



DATE: November 13, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

COVID-19 cases are now pushing us toward the Orange Level on the states COVID-19 dial. Eagle County will be moving to Orange Level today or Monday and Pitkin County received word that they will need to move to Orange Level next week. This means more restrictions on households and businesses. Please refer to the following resources for more information.

Level Orange Restrictions:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CyS-GtRf281OEDS78OWxPMcieO4moLG3/view>

Comprehensive Guide on the State's COVID Dial

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kGtoAlK9qtU1fwQGUss2yYTWKtc3ocMX/view>

A subcommittee of Council, including Elyse Hottel, David Knight and Glenn Drummond met this week to review the community grant applications. We received 44 applications this year compared to 37 in 2020. The subcommittee had some difficult choices to make but did a great job discussing each application and providing their recommendations for funding. These recommendations will be brought to Council at the next meeting.

Police

Currently the Police Department has one vacant police officer position. We held an interview with a certified local applicant. He has been offered a conditional offer of employment which he accepted. We have begun his background investigation. We also have our second applicant completing her training at the CMC law enforcement academy. She is scheduled to graduate during the second week of December and begin our field training program.

The Police and Planning Departments met with Dr. Brook Allen to assist with planning a multi-week, free, drive in COVID testing site. We received information the testing site will be at Crown Mountain Park and will begin next week.

Public Works

Public Works has started the holiday decorating. We have already put up garland and wreaths on Midland Avenue. It was time to put the flags up for Veterans Day, so we took the opportunity to put up some decorations. The big trees at Town Hall and the Basalt roundabout have been tested and look good. The trees in Triangle Park are getting wrapped with lights and the smaller trees in the Basalt roundabout might be getting some lights depending on our budget.

Public Works staff has been working with the Planning Department and the contractor that will be doing the utility infrastructure and the streets with the Stotts Mill Project. The project has been in the review process and now the planning for the on-site work is being done. We not only want to make the contractor aware of tracking mud from the site and using heavy equipment on Town streets but also the amount of traffic ,pedestrian and foot, that use the path getting to the Rio Grande Trail and the high school.

Public Works has put new snowplow cutting blades on some of our trucks. As with any product there are different levels of performance depending on the need. The blades that we use have a higher carbon content than the regular mild steel blades. We pay more for the higher carbon cutting edge blades, but we get longer wear out of these blades. They also make a higher carbon content blades, but they are so hard they can damage asphalt.

Planning

Basalt Leaf Drop – This weekend marks the final leaf drop at Southside Park, from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Details are on the Town’s webpage under “Basalt News”.

Green Team – This month’s Green Team meeting focused on ways to support restaurants in 2021 with energy efficiency measures. The Green Team recognized that more outreach is needed with the local restaurants prior to launching any campaign in 2021. A subcommittee is working on a small set of questions that will be vetted by the larger team prior to engaging with business owners. Staff has also worked with the Basalt Chamber to understand what work they have done with local restaurants to date, how we might leverage resources, and avoid duplication of efforts.

BACH – At this week’s meeting the BACH Commission reviewed two applications for emergency rental assistance. Recommendations have been made and passed along to the Town Manager for approval. Two additional applications are expected to be discussed at a special meeting next week (in lieu of the regular meeting which would fall on Thanksgiving). The Commission also reviewed and made a recommendation on a land use application for the construction of 12 residential dwelling on Lot J of the Basalt Commercial Park Subdivision, which will be reviewed by the P&Z and Town Council in the near future.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition discussed working with Bruce Kimmel, Ehlers Public Finance, to advance a proforma, which will be needed to work toward securing partnerships and funding for the development of an early childhood development center on Parcel 2E in Willits Town Center. The Coalition also discussed working to secure a CORE Design Grant by the end of 2020, and the opportunity to provide remaining tuition funding (which was unexpectedly available this last period due to children not attending their program or program closures due to the pandemic) to area programs for quality improvements, supplies, or to off-set tuition absorbed by programs.

POST – The POST Committee met on Wednesday to discuss the Arbaney Park pool project. The Town received three bids for the project, and all were far over the projected costs. POST discussed value engineering the scope of the project to reduce the cost, as well as potential other funding sources. POST plans to have a special meeting next Wednesday to finalize the plan.

Arbaney Pool- As discussed at the Council’s worksession at the November 10th meeting, Staff met with POST on Wednesday and discussed scope reductions to better match the Town’s budget. As noted above, POST will again meet next Wednesday to try and finalize a reduced scope for Council’s evaluation on

November 24th. Staff is also evaluating funding to see what additional funds could be allocated to the project.

Basalt River Park – The Basalt Sanitation District approved an easement agreement at their board meeting on Wednesday, allowing for the Town Staff to continue to move forward toward closing on the Town’s purchase of the park property and the arts property. Staff is working on the next steps for advancing the Basalt River Park.

Development Review/Applications – As the Stott’s Mill Developer was able to resolve the agreement with the Ditch Company, there was considerable activity this week as the Developer worked through the documents needed to start construction. Staff also spent considerable time working on items associated with our other construction projects throughout Town.

Covid-19 Testing – Staff has been in conversations with a Basalt medical clinic that is trying to open a free mass testing site in the mid-valley next week. Staff worked with the clinic to identify site requirements and possible locations. The clinic’s current plan is to open mass testing next Wednesday at the Eagle County building’s parking area.