



DATE: June 12, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

I spoke with Jeff Gatlin from the Roaring Fork School District to discuss alignment of rules and messaging for use of their fields and play structures. The District will officially re-open these assets in the coming days. The one field that remain closed for the summer is the High School football field. They are planning to top dress the field and therefore will need to keep it closed.

Finance has been busy finalizing the Basalt Bucks project, which is coming along nicely! We received a sample (see below) of the final printed voucher today, and most of the vouchers have been printed and are ready to mail Tuesday of next week. We will be mailing the vouchers to all residents within the 81621 zip code, including P. O. boxes with a verified name (the non-verified name P. O. Boxes were excluded, since those are most likely not residents). The total vouchers mailed has increased from approximately 2,400 to 2,800 due to the inclusion of the Basalt area addresses. This is estimated to increase the cost of the Basalt Bucks program by approximately \$7,000, however, this addition will increase the reach of the program and provide a slightly larger stimulus for businesses and community members in the Basalt area. I would like to send a special “thank you” to Pam Schilling, Jenny Aragon, and Lanie Martin for their hard work towards this project!



With the uptick in COVID-19 cases in the community, it is important for us to keep beating the drum regarding personal responsibility related to staying healthy. We are being urged to remind residents and visitors to take a personal pledge to follow the “Five Commitments of Containment.”



I will maintain 6 feet of distance from anyone not in my household



I will wash my hands often



I will cover my face in public



I will stay home when I am sick



I will seek testing immediately and self-report if I experience symptoms

Public Works has completed the paving on Two Rivers Road and Willits Lane. The pavement preservation program was a great success this year and very few issues arose during the process. We did encounter a few areas during the mill/overlay process where additional work had to be done to the base, but this was minor. We will come back soon to complete the long line striping throughout town.



Two Rivers Road



Milling Willits Lane



Paving Willits Lane

Staff has continued to work with the School District, Chamber of Commerce and Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers to finalize details on our summer parking solution for Downtown Basalt. The surface treatment for the Swinging Bridge trail will commence the week after next. We will begin passing out information to businesses informing them of the additional parking areas next week. We also ordered solar lights to improve visibility for the walk from the Elementary School parking lot into downtown.

Police

Chief Greg Knott participated in a meeting with Roaring Fork Fire Rescue, Pitkin County Sheriff's Office, Eagle County Sheriff's Office, the Eagle and Pitkin County Emergency Managers and personnel from the National Weather Service, Department of Natural Resources and United States Geological Survey to plan and prepare for future potential flooding from the Lake Christine Burn Scar. Three early alert weather stations have been placed and are operational in the burn scar. One above downtown Basalt, one above El Jebel and one on the north side of Basalt Mountain. The group discussed rain alert thresholds and how flood watches and warnings would be issued to area residents. The group will resume community outreach and education by the end of June.

The weekly food distribution site served 324 families and gave away 15,800 pounds of food. Representatives from Food Bank of the Rockies as well as Lift Up were on site Thursday to see the operation and to discuss future plans. They have made the decision to continue the Basalt Food Bank in its current location every Thursday through the end of July.

Public Works

Parks staff cut and hauled off 5 hazard trees that had fallen during the windy days we had this week and over the weekend. They have been continuing to fix and adjust irrigation heads and mowed and trimmed the willows around the lake and trail near the Lakeside Townhomes in Willits.

The Water Department has been working on a fire mitigation project near the Pinon water storage tanks and started to gather information on the state required irrigable acreage project for the Town's augmentation plan. Paul Neilson is in Grand Junction recertifying for his backflow inspector license so that we can continue to do that program in house.

Two Rivers Road near the conservancy and Willits Lane from Hooks Spur to Meadow Drive were both milled and paved with new asphalt this week. That completes the surface treatments for 2020 now that we have crack sealed, done spot spray injection, chip and fog sealed, and paved various roadways. Long line striping is scheduled for the week of June 29th and we are putting together a list of short line striping for parking areas, stop bars, and crosswalks. They have been sweeping the roadways and any remaining roadwork debris throughout the week.

The facilities crew has started disinfecting playground equipment with a pump-up sprayer and cleaning off table and chairs at the parks. They will be installing hand sanitizing stations at each playground area as well. They replaced all the older outlets at Arbaney park with new outlets where needed.

Planning

Willits Town Center – Considerable time this week was spent working on construction related items. Additionally, Staff worked on signage and items related to the building permit for TACAW.

Other Development Review/Applications – The public hearing and first reading for the automated car-wash application in Southside is scheduled before the Council on June 23, 2020. Staff also conducted pre-application discussions on potential developments. Staff and the Stott's Mill Applicants also spent considerable time coordinating with the Home Supply Ditch Company regarding improvements around the Home Supply Ditch in conjunction with preparing the Stott's Mill documents for recording. A demolition permit has been issued by the Building Department for the existing residence at 147 E. Homestead Drive. The Town Code has mandatory protection of historic commercial structures in the downtown core, Arbaney Barn and the Halfway House, but does not provide for protection of residential housing units unless they were voluntarily designated as historic (e.g. the Rebekah Lodge).

Basalt Sunday Market – Staff is continuing to work with Eagle County on a plan for the 2020 Basalt Sunday Market including messaging, creating vendor zones, and other logistics. Staff has secured four standing sanitizing stations to place at entry points and throughout the market and is currently working on vendor location assignments in anticipation of opening on June 21st.

Green Team – An updated discussion was held at the Green Team meeting regarding the Basalt pool which included the consultants from Connect One Design and BG Building Works. The Green Team is at projects to pursue in next year's budget and is looking forward to meeting with Town Council in the near future.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition met on Friday. Area programs have reopened to students as of this week and will be allowed to increase their class size capacity by next week. Two Basalt area program directors have reported a persistent inquiry for open spaces at their programs, and their waitlists are continuing to grow. The Needs Assessment, the planning of which was well underway

prior to the pandemic, was a topic of much discussion. It was ultimately decided that the Coalition would need to revisit this topic in early August, as there are too many unstable variables at this time. The Financial Aid Committee will be meeting next week.

Floodplain – Discussion continued this week with the State hired consultants who are preparing new floodplain mapping for Eagle County. Staff also had a meeting with the State Colorado Conservation Board to review Basalt’s procedures for reviewing floodplain development permits.

POST – The Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Committee met briefly on Wednesday to discuss feedback from Town Council at Tuesday’s worksession. To speed up completion of the overall program, POST is recommending the Town prepare bid documents for almost all phases of the Arbaney Pool project so that projects would be ready to go when funding become available. The Town’s LetsTalkBasalt.net website is active and citizens are encouraged to access the site to see the proposed improvements and complete the survey.

BPAC – The Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) hopes to launch its Artist Relief Fund project in the coming days.

Events – Staff continues to work with TACAW and the Chamber on the summer events. Staff worked on the George Floyd Memorial event that was held in Lion’s park last Sunday and the Library’s proposed drive-in movie summer series.

Recreation

Recreation has been busy with the Arbaney Park pool and youth camps at Arbaney Park.

Pool reservations have been booked solid each day. After a week of observations, we feel ok with adjusting the reservations by adding an additional family swim spot to each family swim time thereby allowing 6 families of 5 max participants at any one time (30 total in facility). We have added two additional aqua jogging reservations during the lap swim time spots for a total of 8 participants during these lap swim times. Aqua jogging is performed with a floating waist belt in the deep end of the pool. It is a great workout. We are adding an additional American Red Cross certified lifeguard to our team to help with the gaps in the current staff schedule. We are preparing updates to our pool protocol in advance of the Eagle County PHO Black Diamond phase due out on June 22nd.

Camp is going well. Kids are having fun even with the changes. Feedback is good and the camp staff believe the capacity of 36 total campers (three groups of 12) is a good balance. Next week’s theme of Dangerous Books for Boys and Girls is sold out with a wait list of 10+.

Youth sports are still on hold. We have inquiries into the School District for use of the fields as well as the other recreation managers to see if we can all get on the same page. There is a conversation that Aspen and Basalt would play a small season in just the upper valley. This would minimize travel and still get the kids on the field.

Finance

Eagle and Pitkin Counties will be distributing a portion of the COVID-related CARES Act funding received by the counties to local municipalities. In draft form, it looks like the Town’s portion from Eagle County could be \$122,503, and Pitkin County could be \$57,000. I’ve created a spreadsheet of unbudgeted COVID-related expenses that we believe qualify for the CARES Act funding. We would utilize the CARES Act funding to reimburse the Town for unbudgeted expenses that qualify to date. We would like to discuss “recycling” a portion of this funding to use towards additional community/business support later

in the year. The IGAs for this funding with each respective county will be presented at the next Council meeting.

We should be receiving a draft version of the audited financials soon from our auditors, which will be reported at the next Council meeting. We are excited to share the Town's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) report, which will be submitted to Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for an excellence in financial reporting award.

A few Council members had questions and thoughts regarding the investment policy. Although the policy was formally adopted, staff has updated information and recommendations so we will bring the policy back with a new resolution to the next Council meeting. If you have additional questions, feel free to let Ryan know before the meeting. I am working to get the Finance Advisory Board together for a meeting to discuss the proposed changes.