



DATE: August 29, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

This week marks the last week of employment for our Recreation Director, Dorothy Howard, who has been with the Town for 17 years. She has made a lasting impression on a number of our kids and has been an excellent steward of our recreation programs. Our relationship with the Basalt Schools is strong because of her consistent communication and professionalism. I was able to spend some time with her this week and when I spoke with her about how long she had been with the Town, it was clearly the kids that kept her here. Good luck to Dorothy in her next adventure!

Staff is continuing to work on the flood mitigation projects on Basalt Mountain. We signed a work order yesterday to begin a project on the north side of the Mountain to help divert flows away from structures and to try and keep debris from entering Cattle Creek. The project to protect the Tree Farm property is underway and should be finished up in the near future. As you are aware, we have been working diligently to complete the additional design work in the downtown area of Basalt. I met with the contractor and the engineers, on site, yesterday afternoon. We should be submitting a plan to NRCS for their review and will simultaneously submit it to the contractor to estimate costs.

Regarding a letter I sent to CPW back in June, I followed up this week with the Parks and Wildlife Commission Chair to see if she could suggest a way for us to get feedback regarding our requests. As a reminder, the Council directed staff to send a letter to JT Romantzke (CPW northwest Regional Manager) with copies to the Parks and Wildlife Commissioners, State Senator Donovan, Representative Roberts, Dan Gibbs (DNR Director) as well as our local representative, Matt Yamashita (area wildlife manager), outlining our recommendations for managing the gun range. This letter was in response to the recommendations made by the CPW citizen committee which included both short and long term solutions for a gun range.

I noticed on the CPW webpage that there is a Commission meeting in Rifle on Friday, September 6th at 11 a.m. We would have to submit comments today in order for the Commission to receive them in their packet materials.

Public Works

Public Works is wrapping up the Cottonwood sidewalk project which includes finishing the landscaping needed on two of the bordering properties. The contractor is still waiting on the treads for the steps which were a special order placed in the beginning of June. The footers and grading for the steps are in place, when the stairs arrive it will take a day to complete.

The Water Department has been working on backwashing and cleaning the filters on the water treatment plant with the manufacturer. New telemetry equipment has been installed along with a new computer and updated software to operate the plant. Paul who works on the distribution side of the

Water Department has been busy overseeing water taps and service lines that are being installed with new construction projects.

The Streets Department regraded the road to the million gallon tank and reestablished the drainage ditches above the cemetery which were compromised from the last big rain event. They placed and compacted road millings that were recycled from our other road projects on the driveways in the cemetery. They are continuing to wash down the roads with the water truck where there is any debris or dirt and sweep.

Public Works assisted in putting out a fire where we have equipment stored on Eagle County property next to Crown Mountain Park. We brought a water truck over after hearing the call on the radio and filled the fire tankers and sprayed down the burn area under the direction of the Fire Department.

Parks and Gardens have been trimming trees along the trails and right of ways. The rugby field was aerated and we have been working on replacing screws and boards on the wooden boardwalk at Old Pond and Midland Park.

Facilities updated some compromised plumbing fixtures and removed the old carpeting and linoleum in an affordable housing unit. The floors were prepped so the contractor can level and stain the existing concrete surface that was underneath. This will give us a great look with low maintenance going forward. They have been attending meetings this week and giving insight into the Arbaney Pool upgrades and design.

Finance

Budget season has kicked off on the right foot! We are happy to be a part of looking forward and creating a strategic capital plan and awesome vision for the future. Thank you to all seven councilmembers who took four hours out of their day on Tuesday to attend the strategic planning session and budget. This feedback and planning will allow the Town's ship to be intentionally steered towards a forward thinking and visionary future.

The department heads have submitted their expenditure budgets. Ryan and I are reviewing and compiling the information submitted. We should have a good picture of the Town's draft budget in the next few weeks. The budget process we are using requires that all department heads submit detail of what they are planning to spend, which allows transparency, communication, and openness throughout the budget process.

The Council Grant Cycle information is now on Basalt's website. The application deadline is October 31, 2019, and a funding decision will be made by December 31, 2019. The checks will be distributed in January 2020. Stay tuned, as we will need three council members to review the applications received and make this decision in November/December.

The application deadline for Finance Advisory Board membership is today. If you know anyone who is interested, refer them to www.basalt.net for more information. Applications can be emailed to me at christy.hamrick@basalt.net.

Police Department

The police department conducted full scale fire and evacuation drills at all three public schools. School staff and students followed our emergency operations plan to safely and efficiently evacuate the

schools. Two deficiencies were identified at the elementary school. These will be addressed by school district facilities personnel.

Officers assisted with traffic control at the Crown Mountain wildfire.

We have completed testing of the dedicated AT&T FirstNet emergency responder cellular and data network. FirstNet is developing a proposal for the police department to possibly change service to them.

Officer Ernie Mack tendered his voluntary resignation with the police department. A search for new officer candidates will begin next week.