



**DATE:** February 21, 2020  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

Town department heads and I hosted a candidate education forum yesterday. It was a great opportunity to meet some of the candidates in a casual setting and get to talk to them about the duties and responsibilities of each department. We had all departments represented and it seemed to be a worthwhile effort and provided an opportunity for staff and Council candidates to interact and get to learn from one another.

We have just completed our year-end sales tax report for 2019 and it was good news all around. We are happy to report that our collections exceeded budget by approximately 4%. This includes both general sales tax as well as POST. While many of our local businesses were showing increases, the new sales tax requirement for on-line purchases have proven favorable for our bottom line.

## **Police**

The police department's annual Community Police Academy will begin on Saturday, February 29th. Our first day will cover investigations and crime scene processing. Attendees will practice their newly learned skills in conducting criminal investigations and processing mock crime scenes. Future academy classes will be held once a month over the next seven months to discuss all facets of law enforcement in the Town of Basalt. We currently have 13 people signed up and room for more. If you have an interest in attending, or know someone who might be interested, please direct them to the police department for information and registration.

Chief Greg Knott met with Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) personnel to discuss a formalized regional approach to reduce bear / human conflicts. CPW wants to implement several successful items from the Town of Basalt's wildlife management program in the regional plan. A "Bear Symposium" for elected officials and municipal leaders will occur April 9th and 10th in Aspen to discuss the plan.

School Resource Officer Thomas Wright has been selected to assist the Colorado Department of Youth Corrections as a juvenile screener. Screeners are contacted when a juvenile commits a serious criminal offense. It is the Screeners responsibility to identify appropriate placement and services for the offender.

An unknown male entered a closed retail marijuana dispensary earlier this week. The unknown male accessed the business through the ceiling. As he entered the retail area, alarms were set off and the male immediately fled from the dispensary. Nothing was stolen during this burglary. The police department is reviewing video surveillance footage from the dispensary and surrounding businesses to assist in identifying the suspect.

## **Public Works**

Public Works is still busy doing snow cleanup. We are to the point that we have removed enough snow that we are digging out fire hydrants, phone pedestals and electrical boxes. We are most concerned about the accessibility to the fire hydrants, but the phone and electrical boxes are also of concern.

Repairing equipment is an ongoing task. Public Works tries to do as much in-house repair as possible. This week we have been busy repairing a sander that spreads gravel on the streets for traction when it's icy. The conveyor belt system wore out and we had to remove and replace it. While the belt system was dismantled, we replaced some bearings and straightened a bent shaft before putting the sander back in service.

Holiday decorations are down all over town and the banners are up in Willits. We are waiting on the Chamber and the Planning Department to incorporate the new chamber logo into the Basalt banners before we install them in East Basalt.

We have received bids on the mowing and gardens maintenance contract and will be doing interviews next week.

## **Planning**

**Basalt Master Plan** – The Council has a worksession scheduled for Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, February 27<sup>th</sup> the Council will have the first public hearing here at Town Hall starting at 6:00 pm.

**Basalt River Park and Basalt River Park Development** – The second reading of the River Park Development application is scheduled for review by the Town Council on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Staff has diligently worked to answer questions and resolve issues that were brought up at first reading.

**Willits Town Center** – Staff continued work on several items associated with Willits Town Center. The building permits for Block 11 North and the Aspen Skiing Company building on Block 9 are being reviewed by Staff.

**Green Team** – Staff hosted a pre-bid meeting for the Town Hall heat pump Request for Price Quotes which was issued on February 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be another site visit for interested parties on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the request of one potential bidder. Bids are due on March 4<sup>th</sup>. After review, the Green Team expects to bring a recommendation to Town Council.

**Regional Housing Effort** – Planning Staff attended the “Manaus+Grid+You= Housing Innovation Workshop” last Friday to brainstorm the future of housing in the Roaring Fork Valley. The meeting was focused on housing and related impacts from the perspective of human-centered design, which focuses on developing for humans rather than for the interest of governments and developers. The concept centers on empathy building. The many attendees included those from municipal government, Senior Services, large employers, community groups and private citizens. The meeting was held bilingually to allow more of an opportunity for participation and inclusivity. The meeting was primarily hands-on exercise driven, advancing the ideas developed at the previous day's meeting in Rifle.

**East Entrance Sign** – The Town began accepting bids for construction of an entrance sign at the up-valley intersection of Two Rivers Road and Highway 82. The sign was designed by Aceto Landscape Architects in partnership with the Chamber Sign Committee. Basalt Staff are the project managers for the sign.

**Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (A2PCCC)** – The public ad-hoc meeting of A2PCCC met on Wednesday, 2/19. Upcoming events with opportunities for Census outreach were discussed, and new marketing materials were displayed. Complete event kits with tabletop displays, brochures, and shopping bags are available for anyone who wants to borrow them, or for anyone who wants these materials.

**Imagine Climate Program from the Community Office of Resource Efficiency (CORE)** – The Town has been working with CORE in preparation for setting up a mural that is part of CORE’s Imagine Climate program. The mural, created by Chris Erickson, was attached to the Lion’s Park bandshell until the end of March. Provided below are pictures of the work being installed.