



DATE: August 23, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Good morning and happy Friday. The first week of school seemed to go smoothly and parents are reacquainting themselves with the chaos of the morning rush. At least I can speak for myself to say that the somewhat relaxed mornings of the summer turn to a more regimented and somewhat stressful mad dash to beat the morning bell. Our PD has been at the schools as well talking to students and parents and trying to keep some order to the drop off lines. Slowly but surely we will all settle in to the school year and of course get to enjoy the fun activities that come with it.

We have been making steady progress in the hill district working with our engineer and NRCS to expand our focus. We met with two more property owners this week and plan to meet with at least one more next week. We identified at least one additional project on private property that we will add to the list for the contractor. We still think that we will be under construction with these projects within the next two weeks.

Town staff has been working to get their budgets submitted to Christy and me so that we can begin to assemble a draft for Council to discuss. We also have an updated capital improvements plan to review with Council.

Public Works

Public Works has been busy trimming street trees and cutting dead standing trees. The street trees have been trimmed this week on Homestead and West and East Sopris Drive. The street trees have to be trimmed from in front of signs and the canopies trimmed up so that trash, delivery trucks and emergency vehicles can get by and not damage the limbs.

The stairs from Cottonwood Drive down to Swinging Bride Lane will be installed on Saturday August 24th. This should finish up the Safe Routes to Schools Project. The general maintenance for 2019 is now complete with the addition of the painting of the long lines on the streets. We have redefined the left and right turning stripes on the east end of Two Rivers Road which should help keep drivers in the proper lane to be able to trigger the light.

Planning

Special Events – Here are the upcoming special events.

Fridays, August 23, September 20, and September 27 – events in Willits organized by TACAW from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Sundays through September 29 – Basalt Sunday Market on Midland Spur 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Basalt Master Plan – The next public meeting is the neighborhood meeting the Town is

hosting with Pitkin County at the library on unincorporated areas east of Town to the Snowmass Conoco. This includes Holland Hills, Wingo Junction, and Lazy Glen. We are having a neighborhood meeting on August 26th at the library for these areas. The meeting is from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on Monday August 26, 2019 at the Basalt Library

Arboney Park Swimming Pool Project – Brian Passente, Rob Larson and Robert Rosende are meeting with Colorado Pool Design and BG Buildingworks on Wednesday to talk about the mechanical and operational aspects of the pool. This will be followed by an overall pool meeting with POST.

Basalt River Park – Staff is working on a Worksession with POST, Council and P&Z for the week after next. The purpose of the Worksession is for Connect One Design to present the two options and for various board members to provide input. The board members would review the two options being prepared by Connect One.

2020 Census –Watkins attended an Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (CCC) meeting hosted by Aspen and Pitkin County with numerous community stakeholders. Some progress was made identifying groups that could be useful for reaching hard-to-count populations. It was noted that utility bills could be another method of reaching a large number of people with messages about the Census. The organizers asked that while any organizations are making their budgets for next year, it would be useful to the Committee if some funds could be allocated toward it; the City of Aspen and Pitkin County have both done so. The next CCC meeting will be September 18th.

Sustainable Building Code Revisions – The working committee met on Thursday to review amendments to the Sustainable Building Regulations (SBR). The amendments are intended to provide clarification and to clean up areas of the SBR code as needed. First Reading before Council is anticipated to take place on September 24th, and will also include amendments to the fee schedule. More substantial amendments to the Town Code are proposed to be evaluated in 2020.

NWCCOG – Watkins attended the NWCCOG meeting on August 22nd. The dues for 2020 were approved, and will include a \$267 increase from 2019. NWCCOG presented and discussed some of the economic development efforts and changes that have occurred over the last 10 years. An economic development summit is planned for September 12th in Grand County.

Electric Vehicle Charger – The new ChargePoint EV charger was reported non operational last Sunday. Holy Cross Electric provided support in getting the charger repaired, which involved replacing faulty parts. Repairs are complete and the charger is once again operational. The repairs are covered under the contract with Holy Cross Energy.

Other Planning Items – Power was lost during the P&Z meeting on Tuesday causing the items of that agenda to be continued. This included the 10-acre PUD referral which is in unincorporated Eagle County across Willits Lane from the Willits single-family area.

Several residents of that neighborhood were in attendance. The Applicant promised to be available to meet with any of those interested before the next P&Z discussion. The TACAW final site plan approval also had to be continued. We have this scheduled for first reading before the Council on September 10, 2019.

Police Department

Over the past six months our drug take-back box has collected 36 pounds of unused prescription and household medications. Since the box was installed, in May 2018, we have collected and safely disposed of 145 pounds of medications. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment conducted their annual inspection of our site and record keeping methods. I am pleased to report we passed their inspection with flying colors.

Agencies that responded to the Lake Christine burn scar flood event met for an after action review. Opportunities for improvement were identified and will be implemented in our incident action and response plans.

Students have returned to school this week. Officers are patrolling the areas of the schools and assisting with traffic control in the mornings and afternoons.

Chief Greg Knott and Lieutenant Aaron Munch attended a panel discussion in Eagle. The panel was made up of three exonerated death row inmates. They spoke about their individual experiences, how the entire criminal justice system wrongly convicted them and provided helpful best practice ideas to be implemented during criminal investigations.

The police department is conducting cellular phone testing of the AT&T FirstNet network. FirstNet is a cellular phone and data network dedicated solely to first response agencies. The network provides priority preemption to emergency responders during incidents. Testing of the network will be completed by next week.