



DATE: January 8, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Pitkin and Eagle Counties remain in Level Orange, but Pitkin County Board of Health discussed on Thursday going into Level Red. The current policy was to remain in Level Orange so long as two of the three indicators (incidence rate, positivity rate and hospitalizations) stayed below Level Red. The concern, according to the public health staff is that the incidence rate remains high and by going into Red Level they believe that it can be brought back down as we saw after the initial shutdown in March. The Board of Health discussed the matter on Thursday but will seek more public input prior to making a final decision.

Police

All officers attended an on-line diversity awareness training titled "Recognizing and Addressing Implicit Bias".

Our three new hybrid patrol cars have arrived and will be placed into service next week.

Area homeowner associations are being contacted and asked for their assistance educating residents about the Town's two-minute idling ordinance. Officers are also contacting violators and providing education about our ordinance.

Chief Greg Knott attended a three-day joint Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police and County Sheriffs of Colorado virtual conference. Greg currently serves as the 1st Vice President of the chief's association and will be sworn in as President in June.

Our application closing date for two vacant police officer positions closed earlier this week. We received only one application from an out of state applicant. We will begin advertising for these open positions again in mid-January.

Recreation

Staff have been working with Lt. Munch of the Basalt Police to assist in the recertification of the department's First Aid needs. Two Police staff members are currently enrolled in the American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED blended learning course. Blended learning is a format where most of the information is delivered online while the skills will be performed in person.

Staff have in contact with the school district regarding the usage of school facilities for recreation programs. One proposal has been submitted for review while other proposals for programming will be created shortly.

Staff have been working towards updating certifications with the American Red Cross and Colorado Parks and Recreation.

Public Works

Earlier in the week the water operator noticed the water production had increased. It is unusual because this time of year is one of our lowest water usage periods. Public Works staff started looking around Town to see if we could find any water surfacing. Due to the rockiness of the soil, we could not find the leak. The next option was to bring in a leak detecting company with specialized listening equipment. The leak detector arrived at 9:00 am Wednesday and had the leak located by noon. The Leak was a lateral line off our water main that had had a cap come off and the valve was partially open. Public Works staff were able to close the water valve and stop the leak.

Public Works has been taking advantage of the sunshine and breaking ice out of the gutter. The ice buildup is a result of the freeze thaw effect of the days getting warmer. The ice can be 8 inches thick and require heavy equipment to break and move it. The ice must be maintained due to the cumulative effect and can add up quickly. Public Works is also moving snow piles and pushing snow back in preparation of the next storm.

Public Works has been meeting to kick off 2021 projects. We are getting bids on our annual asphalt repair maintenance. We are also reviewing some projects in which we will repair and replace some water infrastructure this year. We will also be involved in overall improvements to some parks.

Planning

Green Team – The Eagle County Commissioners held a worksession with CORE where Basalt Staff attended, to discuss Eagle County paying for some of the services that CORE provides in the Eagle County to make up for the fact that upper valley REMP funds from Aspen and Pitkin County will no longer be used to fund projects in Eagle County. While details need to be worked out more, it looks like rebates and CORE staff support will continue for the Eagle County area in 2021. This does not include grants. Staff also met with CORE to discuss CORE's 2021 plans for outreach, member community highlights and messaging. CORE is discussing plans to highlight efforts and projects that are common to all member communities. Staff discussed ways CORE could provide support to the Town of Basalt's Green Team efforts in the upcoming year in the realm of outreach and education. The Green Team is meeting on Monday and will be discussing a campaign to reduce idling jointly with Carbondale's E Board.

Basalt Chamber Sign Committee – The Committee met this week to discuss the proposed East Entrance sign. They are planning a site visit later this month to finalize the design for the value-engineered sign design. It is the intent of Staff to present the revised sign design to the Council in February.

BPAC – The Arts Commission met on Thursday and discussed 2021 projects. They are hoping to inaugurate ice sculptures during the first week of February and will be sending out the Request for Proposals for the mural project after the Council meeting on Tuesday.

Basalt River Park – Staff has been working with the Applicants on the entitlement documents that need to be recorded.

Development Review/Applications – The Lot J, Basalt Commercial Park Development Sketch Plan Application for 12 residential units was recommended for approval by the P&Z at its meeting on January 5. The resolution for Sketch Plan approval is scheduled for the Council's consideration at its January 26 meeting. Stott's Mill is still working with its bank to provide the required security.

Arbaney Pool- The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items with the Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design as the pool renovation project is underway. The plan is to complete construction by late May so that the pool may reopen for the summer.

Finance

The first week of the year is always hectic for the Finance Department. We are rolling over the books to the new year, entering and verifying payroll, finalizing merit increases, completing a bill run for Council, along with other beginning of year tasks. The majority of this work falls to Jenny to complete in a tight timeline. A special THANK YOU for Jenny for all of her hard work. Her quality of work and work ethic are invaluable!

Five COP bids were reviewed and discussed on Thursday. The lowest bid is from Truist, at a 1.11% interest rate . The second lowest bid is from Alpine Bank in Basalt at a 1.35% interest rate. The difference in interest rate costs between Alpine Bank and Truist totaled \$19,616. Both of the top two bids accepted Arbaney Park as the collateral for the COP. Additionally, Alpine Bank granted \$10,000 towards the project to assist with the Arbaney Park pool costs. The Town chose Alpine Bank due to their local presence in the community, and the low cost differential between the top two bids.