



DATE: August 9, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff has been busy this week following up on a number of items. Specifically we are continuing to work through flood mitigation in the hill district, lead testing at the gun range and responding to citizen concerns regarding the removal of the stop sign on Willits Lane.

Progress on flood mitigation has been good with the completion of the survey so design can commence on the drainage at Cedar and Pinon. Designs are also being done on two other areas along that drainage to help direct flows to the River. We are hoping to finalize design in the next week and then we will be able to schedule construction. We are waiting on clarification from NRCS related to our design concepts to ensure that they fall within the scope of their regulations related to the grant money we received.
Update on testing

This morning I had a conference call with CPW, Roaring Fork Conservancy and Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). CPW is proceeding with hiring a third party independent environmental group to complete testing at the gun range. CDPHE will review the testing plan proposed by the independent firm prior to testing. Once approved, the testing can begin and the results will be provided to CPW and CDPHE. The timeframe for the testing is unknown at this time but I should have more information next week. CPW was reaching out today to the contractor to get on their schedule.

Lastly, staff made a decision to postpone the removal of the sign on Willits Lane. The issue is being connected to a development application in Eagle County that has no bearing on our decision. We will also complete a warrant study that will look at that intersection and determine whether it is failing and in need of traffic control. The Town needs to follow the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices which specifically states that stop signs should not be used for speed control. Further, our most current data shows that speeding is not a significant issue along Willits Lane. We will again provide the adjacent neighborhoods with notice with regard to any decision to make a change at that intersection.

Public Works

Clean up continues this week. We are running the sweeper and the water truck to try to get the fine dust cleaned up. The crew has been busy with the back hoe cleaning ditches and culverts that were impacted by the runoff. The drainage from the cemetery left a large deposit of silt at the bottom of Cemetery Lane and Elk Run. River Cove received some debris flow in the street which we cleaned earlier in the week.

CDOT, SGM and the Town met at the Highway 82 bridge located south of Basalt to measure the annual silt build up. This is a yearly event, after runoff, to measure the distance between the river bed and the bottom of the bridge. If the silt builds up beyond a set point it has to be removed to prevent a blockage. This year the silt had built up some but the high water during run off had removed a lot of wood debris from under the bridge. The CDOT engineer will make an assessment and determine if any removal of silt

necessary. The Town would take the lead on removing material if it was needed and CDOT would reimburse the Town for those costs.

Cottonwood Drive Safe Routes to School project is winding down. All the concrete has been poured and the asphalt is being installed. The stairs, some paint and signs will be installed in the coming weeks but will not require closure of the road.

Planning

Special Events – Here are the upcoming special events.

Saturday, August 17 – The Art Base Gala Fundraiser will be held at Lions Park from 5:30 to 9:30 pm.

Fridays, August 23, September 13, and September 27 – Additional events in Willits organized by TACAW from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

Sundays through September 29 – Basalt Sunday Market on Midland Spur 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Basalt Master Plan – Planning Staff members traveled to Denver on Thursday and participated in a charrette with CTA on a couple of the key parcels. The next public meeting is the neighborhood meeting the Town is hosting with Pitkin County at the library on unincorporated areas east of Town to the Snowmass Conoco. This includes Holland Hills, Wingo Junction, and Lazy Glen. We are having a neighborhood meeting on August 26th at the library for these areas. The meeting is from 5:30 to 7:00 pm on Monday August 26, 2019 at the Basalt Library

Arbaney Park Swimming Pool Project – The Council approved the contract with Connect One at Tuesday's Council meeting. Connect One has placed posters at the Arbaney swimming pool to have folks scan the QR code and find out information on the project.

Willits Town Center – Staff is working on checklists for the project team hired by Steadman and is working on several items connected with the PUD.

Basalt River Park – Staff intends to include a short item on the Council's August 27th meeting to allow Connect One to explain the two Concept Plans.

2020 Census –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.

Eagle County Referral – 10 acre PUD – The Town P&Z provided referral comments earlier this summer on the 10-Acre PUD Application for five (5) single-family lots on the west side of Willits Lane. The Applicant has amended their proposed traffic-calming and pedestrian access plan and the Staff has scheduled the revisions for review by the Town P&Z on Tuesday, August 20th to see if the P&Z would like to amend their referral comments. Please note that there has been considerable public correspondence provided on this item related to the Town's proposal to remove the existing stop signs at

the Meadow Drive/Willits Lane intersection that were going to be removed by the Town as was mentioned at the last Council meeting. Staff has decided to hold off on removing the stop signs on Willits Lane at this time until after the County's action on the 10 acre PUD.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday. Eagle County anticipates releasing its annual request for finances and the Coalition will be looking to submit a response based on the County's 2020 funding priorities, soon to be identified. Eagle County will not be funding tuition assistance in 2020, with the reasons given that 1) they are funding the infant/toddler subsidy program, and 2) they are looking to provide funding for initiatives and programs that are available all areas of Eagle County. They are anticipated to keep funding programs that raise quality improvement, such as the coaching position through Early Childhood Network (ECN).

ECN is working with the local programs on Building on the Best (aka B.O.B.) goals to raise quality improvement. That program will begin in September and run through the end of the year. This will conclude the Quality Improvement funds that were allocated by the Town Council.

The Financial Aid Committee will be meeting next week to review application requests for the 3rd trimester disbursement period, which runs from September through December. Nearly all available funding is expected to be utilized without awarding any new applicant requests.

The Coalition also started the conversation into next year's budget request to the Town of Basalt, identifying essential programs. With few Coalition members present, the discussion will continue at September's meeting.

Basalt Public Arts Commission – The Commission met on Thursday to recap and discuss potential changes to the grant program, as well as the Arts Master Plan and other topics.

Emma Store Management Plan Steering Committee- Members of the Planning Staff attended the Emma Store Management Plan Steering Committee meeting this week that was hosted by Pitkin County Open Space and Trails. Discussion centered around the potential acceptable uses for the Emma Store buildings given the property constraints that exist.

Police Department

School Resource Officer Thomas Wright returned to the schools this week. He hosted three separate staff training's to review our emergency operations and response plans. He also coordinated a joint mental health, health and human service providers, police department and school administration meeting. The focus of this meeting was to build relationships and identify roles and responsibilities for the upcoming year.

With students return to school on Monday, please be aware of increased pedestrian and bicycle traffic around town. We will have officers stationed at the Two Rivers Road and Cottonwood Drive intersection along with the student drop off area at the elementary and middle schools.

The Colorado Department of Public Safety conducted a three year Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act compliance inspection at the police department. This inspection confirms our compliance with state and federal laws regarding juveniles. I am pleased to report our facilities, policies and juvenile procedures passed the inspection with no deficiencies identified.

All officers participated in quarterly defensive tactics and arrest control training. This training focused on officer safety, de-escalation of force, mental health response and proper use of holds and restraints.

A moose was spotted Friday morning on Fryingpan Road between Homestead Drive and Sopris Drive. If you see this young moose, or any of his friends, please give it plenty of space. Moose can be very unpredictable when frightened or cornered.