



DATE: March 13, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff has been busy this week with our response to the COVID-19 Virus. We have taken steps as an organization to be proactive in our response in order to keep our staff safe and to be able to continue to provide services to our community, especially related to health and safety.

Town Council adopted a Resolution this morning declaring a local disaster emergency related to the anticipated spread and resulting health and other impacts of the COVID-19 Virus. Additionally, they adopted a policy related to telephone or other electronic means for our public meetings while the Declaration of Emergency is in effect.

Police

Middle and elementary school staff, with the assistance of the police department, conducted unannounced lockdown drills at both schools. Staff and students did an excellent job following our emergency operations plan.

Lieutenant Aaron Munch is serving as the Operations Section Chief for the Pitkin County Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT is supporting the efforts of the Pitkin County Department of Health and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment during their COVID-19 response.

Chief Greg Knott has implemented new practices and procedures to limit staff exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Rest assured, officers will continue to assist the public and respond to calls for service. Changes include cancelling all outside travel and training for police department staff, postpone all police department community outreach efforts and gatherings, limit exchange of possibly contaminated personal documents, limit response to non life threatening ambulance calls, non-emergency calls for service over the telephone, and limit personal contact at our front office window. These changes have been temporarily implemented to maintain our ability to provide police services into the future.

Public Works

Public Works continues the task of cleaning up the sanding material that was applied for safety this winter. Due to the frequency of storms and the colder than usual temperatures we have a large amount of material to pick up. The streets and the sidewalks are being swept and vacuumed. We are using multiple pieces of equipment and personnel to remove the accumulation as quickly as possible.

The snow has been receding enough that staff has been able to start trimming some trees and bushes back that were damaged due to the heavy snow and winds this winter. We are now able to access the

parks and start working with the control clocks that control the irrigation system. It is also a good opportunity to inspect the overall irrigation system and condition of the turf.

Public Works, Planning and the Building Departments met with Sopris Engineering and the contractors that are working on the Skico, Tacaw, and Block 11 North projects. Bringing all involved together periodically will be very beneficial. We were able to meet each other and work out timing and logistical issues to make the startup smoother.

Public Works representatives met with Holy Cross Electric to work out the continued underground projects they have been working on in Basalt. The latest project will involve trenching and repairing West Sopris Drive and West Homestead Drive. The project will cause the streets to be down to one lane at certain points. The impact to traffic should be minimal.

Planning

Basalt Master Plan – The P&Z and Council worksession on the Master Plan was held on March 10 at 5:00 pm. As part of the regular Council meeting on March 10, the Council also considered the Master Plan and continued the discussion and public hearing to March 17. The P&Z held its public hearing on March 12. While Town Hall was not yet closed to the public, the agenda noted how to provide input during the meeting. One individual took advantage of emailing questions during the public hearing. The P&Z ultimately continued its public hearing and consideration to March 17. The plan is to have final Council deliberations regarding the Master Plan on March 17. Because Town Hall is closed to the public, the agenda notes how to watch the meeting and provide input by phone.

Willits Town Center – Staff continued work on several items associated with Willits Town Center. The Town Staff plans on issuing a foundation permit for the Aspen Skiing Company Building early next week. Additionally, the building permit set and associated documents for Block 11 North are being reviewed by Staff. Staff is also in preliminary discussions with Steadman Clinic on Block 4 regarding their plan concepts.

East Entrance Sign – The Town began accepting bids for construction of an entrance sign at the up-valley intersection of Two Rivers Road and Highway 82. The sign was designed by Aceto Landscape Architects in partnership with the Chamber Sign Committee. Basalt Staff are the project managers for the sign.

Green Team – At Monday's monthly Green Team meeting the three bids for the cold climate heat pump were discussed. A subcommittee was developed and will have a teleconference this afternoon to discuss a recommendation. Staff expects to bring the winning bid for Council's consideration on March 24th.

The Green Team is interested in pursuing Holy Cross Energy's proposal to provide a Level 2 car charger at no cost at Town Hall. A subcommittee is currently working through some details prior to bringing this to Town Council.

The Town has worked with Eagle County to secure the Basalt Middle School parking lot and a number of vendors for the Hard to Recycle Materials Event, set to take place on Saturday, April 18th from 10 am – 2 pm.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The monthly Coalition meeting was postponed. Coalition member and local architect Dustin Anderson of Peak Architecture is working to develop a more accurate site plan to share with the Aspen Skiing Company, who has indicated an interest in helping prepare a pro forma for the development of the site. Coalition members are keeping each other apprised of disruptions in childcare due to the COVID-19 Virus.

2020 Census – The Census is now available to the public. The Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (A2PCCC) continues production of promotional materials and will soon have a video with local people that can be shared. Town Staff helped create a bilingual FAQ section on the A2PCCC website that will be updated continuously. The A2PCCC's ad hoc meeting will be the coming Wednesday, 3/18, and will be held virtually. Very little discussion has been held so far about the possible impact on the Census from COVID-19; this will be a priority moving forward.

Update on Upcoming Seasonal Events – Staff has prepared resolutions for the Basalt Sunday Market and Community Garden for Council's consideration at the March 24th Council meeting.