



DATE: July 19, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff has been busy this week preparing for next week's Council meeting. In particular we have done a lot of work regarding the certificates of participation and preparing the necessary documents to begin the process of refunding the over collected property tax. Staff will present first readings of two ordinances next Tuesday evening. One approves the voluntary refund and the other authorizes the financing for the refund.

I forget to mention over the last few weeks how our edible garden is doing in Ponderosa Park. I have been stopping by in the evenings and I must say it is looking rather amazing this year. Thanks to Tim Vogel in Public Works for his hard work over there. There are bundles of currants that are eating well and the raspberries are starting to come on. I found one bright red, if slightly sour still raspberry this week.

As a reminder we are beginning the road construction at the intersection of Two Rivers and Midland on Monday. It will be closed one night and expected to reopen Tuesday afternoon. The Aspen Times put some information in the paper yesterday regarding schedules. Here is that link: <https://www.aspentimes.com/news/local/basalt-prepares-to-undertake-major-road-projects-on-midland-avenue-and-willits-lane/>. I also reached out to the Roaring Fork Club to let them know and provided them with information to inform their owners/visitors.

Public Works

The irrigation crew has been upgrading older inefficient sprinkler heads and completed the installation of the new backflow preventer on the irrigation systems at Cliff's Hillside Park and Lions Park. All of the backflows that needed to be changed to a different model and installation design on our irrigation systems are done. In addition, they have been weeding invasive species in the mitigated wetlands at Old Pond and Midland Parks.

The water department has been preparing for the sanitary survey and meeting with the engineer and contractors to repair a leaking valve on the million gallon tank. The initial excavation to expose the valve is scheduled for next week.

The distribution department has tested and repaired all but two of the Town's 34 backflow preventers. The remaining two will be completed when the testing device is returned from calibration testing and recertification. They also made improvements to the water plant by plumbing in a new 1" backup line and pump for the upper pressure zone tank in case the primary pump fails.

The streets department has been rebuilding the roads at the Cemetery with the recycled asphalt millings from the paving projects last year. Snowmass Village was generous enough to let us use their roller

which will allow us to get the millings back to an asphalt-like surface. They have also been using the same procedure to repair the areas in our right of way around the RFTA bus stops. There was also a burial up at the cemetery this weekend that they excavated and closed up for the family.

The Road Maintenance project is coming along with continuing notifications going out via flyers, newspaper ads, and radio. The chip sealing of the roads has been completed and the painting of all of the crosswalks, parking areas, and stop bars should all be done early next week. Everything is on schedule for the paving projects taking place on Two Rivers Rd. and Willits Lane next week. The paving crew will start staging equipment today and will plan on closing the road and intersection at around 7:00am on Monday. Once the paving has been completed at the end of next week the painting crew that does the long line painting will be in to paint the center and edge lines of the roadways.

Mosquito control was done this week with a larvacide on the standing and stagnant sections of water at Old Pond Park and Midland Park and in the storm drains and marshlands in Willits.

Planning

Special Events – Here are the next upcoming special events.

Wednesdays, July 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 pm to 9:00 pm at Lions Park

Friday July 19 and Sunday July 21 - Shakespeare in the Park – Basalt Regional Library at 7:00 pm

Sundays through September 29 – Basalt Sunday Market on Midland Spur 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Town paid extra money this year to reduce the cost to families to use the bounce house. This year the bounce house is on a donation basis whereby non-profits retain the funds raised in exchange for helping to run the bounce house. So far this year Challenge Aspen, Cornerstone, and Growing Years have been the beneficiaries.

Basalt Master Plan – CTA was in Town Tuesday and Wednesday. We discussed data points gathered in the citizen participation effort, data related to growth, and next steps on key parcels. CTA also met with some additional stakeholders.

Arboney Park Swimming Pool Project – An addendum to the RFP was issued on July 11th. The deadline for submitting proposals is Monday, July 22.

Willits Town Center – Staff has been doing inspections to make sure that the public improvements required for the Block 3 Pocket Park are complete. In addition we have been reviewing landscaping adjacent to the apartments prior to issuing a final certificate of occupancy for the building. A sale is pending. Staff has been working on the documents needed for the Aspen Skiing Company Workforce Housing Project.

Ponderosa Park – The Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers is having a small group do some trail maintenance on Saturday July 20 from 9:00 am to noon up near Harry Teague's office. The TRC is processing an approval to perform more significant work on the section between the Seed Garden and mid-way between the Roaring Fork Apartments and Harry Teague's Office.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition had its monthly meeting on July 18. Bill Ray has been hired by Eagle County to poll the Eagle County community about their tolerance for a tax related to early childhood education. He led a poll in 2018 in Eagle County that found voters to not be in support of a tax for early childhood education. However, if a tax were to pass, it was found that a sales tax was more favorable than a property tax. Through research Ray has found the previous messaging to be poor. Providing financial aid to attend childcare programs was viewed negatively and found to be the deal breaker for the majority of respondents. Recent polling has found voters favorable to ideas that promote helping working families to stay in Eagle County. Bill intends to keep working on messaging, outreach and education with Eagle County while looking towards the 2020 ballot for a tax for early childhood education.

The Coalition also discussed ways to advance work on Parcel 2E in Willits for an early childhood development center and community use space. Commission member Dustin Anderson will be meeting with a private company to discuss their business model that includes providing funding for such things as childcare centers and fire stations with a payback over the expected life of the building. More information should be available after next month's Coalition meeting.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – The Commission met on Thursday July 11 and made recommendations on grant awards. Seven applications totaling \$76,650 were received.

2020 Census – Watkins listened to two webinars on the 2020 Census, including one hosted by DOLA describing its grants that are available and one from the federal Census Bureau. The public may have its first direct contact with Census employees beginning in August as they verify addresses. It is important for the public to know that it is just prep work taking place, not the actual Census.

Police Department

Officers dealt with a hit and run accident where someone ran into a resident's fence (Ron Arbaney). Officer assigned to the case used a piece of the vehicle to track down the make and model and a range of year for the vehicle. Officers are still looking for this vehicle.

Officers were called to a home in the Elk Run subdivision for a report of a suicide. This suicide utilized the "End of Life Options" act, where a person with a terminal illness can obtain drugs to take if they want to end their life. This has been the 2nd of this type of call the PD has responded to.

Officer arrested an intoxicated and belligerent male near Whole Foods refusing to leave the property. The same individual was contacted on July 3 for setting off fireworks.

Officer received a report of an 'egging' to a local business, as well as other locations around El Jebel. Our SRO has identified one of the subjects in surveillance video and we are planning an interview with him.

Officers were called by a 'mandatory reporting' agency where they believed child abuse was happening. Officers learned the parents were self-medicating their 15 year old son with marijuana because he had chronic pain. Officers spoke with the parents about them obtaining a medical marijuana card if this was the route they wanted to go with their child.

Thomas (SRO) is at training this week for Colorado SROs.

National Night Out posters have started to go up around town to let people know of the date. Biggest thing is we have a Dunk Tank, and I'll be in it, so warm up your arm!