



**DATE:** February 1, 2019  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

We received a letter from the Forest Service indicating that they have finalized an agreement which made the Front Country Ranger Program official. They received \$120,000 for the program and will be hiring the seasonal employees starting this week. They extended thanks to the Council for their support in writing a letter on behalf of the Program.

We received a few calls at Town Hall this week regarding the traffic signals and their functionality (or lack thereof). The callers described issues at different intersections in Basalt. Boyd and I followed up with CDOT and they will send out technicians next week to look at the lights. We learned that there is detection at all of the lights with three intersections (El Jebel, Willits and east end of 2-Rivers Road) having in-ground detection and two intersections (Original Road and west end of 2-Rivers Road) having camera detection. According to the CDOT engineer, both types of detection require fairly precise alignment in the appropriate lane as well as location (not too far forward or back) to trigger the light. This can become difficult when there is snow and ice on the road. Boyd will pay attention to that issue when it snows to try and keep those as clean as possible.

### **Public Works**

- Public Works met with RE-1 School District representatives to advise the District of two projects the Town will be doing adjacent to the middle and elementary schools. The Cottonwood Safe Routes to School Project on Cottonwood Drive is being bid out now. This project is planned when regular school is not in session. However, summer school will be in session and Public Works wanted to coordinate with the District to make sure the project goes smoothly. We were able to work out staging and daytime scheduling with the District. We also discussed the future Arbaney Park improvements and possible impacts to the school campus. We will continue those conversations as the project scope and timing are more clearly defined.
- We continue to clean up accumulated ice and snow in parking and shady areas. Due to the cold temperatures clean-up has been a challenge. We are not getting up to the warmer afternoon temperatures that we need to get the ice to melt and release. We will continue to remove what we can as it becomes workable.

### **Police**

- X-Games weekend has passed and we had very few issues in Town. Our hotels were full and many visitors enjoyed everything Basalt has to offer.
- On Thursday we had another ice flow on the Roaring Fork River. The police department is in constant communication with the Roaring Fork Conservancy for predictions and to receive

updates from their river monitors. When a flow is predicted or occurs, we utilize Pitkin Alert, social media pages and the National Weather Service to issue public advisories and warnings.

- Town Manager Ryan Mahoney, Chief Greg Knott, Sergeant Aaron Munch and Officer Matt Lilly attended a tour of the Ruedi Dam. We were able to observe operation and safety measures inside the Dam and discuss emergency preparedness and response planning.
- On Wednesday, February 6th 5:30 p.m., the police department is co-hosting a "Parent Coffeehouse" to present information on student substance abuse and vaping. This presentation is open to all parents and will be held at the middle school. More information and an event flyer is posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BasaltPolice/>

## 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 divided 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 23rd 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 26th 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.