



DATE: January 24, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

As you may recall, I had provided information to you regarding a scheduled burn of slash piles in the open space area adjacent to the Wilds Subdivision. The burn is now tentatively scheduled for next Thursday but is still dependent on the weather conditions. The Fire District and Eagle County Fire Specialist, Eric Lovgren, will be on site to monitor the project. We are coordinating with Public Works and the Counties respective alert systems to inform the public. We are also hoping to work with CDOT to add messages to their displays on Highway 82.

I attended a meeting on Wednesday morning with Eagle County to discuss the upcoming “hard to recycle” programming. The intent is to have this program run twice per year and will include items such as hazardous household waste, tires, metal, e-waste, paper shredding, cardboard and perhaps a few dumpsters for trash. We will also try to coordinate with the Fire District and Eagle County to continue our fire mitigation efforts. These could be timed with the recycling events to offer a free place for residents to dispose of the cut material.

As part of this effort, we also discussed the messaging and education component that we will develop. That will be a collaborative effort that will begin with the sustainability team in Eagle County and our Green Team.

I attended the Colorado Association of Ski Towns (CAST) meeting in Avon this week. Several of the topics covered environmental stewardship and sustainability. In addition, Eagle County and Avon hosted Dr. Robert Davies on Wednesday evening. His discussion - *Getting to Zero: From Radical to Rational* tied in well with the topics discussed at CAST.

Next Wednesday, NWCCOG will host a discussion on Broadband at RMI. The program will be held from 1 – 4 pm and will focus on the different efforts underway in the Valley and beyond regarding broadband infrastructure. The Council is invited to attend.

We recently received news that Suzanne Wheeler will be retiring at the end of the school year. She has been a fixture in the community and at BES for many years.

Police

Officer Thomas Wright has received his release from the Doctor after his back surgery for full duty assignments. He was back in the schools on 1/20.

The PD continues to work with FirstNet (cell phone) to gain the best coverage in both the High School and Elementary School. A ‘booster’ was placed inside the High School and representatives from FirstNet will be installing the same near the library of the Elementary School soon. With the large concrete structures, we have found issues of coverage in certain areas.

Lt. Munch and Corporal Hegberg attended a Glock Armorer course on 1/16. This course gives them the skills necessary to make sure all firearms carried by the Officers are in great working order.

X-games began on 1/22 and the PD will have multiple Officers helping on different days throughout the weekend.

Officers responded to the Middle School for a report of a student attempting suicide by drinking floor cleaner. The student was transported to VVH for medical evaluation, as well as a Mental Health Hold was obtained.

With the winter weather issues our valley has seen recently, the PD has responded to multiple crashes in and around Town.

The PD has been taking an active role with contacting homeowners to get them to shovel their respective sidewalks, staying within the 24 hour timeframe of our municipal ordinance.

The PD has posted dates for the yearly Citizen Academy. Within just a few days, there are already 12 people signed up to attend.

Public Works

The Public Works department has been mainly working on Snow Removal this week. The crew came in early to start snow removal on Wednesday at 5am and finished up Thursday afternoon. We used the Toolcat and backhoe to remove ice build-up along the Midland Ave. storefront parking areas. We also removed a large ice dam at the Ridge Rd. and Sopris Dr. intersection. The drains and underpasses throughout Willits and Downtown Basalt where all scraped of ice and cleared in anticipation of the warmer temperatures and snowmelt. The crew also used snowblowers to push back sidewalk and trail banks to make room for the next storms. The Streets department came in and sanded each morning for the school buses and started removing snow piles from the parking areas. We had to remove one of our sanders from a dump bed after it failed. We will try and repair that here at our shop.

Parks and Gardens put the new RFP together to solicit maintenance bids for the summer of 2020. That was published in the paper this week and will run through February 20th. We worked on and received three trail improvement bids to flatten out the new ponderosa trail that was recently widened and cleared from the midway point on East Emma Rd. to Ponderosa Park.

We put together 2020 Streets Maintenance Projects we would like to accomplish. We then made a mock budget and prioritized them based on funding available. After all of the quantities for each sector of maintenance were measured we met with SGM to come up with a timeline to get those projects out to bid and it is looking like we should have them all out to bid by the end of January.

The water department also finished up on a hydrant that was hit on the corner of Riverside and Cottonwood Dr. They disassembled, cleaned, rebuilt and reinstalled the hydrant.

Planning

Basalt Master Plan – The P&Z held a worksession in preparation for the joint P&Z/Council worksession that is scheduled for January 28. Staff is also meeting with the representatives of the Myers Ranch Property later today to discuss their concept for their property in more detail. Additionally, Staff has

been working with the Consultants on providing information on the dwelling unit numbers included in the P&Z's current draft and other materials to help in the Council's review.

Basalt River Park and Basalt River Park Development – The P&Z approved two resolutions at its meeting on January 21. The first resolution recommended amendments to the CSC Zone District to accommodate the development and the second recommended approval of the Development Plan. The Council is scheduled to start its review on February 11.

Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee – Staff attended a steering committee conference call and continues to work on tasks for the CCC as it prepares for the critical period before the Census. A volunteer signup sheet for public outreach at events is available and was emailed to Town Council.

Willits Town Center – Staff worked on several items associated with Willits Town Center. The building permit set for Block 11 North came in this week for review. Additionally, Staff is working on the review of the Aspen Skiing Company Building permit on Block 9.

Basalt Green Team – later today Staff will attend a meeting of the Upper Roaring Fork Valley Climate Action Collaborative at the CORE office in Aspen. Agenda items include a look at 2019 successes, and overview of regional climate action, and a discussion on general strategy to achieve goals.

Emma Store/Pitkin County OST – The Steering Committee met on Tuesday to review a draft final document relating to the recommendations for the Emma Store historic buildings. Changes were made to the document with the idea of providing more general direction as to what may work for the site and what may not, with reasons why. The current document is more prescriptive. Once a final document is accepted by the Steering Committee and approved by the Pitkin County Commissioners the group will check in with Council to discern interest in a brief presentation on the findings.

BACH – BACH met on Thursday January 23rd. Attached is the annual report for BACH. It uses the report BACH gave to Council at its last joint meeting.

Climate Action Collaborative – Staff attended a presentation in Edwards titled Getting to Zero: From Radical to Rational by a Utah State professor. The data presented and overall message of the event was somber, with the presenter saying that it is not clear the world can reach the targets identified by scientists. Many agencies from the Roaring Fork Valley were represented at the presentation.