



**DATE:** January 25, 2019  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

This week sure felt like we are in the depths of winter with a number of back to back storms. Our Public Works crew was busy on our streets and sidewalks plowing and we actually experienced some challenges with snow storage in the downtown area. That has all been taken care of now and we continue to get things cleaned up.

We shared news of a possible property tax collection issue with the public yesterday at the library as well as during a conference call in the evening. We will hold another public meeting on this topic on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 to share more information and discuss the preferred solution. In the meantime staff will continue to provide the same services we have been and we will not be looking to cut any in 2019.

### **Planning**

- **Willits** - Staff met with the Aspen Skiing Company applicant and reviewed items required to make the application complete. The application will be scheduled for review after we have the materials. Staff is working with the Willits Developer on the items required in order that the Block 3 Apartment buildings may obtain certificates of occupancy. We are working on the items needed for the Town in order for the Town to obtain ownership of the 1,800 square foot commercial space and the three bedroom affordable housing unit.
- **Intermountain Regional Planning Commission (IMTPR)** – Watkins attended the IMTPR meeting on January 18. There were significant discussions on state-wide transportation funding after the failure of two ballot measures in November. There will be a ballot question this coming November that would let CDOT bond for \$2.3B. There was also considerable discussion on how funds are appropriated on a regional basis. A recent proposal by an advisory body would change the formula in favor of lessening the role of population in how funds are divvied by region. Garfield County Commissioner Tom Jankovsky was elected vice chair of the Commission to replace Jill Ryan. Regional projects scheduled for improvements in the coming years were discussed. One listed is a project at the Highway 82/El Jebel Road intersection, but there was confusion about whether the project has already been completed or partially completed. New Castle updated the Commission that they are pursuing an autonomous circulator bus for their downtown.
- **Parks, Open Space and Trails Committee (POST)** – The Worksession with POST and the Basalt Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> where the Council provided direction on Arbaney Park, moving ahead on the Basalt River Park design, trail connections, and donation policies. Staff will forward our notes on the Worksession once they have been finalized.

- **Green Team** – The Green Team subcommittee is scheduled to meet Monday with Chris Boley – Eagle County HVAC Controls Technician, as well Mike Steiner and Chris Bilby of Holy Cross, Sarah Gruen of CORE, and Town of Basalt Facilities Staff. Chris Boley has offered a free analysis of the existing HVAC system at the Town Hall and the Art Base building as the Green Team investigates the electrification of the Town Hall buildings.
- **NWCCOG** – Watkins listened to portions of the NWCCOG meeting by phone, which Councilor Infante attended in person. The Census Bureau is recommending that local governments sponsor “Complete Count Committees” (CCCs) in an effort to make the 2020 Decennial Census successful. The Census Bureau is currently hiring workers everywhere to help at the local level.
- **Basalt Affordable Community Housing Commission (BACH)** – BACH members met on Thursday and started their discussion on the findings of the Regional Housing Needs Analysis as it affects Basalt’s Housing program. They also discussed projects for 2019 in preparation for their Worksession with the Town Council which they would like to have during the Council’s February 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- **Southside CDOT Access Permit** – CDOT issued the access permit for Southside this week. The necessity for this came out of the land use approvals for the Stott’s Mill development but the permit also reflects future development on other approvals and potential applications. It does not authorize any additional improvements at the SH 82/Basalt Avenue intersection.

## Police

- The police department signed a Service Agreement with the Hope Center to provide 24 hour-a-day co-responder services for mental health calls. The agreement stipulates how the Hope Center and police department will respond and support each other during these calls. Ultimately, the goal of our co-responder program is to provide mental health services to individuals rather than relying upon the criminal justice system. This program is being paid for by the \$130,000 grant the police department received from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.
- The police department assisted ESPN and the School District with two separate "Shred Hate" presentations at the middle and high schools. The Shred Hate campaign raises awareness about bullying, gives students practical tips on how to stop bullying and resources to end it. Photos and videos of the presentations can be seen on the police departments Facebook page.
- Over the weekend we will be assisting the Pitkin County Sheriff’s Office and the Aspen Police Departments during X-Games activities. Sergeant Aaron Munch is assigned to the Incident Management Team and five officers will be assisting at the venues.