



DATE: July 12, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The high water on the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers has come down and while it is still fairly high, it appears we avoided flooding danger. I have been keeping an eye on the Roaring Fork River gauge at Emma which is currently reading 3000 CFS. This is 2000 CFS lower than it was just one week ago.

The next issue that we are continuing to work on is the debris flow mitigation. Progress is being made and the contractor is now moving to a site outside of Basalt for their next phase of work. The large project above Basalt will likely begin the week of the 22nd.

That same week, a substantial road improvement is scheduled at the intersection of Two Rivers and Midland. This will require us to close that intersection for the evening of the 22nd. This is a Monday evening which we thought would be preferred over busier evenings later in the week. Staff has been notifying businesses of the closure and we have been fielding a number of calls. Mainly we are being asked why we would do these improvements now instead of waiting until the off season.

The issue we face is that we cannot shut that intersection while school is in session. We would have liked to have scheduled the work earlier but a combination of weather, which delayed contractor schedules as well as our need to coordinate the construction with the sidewalk improvement (a separate contractor) along Cottonwood Drive led to this timing. We will need the Cottonwood Drive sidewalk project to be complete so we can direct traffic coming along Two Rivers Road from up valley into the downtown via Cottonwood Drive. We will route travelers coming along Two Rivers Road from down valley along Midland Spur into downtown. Additional parking will be available on Two Rivers Road in front of the CDC property for those who wish to access the businesses in Gold Rivers Court. We have also secured parking at the elementary school should that be needed. The access into downtown via the roundabout at Basalt Avenue will be closed. People can still get to the Library, Post Office and the Gold Rivers Court buildings but will not be able to get through the intersection at Midland and Two Rivers.

The intersection has started to deteriorate, especially during the winter when we dealt with a number of potholes. If we do not keep on top of these repairs, it is likely that a costlier and longer duration project would be needed in the future. It is our plan to begin the project first thing on Monday morning and be finished in the afternoon on the 23rd. By closing the intersection we are able to keep the project schedule down to one evening only. Staff is planning to deploy a robust sign plan so that we can be very clear to the patrons of downtown businesses how to navigate to their destination.

Staff has sent maps and details of the project to business owners so they can alert customers and their delivery people of the closure. While this is a big inconvenience, the result will be a great new intersection and roadway that will last for a number of years to come. Here is a link on our website where people can get more information: <https://basalt.net/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=319>.

Public Works

Our annual street maintenance project is progressing. The contractor has completed the crack sealing, almost completed the chip sealing and all that is left is the fog sealing and the painting in East Basalt. The next phase will be roto-milling and repaving each end of Willits Lane and the Two Rivers and Midland intersection.

Work continues on the Cottonwood Drive Project. Town staff has been able satisfy some small requests from the neighbors that live on the street and keep the job moving along. The comments about the work that has been accomplished to this point is very positive and people are thankful for the wider sidewalks for safety reasons.

Town staff met with a water meter sales representative to learn more about the technology available in the industry. Water meters have approximately a twenty year life cycle and Basalt is nearing that time frame on our current meters. The next generation of meters will be more automated and will use cellular technology to send signals so that the Town and the customer can monitor water usage throughout the billing cycle. We will be speaking with several water meter companies and will ultimately put our meters on a replacement program.

Planning

Special Events

Friday, July 12 – Willits Street Dance at Market Street. 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Saturday, July 13 – Aspen Valley Marathon, half-marathon and 5K ending at Lions Park.

Wednesdays, July 17, 24, 31 - Basalt Wednesday Summer Music Concert Series at Lions Park in Downtown 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Saturday, July 20 – Basalsa 5:00 to 9:00 pm at Lions Park.

Basalt Master Plan – CTA is in Town Tuesday and Wednesday July 16 and July 17. Connect One, Basalt Staff and Pitkin County Community Development are planning activities involving the Holland Hills and adjacent areas in the planning process. Staff is tentatively working on having the consultant team provide an update to P&Z and Town Council for Tuesday, July 30th.

Arbaney Park Swimming Pool Project – An addendum to the RFP was issued on July 11th. The deadline for submitting proposals was moved to July 22nd to allow firms to respond to modifications and clarifications.

30 Shining Mountain Way – It took a team of Public Works, Finance, Planning, the Town Manager and the Town Attorney along with our realtors, Jana Dillard and Ted Borchelt from Aspen Sotheby's International Realty to resolve all the issues surrounding the sale of the 6-affordable housing units in Old Snowmass. Here is everyone except for Matt Wagner (who did an amazing job dealing with final tenant, water line and septic issues) at the closing table with the Mayor on Wednesday, smiling as all of the paperwork was finished.



Aspen Skiing Company Work Force Housing Application – the Aspen Skiing Company’s Willits housing application was approved on 2nd reading on July 9th. Planning Staff met with their representatives to outline items needed under the Willits PUD before their purchase of the Property, such as execution of a floor area transfer form and an escrow agreement that is needed to secure improvements required by the Amended Development and Vested Rights Agreement for Willits Town Center.

Basalt River Park – Attached are the notes from the Charrette. Connect One is preparing two alternative conceptual diagrams and we expect to see those in the near future.

Basalt Green Team – met on Monday, July 8th. The main topic of conversation focused on two Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) grants. There is a total of \$12 million available, with \$2 million designated for planning projects and \$10 million designated for implementation of projects. Mona Newton from CORE is interested in pursuing the planning grant with Basalt and other local government agencies with a focus on creating a regional emissions inventory. This would include the benchmarking of buildings, data gathering, and finding where communities and collectively the region are on the path toward the governor’s goal of 100% renewable by 2040.

Basalt Affordable Community Housing (BACH) – met on Friday, June 28th over the noon hour to discuss the ideas that came out of the housing meeting on June 20th with the Master Plan consultants, and which ideas BACH is interested in pursuing. Commissioners expressed interest in revisiting the key parcels priority map and doing a site visit to the parcels to evaluate whether any areas need to be updated. The Commission decided to invite David Mylar to a future meeting for a discussion on land trusts. Katie Erickson has been asked to explain Resident Occupied (RO) unit financing, buy-down options, and the revolving loan program idea at the next meeting.

Parks, Open Space and Trails Committee (POST) – Jessie Young from Pitkin County Open Space and Trails attended the POST meeting on July 10th and obtained input on the Rio Grande Trail Node Plan Update that POST is working on. This plan will address the approximately 20 miles of trail that is owned and/or managed by Pitkin County from the Aspen Post Office Trailhead to the Emma Schoolhouse/County Line. The final plan will be completed at the end of September and will include design guidelines, identification of nodes/recommended amenities and site concepts for node locations. POST also discussed the feedback received on the donation policy and assigned each member the task of coming up with recommendations on locations for additional art within Town Parks.

Police Department

One of our well-known homeless males was issued a trespass notice from another business in Willits. He has been saying strange things to patrons in the area and there have been a couple businesses asking to file the no trespass notifications.

We had a few automobile accidents this past week, one of which occurred downtown when a vehicle driver pushed the gas instead of the brake and drove up over a sidewalk and into a structure. No injuries, but took some time to tow/remove the vehicle.

We received a report of a cold child sex assault, reported as happening 3 years ago. We are attempting to contact the mother to set up a forensic interview. Messages have been left with her, but no call back yet.

We had an illegal fire going on Cedar Dr., within Town Limits just last night. Fire department was also called and the fire was put out. The homeowner was advised of the fire ban and given the municipal ordinance.

Officer also responded to a couple disturbances over the week, which did not produce any criminal charges. Officers were able to diffuse the situations and separate parties.

Officers assisted Pitkin County SO with a domestic violence situation in a neighborhood just South of Town Limits. An arrest was made during this.

Finance

This week included a flurry of activity in accounting. Ryan and I are working with legal counsel and Ehlers to craft the draft ordinance for issuing TABOR refunds and add funding to the budget to cover the refund. The first reading of this ordinance will be discussed on July 23.

Now that the Shining Mountain Way property is sold, I am working on creating an ordinance to utilize the net proceeds from the sale to assist in paying off our line of credit. Our current affordable housing line of credit balance totals \$1,650,000, and the proceeds from the affordable housing sale should yield approximately \$1.4 million, which will come close to paying off our line of credit. The Underpass line of credit balance of \$1,350,000 has been completely paid off at the beginning of the year, so our line of credit debt has been substantially lowered this year. This will have the effect of increasing the Town's fund balance by the amount that our lines of credit have been paid.

Our final audit report will be presented to Council on July 23 as well. The auditors were very thorough during this year's audit (I would go as far as to say they used a fine toothed comb), and have some great recommendations for additional future improvements as well. I would like to extend a special thank you to Jenny Aragon for her assistance in working through this year's audit.

Our budget kickoff with department managers will be July 22. We're excited to start the budget process earlier this year, which will give department heads, Council, and the Finance Advisory Board many opportunities for discussion and review of the budget. We are trying to schedule a meeting with Council regarding the 2020 budget for August, which is in the works.

Pam and I met with ProVelocity this week to review our current tech systems. They are developing a list of recommendations for us to prevent and mitigate cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are becoming more prevalent, and it's an issue we need to proactively watch and take action to prevent.

Jenny has done a great job in streamlining the water billing, which has become a seamless process with very few anomalies. She is a systems-oriented person and has done a great job of making the Town's financial systems more efficient and effective.