survey included on that website should be available after the third Open House, probably the second week in June.</b></p>
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Willits – The Aspen Skiing Company application is scheduled for its second meeting before the Town Council on May 28<sup>th</sup>. The Aspen Skiing Company has proposed two development alternatives for the Council’s review.

Basalt Public Arts Commission – BPAC unveiled their grant program. Staff is working on improving search engine optimization for BPAC’s web page. Those interested in the grant should access the grant through [www.basaltpublicartscommission.com](http://www.basaltpublicartscommission.com). The BPAC Commission intends to dedicate their June meeting to the arts master plan process.

Basalt River Park Development – is scheduled before the Town Council on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff and the Applicant are hopeful of obtaining Council approval of a resolution granting sketch plan approval at that meeting.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Financial Aid Committee met on Friday and discussed the next round of applicants. Only one family qualified at this time, with a number of families requiring additional information for a complete application. Those families will be notified of a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to provide needed information to be considered for this round of financial aid.

Roaring Fork Valley Complete Count Committee – Watkins attended a meeting convened by the City of Aspen and Pitkin County about formulating a Complete Count Committee, which is a kind of committee formed in many jurisdictions to ensure the success of the 2020 Census. Colorado is a state on the verge of getting a new representative in Congress, depending on the outcome of next year’s census. The Committee is working on creating a contact list of local partners who can reach out to hard-to-reach populations, of which the Committee has prepared a list. The next meeting is scheduled for some time in July, and may be a large open-house format in which CCC’s identified partners would be invited.

POST – Met on Wednesday, May 22, 2019. They had a discussion with Mike Prichard Rocky Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA), about reallocating the \$5,000 originally allocated to another trail project to close the funding gap on the Vasten Trail loop. The original trail project has been determined to need an Environmental Assessment (EA) so that project won't be ready this year.

RFMBA has been working with BLM to study and approve the Vasten Trail project over the past 4 years (adjacent to Glassier OS, on BLM land). Final Environmental Assessment (EA) approval was secured last month. RFMBA has major funding in place but requested assistance with closing the final gap or the following commitments have been granted: Mid Valley Trails of Eagle County (\$45K), Garfield County (in-kind at \$10K), Pitkin County (\$10K), a local foundation (\$30K) and RFMBA (from members, donors, & business partners). They have secured the majority of the necessary funding. The Vasten Trail is 6.3 miles and spans all 3 counties. RFMBA has contracted for 10 weeks of Rocky Mountain Youth Corp (RMYC) crews to hand build the trails during June and July.

Total project costs are estimated at \$105,000, primarily for RMYC crews and a minority for professional trail construction services. POST agreed that since these are the most popular and accessible trails for the Basalt area, it would be important to have the Town's support too. Mike Prichard then discussed this with Ryan Mahoney who concluded that this aligned with the Council's direction at the earlier POST Worksession, and approved the funding.

The Manager's office earlier approved \$3,500 to the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers for the reseeded project on Colorado Parks and Wildlife land as part of the Town's commitment to the flood mitigation efforts. Those funds are not from POST.

NWCCOG – Met on Thursday, May 23, 2019. Watkins listened via phone for part of the discussion regarding NWCCOG's broadband project called Project Thor. Various stakeholders expressed appreciation for the work done and the risks of not having redundancy in broadband. However, one stakeholder in Summit County noted that the project will not help underserved areas with the ability to call 911. Vail was touted as a model of broadband/communication resilience with a ring of fiber in place around the Town.

## **Finance**

The Town's new financial auditors performed their fieldwork this week. There was a team of 4 auditors who dug in to each of the Town's balance sheet accounts. They were extremely thorough, and reviewed all beginning and ending balances for balance sheet accounts and also reviewed revenues and expenses Town-wide. I adjusted and reconciled all of these balances before the audit, and the auditors determined all of that work was correct. This was a huge win for the Town, and was a big accomplishment to get a starting point for the Town's financial future. Thank you to Jenny and Pam for their assistance! We make a great team at Town Hall!

Additionally, the auditors will be giving us recommendations about how to continually improve our internal controls and other items. We are creating a 3-year outlook for finance that will highlight accomplishments to date and will also continue to move finance towards excellence! This will give Ryan and Council a foundation to create a solid financial future for the Town.

The Finance Advisory Board will be sending out their educational budget mailer next week. A special thank you to FAB for their hard work towards making this a reality!

I attended the Independence Institute discussion at the library on Tuesday evening. Ryan and I continue to work diligently on gathering information on the TABOR issue and keeping up-to-date on current happenings with this topic.

Stay tuned for a draft budget calendar for 2020. The 2020 budget is right around the corner!

### **Police Department**

Chief Greg Knott and Corporal Jason Hegberg assisted at Motors on Midland. The event was well organized and managed. There were no incidents requiring our involvement.

Our drug take-back box continues to be heavily utilized. Over the past four months we collected and safely disposed of 38 pounds of unused medications. The take-back box has been in service for one year. In that time frame we have collected and disposed of 111 pounds of medications. Thank you to all community members who have safely disposed of unused medications.

We conducted underage compliance checks at all retailers who sell nicotine products in Town. Our underage operative was not able to purchase nicotine products at any retailer. Great job to all our businesses who are responsibly selling these products.

High school administration and officers from the police department conducted a full scale unannounced evacuation drill at the school. Our emergency operation plan was followed by school staff and the school was quickly and safely evacuated.