



DATE: December 4, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The special session adjourned early Wednesday afternoon, bringing to a finish a three-day legislative sprint that culminated with the approval of a \$280 million bipartisan stimulus package to address numerous impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of ten bills were ultimately passed by the legislature (out of 35 that were introduced) and Governor Polis is expected to sign the package of bills in the next few days. The package includes aid for impacted businesses, funds to increase broadband access so students can engage in distance learning, resources to help prevent evictions, utilities assistance, funds to help food banks, and funds to enhance child care.

Town Staff received word from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment that there will be immediate changes regarding quarantine guidance. Key points from the health alert include the following:

- CDC has published options to reduce the length of quarantine for COVID-19 from the standard 14 days. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/scientific-brief-options-to-reduce-quarantine.html>
- Colorado will implement this change in guidance immediately.
- For everyone who has been in close contact to someone with COVID-19, a 14-day quarantine remains the gold standard. All contacts, regardless of quarantine duration, should monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 daily throughout the 14-day incubation period following exposure.
- Options for shortening the quarantine period are described in more detail below:
 - Contacts who remain asymptomatic during quarantine can end quarantine after 10 days.
 - Contacts who remain asymptomatic during quarantine and have a negative result on a molecular or antigen test collected within 48 hours before quarantine is discontinued can end quarantine after 7 days.
 - In no circumstances can quarantine be discontinued before 7 days have passed since exposure.

Testing is now available throughout the Roaring Fork Valley and no doctor's recommendation is needed. The website with details about the location of sites and how to schedule an appointment can be found here, <https://covid19.pitkincounty.com/get-tested/>.

Police

We assisted elementary school staff with a full-scale fire evacuation drill. School officials and students did a great job implementing and following our Emergency Operations Plan.

Chief Greg Knott had separate meetings with Eagle County and Pitkin County Public Health to discuss current public health order restrictions and to coordinate enforcement between law enforcement and Public Health agencies.

We also had a meeting with several agencies in Pitkin County to begin pre-planning for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. This was a meeting to identify agencies and organizations that will be involved in distribution when the vaccine becomes available.

On Friday evening the Police Department will be assisting the Santa parade through East Basalt. Chief Knott will be leading the parade.

Public Works

Public Works has been busy this week doing a lot of holiday decorating. We continue to decorate the streetlight poles with the new banners and the garland. But we also have been working with the staff at Town Hall and the Planning Department to get ready for Santa and Mrs. Claus for the Friday parade. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be riding in the back of a Town pickup and waving to the public from a safe distance. Public Works has mounted figurine cutouts to supports at the Lions Park stage and the Triangle Park stage of Santa and Mrs. Claus for pictures.

Public Works is starting to put together the 2021 maintenance calendar. We have some projects we will be bidding out in 2021 but we are also doing an assessment of road, bridge, and facility maintenance. We have funds budgeted for these items, but it is always a challenge to assess where the funds are most needed and can be most effective.

The Skate Park had some new concrete pathways installed this week. The improvements are part of a larger goal to improve the enjoyment and safety of the park. The overall reviews of the park are positive but it gets a lot of use and we are to a point when some structural maintenance needs to be done to keep it going.

Planning

Green Team – CC4CA held its monthly Board Members meeting. Members approved the budget for 2021. Three new communities are expected to join in 2021, including Snowmass Village. The Pandemic Recovery Working Group submitted a report to develop recommendations representative of the challenges and opportunities created by the pandemic, broken into themes of Equity, Intersectionality of Approaches, Focus on Policy Advocacy, and New Opportunities. The group spent a fair amount of time discussing what organizational health and operational equity looks like, and how these ideas may be implemented in 2021. The Policy Committee reported out on current policy focus items including the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) Pneumatics Controllers Rulemaking, Ozone Reduction SIP, and Regional Haze State Implementation Plan. Other areas of focus include the COGCC Mission Change Rules and State Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

BACH – The Commission voted to recommend approval for four applicants to receive rental assistance through the Town's Short-Term Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Two additional applications have been received since yesterday's meeting and will be discussed with BACH on December 17th.

Basalt River Park – Basalt River Park LLC replaced the black fence on the portion they own with a more appealing one. The Applicant team and staff are now holding a regular weekly meeting to make progress on the work needed to obtain a building permit.



Development Review/Applications – The Lot J, Basalt Commercial Park Development Application for 12 residential units has been scheduled for review by the P&Z on December 15th. Stott’s Mill is working with its bank to provide the required security. Work continues with the review of temporary structures for restaurants to provide protective cover for pick-up or restaurant seating. Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with our other construction projects throughout Town.

BPAC – BPAC met on Thursday to discuss its 2021 planned projects. BPAC is moving forward to submit a request for artists to create murals in the spring and ice sculptures around Town in January. Staff has a small contract with a consultant to perform some of the data collection and draw a comparison-with-other-cities, which will be completed before the end of 2020. Last week the five Motio pieces were removed; Staff had made their removal a priority before the full onset of winter. The pieces are owned by Demiurge. The current plan is that they would be re-used in another art installation.



NWCCOG – Staff and Councilor Bill Infante attended the NWCCOG meeting on Thursday. NWCCOG passed its 2021 budget, discussed creating a code of conduct for the organization, discussed an update to its comprehensive economic development strategy, and members gave updates. Pitkin County is seeking changes to the State’s use of the “COVID Dial” and is seeking signatories for a letter to the governor.

Special Events – The Town’s holiday events are moving forward. The Town’s website www.basalt.net includes many ways including a residential home decorating contest, kids ornament-making kits available for pick-up, Zoom call with Santa and parades with Santa. The East Basalt Santa Parade starts at 4 PM on December 4th. Next week the Santa parade is in the Willits area, also starting at 4 pm. The Town has also

approved a holiday popup shop selling some food items as well as crafts and gifts in the Mid-Valley Design/Business Center.



Pick up ornament making kit and letters to Santa



Selfie with Santa Cut-out

Recreation

Staff have been busy prepping the pool for construction to begin. Equipment and pool furniture had to be removed from the area to ensure the timeline for the construction plan.

Staff have been working with Lieutenant Munch and the Police to offer an American Red Cross First Aid training (virtually) for all the PD staff. That should be completed by December 30th.

Finance

This week marks the successful completion of the Basalt Business Mini-grant program and the Basalt CARES Act grants. The Basalt Business Mini-grant program distributed \$60,000 to 37 businesses within Basalt. We heard from many of the businesses that they are grateful to have this support from the Town. A special shout-out to Jenny for working diligently to help businesses with their grant paperwork and for timely distribution of the checks! The CARES Act funding, totaling over \$277,000, has now been fully spent. We are thankful for the partnership with Eagle County and Pitkin County that resulted in distributing this funding for the Basalt community.

It has been a busy week working on the Certificates of Participation with legal counsel and municipal advisors. This project appears to be on-track for successful receipt of the funds in early February for the Arbaney Park and Pool improvements. The structure of this COP deal is expected to yield a favorable bank response. Jeff Conklin is in the midst of a title review to assure that the Arbaney Park and Pool will be adequate collateral for this financing.

I have also been working with Department Heads and the Town attorney with the Employee Handbook revision. This Handbook aligns with the Town's values in the Strategic Work Plan and complies with a plethora of new laws and regulations. Additionally, the Handbook adds the benefits suggested from this spring's benefit survey conducted by Compensation Studios, including a \$75 per month taxable wellness benefit, the ability to use 16 hours of sick time for personal time, and an increase in the tuition reimbursement from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for qualifying education. These additions to the Town's benefit package will assure the Town is competitive with surrounding municipalities, and shows the employees that they are valued.