



DATE: April 17, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Congratulations to the new Council members! We received six absentee and out of state ballots that were counted on Thursday morning. The original four that were announced on April 7th will remain the same. Those are Bill Kane (Mayor) and Elyse Hottel, David Knight and Glenn Drummond (Council). I speak for all of the staff in saying welcome aboard! The official swearing-in will take place on April 28th.

Staff has been busy planning on-boarding efforts with the new Council members to bring them up to speed on current events as well as general education on council member roles and responsibilities. So far we have been able to work with the new council members on COVID-19 related budget implications as well as reviewing general municipal budgeting practices. Stay tuned to hear from each of them next week on the Town's Facebook and website via recorded videos. It is staff's intention to continue training activities with the new Council and include efforts for refresher training opportunities for the entire Council.

Related to the Town's COVID-19 response, we continue to work with Pitkin and Eagle counties who are leading the response. As a reminder, the following webpages are being maintained by the counties and are updated daily: <https://pitkincounty.com/1297/COVID-19> and <http://www.ecemergency.org/>

The Town has put out weekly communications to the community related directly to our local level response. Please refer to the Town's Facebook and webpage for these communications. Additionally, we have been working closely with our colleagues throughout the Valley (and beyond) to create an economic recovery task force. This is meant to provide resources to our businesses and employees as well as offer opportunity for participation from industry experts in forming an ongoing effort to respond to the economic effects of COVID-19.

We have also partnered with the Basalt Chamber of Commerce to help disseminate information to the community related to economic resources. Kris Mattera, Chamber Director, has been sending out weekly communications and has been an amazing asset for us in gathering resources and providing general support for our businesses. Thanks Kris!

Related to our business community, as part of an important state-wide effort, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) is asking Colorado business owners and managers to fill out a survey and tell us how they are dealing with COVID-19.

We need your help sharing this survey with your local partners and businesses. The link to the survey is: <https://polco.us/surveys/c0fa3317-007d-49de-9f38-8a6a4e6bdd31>

Public Works

The Town's affordable housing units are in need some attention lately. One unit has been approved for new flooring, which was a budgeted expense. The flooring has not been updated in several years and has reached the point that it cannot be cleaned anymore due to wear and tear. A refrigerator will also be replaced in one of the units as the existing one is so dated parts are not available anymore. We will be using a contractor to level a slab of concrete that has raised and caused an edge to develop and could present a trip hazard at another affordable housing property.

The contract with Good Earth, our turf and garden contractor for 2019, was signed this week and they are already busy preparing the gardens for summer. Their crew is concentrating on cleaning and mulching the gardens for now and making an assessment to what needs to be done going forward.

The Police Department and Public Works coordinated to re-secure the skateboard park. Unfortunately, the park had to be closed to discourage people from gathering. The yellow tape that was used to initially close the park had been torn by the wind. We also did some repair on the ramps to be ready for when we open it back up.

Planning

Willits Town Center – The Aspen Skiing Company is looking to get its full building permit early next week. They are in close contact with Staff as we work through safe construction practices related to Eagle County's and the Governor's Health orders. Block 11 North was issued a foundation permit and Staff is working through site plan and engineering items, which is still proceeding to obtain a building permit on the mixed-use building.

Development Review/Applications – Work continues on other building permits including TACAW, Steadman Clinic and some building remodels. Staff received a new application for a development in Southside and we are working on a couple other smaller applications that will be ready for the P&Z in late April and May. Staff has also conducted several pre-application conferences by video-conference and is dealing with some new zoning complaint items.

Construction/Development – The Building and Planning Departments have responded to many questions about the Health Orders pertaining to the Town of Basalt. Considerable work this week centered around the details of allowing construction to resume in Pitkin County. The current plan is that developers in the Pitkin County portion of Basalt will need to submit "social distancing" plans for the Town's review and approval. The current schedule is that training for local officials would occur early next week, builders could officially start submitting plans as early as Thursday April 23rd and construction could start as early as Monday April 27th if the builder had a plan approved by the Town of Basalt.

Green Team - At Monday's monthly meeting the Team discussed the changes in the 2020 budget as a result of the pandemic's effect on the local economy. The projects to electrify Town Hall and summer yard waste events have been put on hold to be revisited for 2021. The Team is interested in pursuing further amendments to the Sustainable Building Code and are looking to changes implemented by neighboring communities, including Pitkin County and Carbondale that have implemented new HERS requirements for residential development that are size related. CORE announced that they are currently

putting a hold on Udall Grant applications but are proceeding with small Design Assistance and Community grants.

Staff attended a meeting today with the Upper Roaring Fork Valley Climate Action Committee that includes a representative from Pitkin County, Snowmass Village, Aspen, and Basalt. The group discussed common goals related to solar projects - each community's requirements, fees and processes. CORE is working with CLEAR and Walking Mountains to get 10 communities signed up on SolSmart. Staff is looking into how SolSmart's and Basalt's requirements overlap. The group also discussed how the pandemic is affecting projects planned for 2020, discovering that all member communities are working towards code amendments. Pitkin County will be presenting the County Commissioners with three ordinances on April 22nd regarding the Energy Code, Land Use Code, and a Construction and Demolition Waste ordinance. Pitkin County is particularly interested in buy-in from all communities on the Demolition and Waste ordinance, which Staff will research. Each member is compiling a list of paused projects to send to CORE by Monday.

BPAC – The Basalt Public Arts Committee met on Thursday to review the four grant applications received. BPAC's process in grant selection is to first review the applications and shortlist the ones they want to consider further, and then meet on April 30th to finalize their selection and finalize the grant selection amounts. These recommendations will then be taken to Town Council on May 12th. The four grants applications received totaled \$62,000.

2020 Census – The Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (A2PCCC) held its monthly meeting open to the public on Wednesday. The Committee will begin to wind down its advertising soon now that Census Day (April 1st) has passed, with the intention of doing an "it's not too late" campaign later in the summer. The deadline to respond to the Census has been extended again, so people now have until October 31st to respond.

Police

The police department continues to enforce the State, Pitkin and Eagle County public health orders through educational contacts. We have observed an increase in social distancing and leashing of dogs while in public.

Daily checks of construction sites in Eagle County continue. Construction company employees are doing a good job social distancing while they work. Construction sites in Pitkin County continue to be shut down.

We assisted at the weekly middle school food distribution site. This week 7500 pounds of food was distributed to 280 families. This was a 1000 pound increase from last week. Unfortunately, the site ran out of food and people were turned away. Organizers for the distribution site will request a doubling of food for next week and possibly extend the hours of operation to service more families.