



**DATE:** March 18, 2021  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager  
**RE:** Weekly Update  
**CC:** Department Heads

Town staff participated in a Chamber of Commerce town update meeting, *One year later: COVID reflections, silver linings and the future ahead*. We were able to update the group on the benefits of working collaboratively with our regional partners and the new alliances that have been forged. We talked about the modified summer events, outdoor dining and Basalt Bucks campaign. It was also exciting to discuss the mental health support and partnerships created with the School District and the Hope Center. Finally, we updated the group on current projects throughout town and anticipated projects, such as broadband and master plan implementation.

Town staff participated in a meeting to discuss the future of the Forest Service – Tree Farm parcel that is adjacent to Crown Mountain Park. A series of stakeholder meetings are being held to gather feedback and understand issues as that parcel becomes available for lease or purchase. Town staff relied on the Town’s adopted Master Plan as a basis for our discussion.

Town staff has posted the grant application and guidelines for the Tobacco Tax grants. The Town’s VALE Board has approved the form of those grants and is ready to begin review of applications after they are returned in mid-April. The link to the Town’s website can be found here, <https://www.basalt.net/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=456>.

Town staff has continued to be in touch with Comcast regarding the issues with internet services in the downtown and old town neighborhood. Comcast has shared the following information:

“Node split was completed on Friday, so the capacity has doubled. Our Tech Ops team continued to do work to address the previous mentioned “noise” issues throughout the week, and they said that work was successful as well.”

Staff attended the Basalt Library District board meeting on Monday evening to discuss the broadband project and the potential of extending fiber optic to the Library building.

## **Police**

The River Bridge Child Advocacy Center hosted a human trafficking investigation training for law enforcement and criminal prosecutors. Corporal Thomas Wright attended this training. The training focused on how to identify and investigate human trafficking to include sex and labor trafficking. It also discussed current human trafficking risk factors and trends in the Roaring Fork Valley due to our tourism, migrant workforces and access points to the interstate highway system. The police department and Corporal Thomas Wright are also members of the 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Human Trafficking Task Force. This task force collaboratively works together to identify and investigate human trafficking in both Judicial Districts. They are also developing community education and training programs that will be released in the next few months.

The police department applied for a \$7198 Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training in-service training grant. If awarded, this grant will fund our Roaring Fork Regional Training Program and Lexipol policy and procedure daily training bulletins. All police officers participate in both of these training programs to meet and exceed state mandated training requirements.

Chief Greg Knott and Administrative Assistant Dina Prieto met with Pitkin County Public Health staff to obtain guidance for reopening our police department to the public. We are very pleased to announce our office will be open to the public starting next Monday. Our office has been closed for the last year due to COVID. We look forward to opening safely and serving our community from inside the police department.

Two weeks ago we reported a conditional offer of employment was extended to a police officer applicant. Unfortunately, this applicant has withdrawn their application. We continue our search to fill two vacant police officer positions.

### **Public Works**

Public Works has hired a commercial vacuum company called Badger Daylighting to clean a storm water collector called the Four Bay. Badger started work on Wednesday of this week and they are making good progress on removing the organic material from the basin. The process begins by removing excess water from the basin than vacuuming the mud and sediment into a truck. The sediment is than hauled and dumped to a pre-approved dump site to dry and be mixed with other materials. The mixture of sediment can be reused as topsoil in the future.

Public Works employees received the second and final vaccine Thursday of this week in Aspen. I am glad to report that no one is experiencing any ill effects. We as a team are glad to be able to have the opportunity to have the vaccine because we are frontline workers and the nature of our work requires contact with the public.

Public Works is participating in the Facility Needs Study by taking the consultant team from Cushing Terrel around to town facilities for a brief initial tour. The consultants will return later and spend more time evaluating the facilities with their engineering team as well as CORE and Holy Cross Energy representatives.

### **Planning**

**Arbaney Pool-** The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items and details with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design and POST as the pool renovation project is well underway.

**Basalt River Park Development** – Staff worked with the Developer and consultants on addressing technical issues.

**Basalt River Park Improvements** – Staff worked with the park and engineering consultants and Holy Cross on details related to the park improvements.

**Basalt Chamber Sign Committee** – Staff is working with the landscape architect to have construction documents created for the East Entrance Sign.

**BACH** – BACH will meet with Council next Tuesday in a work session to discuss BACH's 2020 report and 2021 workplan.

**Green Team** – Staff attended CC4CA’s Planning & Budget Committee on Tuesday. The Committee is considering the current dues structure and exploring equity through the lens of population and member budgets. This is expected to be discussed more in the coming months and finalized at the summer retreat. Staff also attended a virtual meeting with CORE and representatives of the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP) to discuss their experience in promoting beneficial electrification through Code language. We discussed options related to electric required, electric preferred, and electric incentivized. Staff will discuss these findings with the Green Team at the next meeting.

Staff has been working with CORE on the process to achieve a SolSmart designation for the community. This week Staff met with CORE and CLEER to discuss current progress. CORE and CLEER are partnering with Walking Mountains Science Center to work with communities on SolSmart designation. Since the representative from CLEER has a wealth of experience working with other area communities (Snowmass Village, Carbondale, Silt and Aspen) she will be the Town’s contact on the zoning review and application process.

**P&Z** – The P&Z met on Tuesday and made referral comments on two Pitkin County Land Use Applications. One was a resubmittal of the Emma Fields Distillery on the property known as the Four Seasons yard off Hoagland Ranch Road. The second was for a caretaker dwelling unit on the Meyer Ranch Property near the existing ranch buildings. The P&Z provided favorable comments on each of these applications. Staff also provided an update to the P&Z on the Basalt Forward 2030 project. Several P&Z members expressed interest in serving on the Facility Needs Committee, and the P&Z decided it will make its official recommendations at its next meeting.

**Eagle County Listening Sessions on Forest Service Property-** Members of the Planning Staff attended the Eagle County listening sessions this week regarding the Forest Service property by Crown Mountain Park.

**Special Events** – Staff met with the Basalt Regional Library on their special event activity permits. Staff also worked on details for the 2021 Sunday Market.

**Basalt Forward 2030** – Staff provided support to Cushing Terrell, Finance Director and Town Manager for the Project. Two of the key team leaders from Cushing Terrell came into Town on Thursday and Friday and met with Town Staff, CORE and Holy Cross and toured Town facilities.

## **Recreation**

Registration for our youth summer camps opened this past Tuesday evening. In the past 48 hours we have sold approximately 75% of our capacity. These camps run from June 7<sup>th</sup> through Aug 13<sup>th</sup>. Staff is searching for instructors for Spring youth offerings of T-Ball and soccer for our under-8-year age group.

Staff have received three applications of employment for work at the Arbaney Park Pool.

Youth basketball started their games this week. The Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade game was exciting as it went to double overtime, ending with Team #2 winning 37-35. All games are streamed to Facebook Live. This game had over 100 views with extended families viewing from afar.

## **Finance**

*Basalt Forward 2030* – Ryan and I have been working with WR Communications and Cushing Terrell to develop the communications plan for this project, as well as a detailed timeline on this project. Cushing

Terrell is on their first “reconnaissance” visit this week, working through floor plans, meeting with Public Works to plan the Facility Needs Study, and meeting with CORE/Holy Cross to develop a plan for the energy efficiency part of this project. Their facility walkthrough is scheduled for March 31 – April 2. Susan has been an integral part of the coordination with CORE and Holy Cross. The entire team is excited about the opportunities for collaboration and recommendations regarding facility/energy efficiency improvements.

*Employee Retirement Plan to Equitable* – Equitable will be meeting one-on-one with Town employees on April 8 – 9 to give Town staff the opportunity to review their individual retirement plans and future goals. All VALIC/AIG and John Hancock plans will be moved to Equitable as a part of this process. Equitable’s fees are much lower than either of our other plans, and Equitable is comparable in investment returns. Additionally, there are 25 different retirement investments to choose from, including two socially responsible plan options.