



DATE: December 13, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

It's a winter wonderland out there with several inches of fresh snow. I can see the Public Works crew running the plowing equipment outside my window and observed that the main thoroughfares had been plowed early. My bike did just fine getting here which is usually a good test of the effort by our crew. I would guess that they will be out most of day clearing side roads and the main sidewalks. We'll also be paying close attention to the piles of snow that are growing as they continue to remove the snow.

Mayor Whitsitt and Councilmembers Tennenbaum and Infante met with CPW staff on Monday afternoon to discuss ongoing projects in the State Wildlife Area. This was a high level discussion to map out preferred methods for communication as well as discuss certain projects that we would like to discuss further. These include Lake Christine, gun range and access to the State Wildlife Area. As an update to the CDPHE, CPW informed us that they would be completing the lead testing in the spring.

The flood mitigation is still in progress but the basins are now being dug at a furious pace. I don't believe that the snow will slow their progress as far as digging goes. They have enough equipment out there to be digging both of the basins simultaneously. We are also still pushing on the contractor to finish some *punch list* items in the hill district. The major work is done but these little items are important finishing touches that are yet to be completed. I am told that they will be out there today but this snow may slow that progress. All work must be completed by the 26th of December. We then have 90 days to complete all paperwork, including invoicing and reporting.

Mayor Whitsitt and I attended an Eagle County holiday get together in Avon on Wednesday evening. It included staff and electeds from all of the Eagle County municipalities and Eagle County staff. It was a great opportunity to interact with several of our counterparts that we do not see on a regular basis.

Earlier this year we switched to Network Insurance Services to manage our Pinnacol workers compensation account. The Town's usage rate is very low, which has resulted in the Town receiving a dividend from Pinnacol totaling \$16,286. Additionally, due to the review of our workers compensation account and the low usage of the Town, the premium was reduced from \$53,642 for 2019 to \$45,993 for 2020, even when factoring in raises and other payroll increases.

One final project we have now completed is the installation of solar crosswalk indicator signs near the Movieland Theater. All of the crosswalks in that area now have these signs installed. We get quite a bit of pedestrian traffic in that area because of the park and ride stop and underpass from El Jebel.



Police

The police department assisted Basalt Elementary School with a shelter in place drill. During a shelter in place event, students and staff stay in their classrooms. The goal is to prevent anyone from entering the building or rooms from the outside.

Annual performance appraisals for all staff have been completed and submitted to Finance.

Officers assisted at last week's tree lighting in Willits. We will also have officers at the upcoming tree lighting event in Lions Park.

On Friday evening officers will accompany five children and their families to Walmart in Glenwood Springs for our annual Shop with a Cop event. Chief Greg Knott was able to secure \$1000 in private donations to pay for the event. We will include pictures of the event in next week's report.

Finance

The National League of Cities (NLC) annual report was recently released summarizing survey responses from officials in 554 cities across the country. That report has shown very uneven economic growth throughout the nation. The NLC focused on fiscal trends by region and city size for this report. Most large city finance directors were fairly confident there would be a recession within the next 1 – 2 years. Also, Midwest cities are now seeing a decline in revenue that has perplexed the experts. However, economic growth in the western portion of the country is strongest, and small city finance directors are less likely to think there would be a recession within the next 1 – 2 years. In summary, the economic trends in this nation are varied based upon the size of the city and region of the country. To view the report in its entirety: <https://www.nlc.org/resource/city-fiscal-conditions-2019-report>.

In addition to the wonderful news already reported by Ryan on the workers compensation rates and savings, I am working towards retooling our workers compensation first report of injury process. We are streamlining the process so that all first reports of injury will be sent in by the finance department. This will save our other department heads time, and will also further protect the organization through assuring that all first reports of injury are filed timely and with human resources and workers compensation compliance in mind.

In reflection of our 2020 budget process, we are grateful to our community for passing the mill levy election for 2019 that allowed the Town to set its mill levy rate for general operations at 5.957. This vote has allowed the Town to have a balanced budget for 2020 without a reduction in Town services. The December 10 Council meeting marks the end of our 2020 budget process. We are also grateful for all budget input from the Town Council, Town staff, Finance Advisory Board, and community that led to a quality strategic plan and transparent budget document.

Public Works

The Ponderosa Park trail improvements have been completed. The contractor did a good job of cleaning up small trees, underbrush, adding a culvert and making the trail more passable. Public Works is planning on making some additional improvements in the spring and adding a smoother surface to the trail.

Public Works was out early on Friday morning and got the snow cleaned up and looks like it will be a busy weekend.

Planning

Basalt Master Plan – The Master Plan team is working on the final master plan document which incorporates the input gathered throughout the entire process. The implementation section is being reviewed by the P&Z next week. The Council is currently scheduled to review draft materials at its January 14th meeting.

Special Events – The Downtown Tree Lighting Celebration will be on Friday, December 13. An event is planned at the Library on January 10th to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

Basalt River Park and Basalt River Park Development – BACH will be looking at the application at its December 19th meeting. The P&Z will begin its review in early January.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – A subcommittee of Coalition members appeared before Town Council on Tuesday to discuss their request for \$10,000 to be used to fund a Childcare Needs Assessment for the Basalt area. The Council ultimately approved the request, with direction to explore co-funding partnerships, account for the total amount spent, report discoveries to Council, construct a reasonable timeline for the completion of the project, and return any unspent funds to the Town. The Needs Assessment is a vital project of the Coalition in 2020.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – Staff is working on the contracts for the two selected grant recipients.

Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee – Watkins attended the first meeting of the Complete Count Committee (CCC)'s steering committee and a follow-up conference call. The formation of a steering committee and associated fiscal agreement and bylaws are a step forward in formalizing the CCC and advancing its goal of 100% participation in the 2020 Census. It was decided that the voting members of the steering committee would be representatives of those governments or organizations that funded at least \$5,000 to the CCC. An outreach plan for the group's mission is being finalized.

In a 2020 Census effort unrelated to the CCC, the Town was informed that its appeals were accepted in the Local Update of Census Addresses Program. The Town provided the Census Bureau an updated list of addresses, and the Bureau initially did not accept some of the Town's changes.

Arbaney Park – The Green Team discussed the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing aspects of the pool project at its meeting on Monday. The Council received an update at its December 10th Worksession but due to time constraints feedback was limited. We are working on next steps, concentration on the alternatives to address the energy impacts.

Green Team – The Green Team heard a presentation from Connect One Design and BG Building Works on proposed improvements to the Pool at Arbaney Park. The Green Team spent the entire meeting discussing methods of reducing carbon emissions at the pool facility. Upcoming discussion items will include the Renew Our Schools competition and student involvement, the potential future of the recycling center in West Basalt, and updates on various meetings.

Sara attended the quarterly meeting of the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative on Monday. The group's subcommittees reported on their projects and initiatives. The guest speaker was Councilor Schendler who gave a rousing presentation on climate change, policy, and the individuals' power to influence policy.