



DATE: April 30, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff heard COVID – 19 updates from both Eagle and Pitkin County this week. Vaccinations continue to happen but appear to be tapering off. An additional strategy to encourage vaccinations in Pitkin County will be to work with businesses to set up vaccinations. This may help with time and travel interruptions required to attend the regional mass vaccination clinics. As it stands now, Eagle County is reporting that 56% of all Eagle County residents have received at least one vaccination. Pitkin County is reporting that 62% of residents are fully vaccinated.

Town staff are working toward the goal of reopening Town Hall by the beginning of June. We are hoping to have our first in-person Council meeting on June 8th. Staff has been working with Grassroots TV to come up with solutions to allow for a hybrid model for public meetings. This would allow the public to Zoom into meetings for public comment.

Staff is organizing a wildfire mitigation event for the old town neighborhood in May. We will hang notices on resident's doors next week to encourage participation. We are working with the Fire Authority to organize property inspections and the Town will haul cut limbs for mulching. We are asking that residents make an appointment so we can keep track of the number of participants and scale our efforts accordingly.

Police

Lieutenant Aaron Munch conducted in person compliance checks at all licensed tobacco retailers. Two businesses were found to be in violation of the license posting requirement. The businesses had previously obtained their 2021 licenses but did not post them properly. Both businesses immediately posted their current license. One other business was in violation of not having required signage stating no sales to under 21 individuals. They were given a sign to post at the entrance of the business.

School Resource Officer Jason Hegberg, and other police officers, assisted Basalt High School with a fire drill and school evacuation. School administration, staff and students did a great job following our emergency operations plan.

Chief Greg Knott assisted Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Authority (RFFR) with a promotional assessment center. RFFR is promoting a lieutenant to battalion chief.

On Friday, officers assisted the Basalt High School volleyball team by giving them a police escort out of Town. They will be playing in the first round of the state playoffs on the front range. On Saturday, the Chief and three officers will be assisting at the high school football game. The team will be playing at home in the first round of the state playoffs. 1,500 spectators can attend the game. Best of luck to both Longhorn teams!

Public Works

Public Works participated in Arbor Day activities this week. Chris, the Town's Arborist, helped with a fifth-grade class to pick up trash around town. Several trees were planted this week on the berm next to East Valley Road and Willits neighborhoods and two more trees will be planted at Town Hall and the Roaring Fork Conservancy on Friday.

Public Works had a 500-hour service done on the sweeper and a DOT inspection performed on a dump truck this week. The Tool Cat, a tractor with a bed and a bucket, is repaired and ready for the summer. Irrigation is being started up and repaired and water at the Community Garden was turned on. The trash roll-off that was used for River Clean-up Days was picked up and dumped and a dog waste receptacle was installed in Ponderosa Park.

Finance

Basalt Forward 2030 – Cushing Terrell has met with all Department Heads and the Town Manager to discuss space needs assessment. Additionally, they are working through compiling the facility needs report, and will have a progress report for the Town Manager on May 7.

I have been compiling the names of the appointees from all Town boards/committees for the Capital Needs Committee. Each of the Town's eight boards/committees will appoint a main and alternate member to the Committee. Only one member from each board/committee will be represented at each meeting. The names are due to me by the end of today, and we are planning to email the Capital Needs Committee members early next week with the schedule and additional information. We are planning to get a press release out Monday or Tuesday of next week to keep the community apprised of the progress on this project, as well as to announce the start of the Capital Needs Committee.

2020 Audit – The fieldwork for the Town's financial audit was completed last week, and the auditors met with me, Ryan, and Jenny on Monday. The preliminary results are the same as reported to Council on April 27. We are now moving to the drafting of the financial statements. I prepare the 20 + schedules ("Statistical Section") at the back of the audit, and the auditors draft the financial statements and notes to the financials. We work back and forth with the auditors while drafting to provide additional information and clarification.

Riverside BC Unit Purchase – Jeff Conklin has been working on the due diligence for this purchase. Ryan and I have reached out to nine different appraisers, and we have not been able to find an appraiser that could do the appraisal prior to mid-July. Based upon the Council discussion at the last Council meeting, we will be looking to get a broker letter in lieu of the appraisal.

Finance Advisory Board – The Finance Advisory Board met on April 21 and discussed the pre-audit results, audit fieldwork to date, the supplemental budget presented at the April 27 Council meeting, and the affordable housing purchase. Additionally, Ryan updated them on the Basalt Forward 2030 project. The FAB is supportive of the Riverside BC unit purchase. FAB appointed Cheryl Ruppel as the main appointee for the Capital Needs Committee, and Dieter Schindler as the alternate.

Planning

Arbaney Pool - The Planning Staff has been coordinating construction items and details with Rudd, SGM, and Connect One Design and POST on the pool renovation project. Installation of an upgraded electrical service from Park Circle to the Arbaney Pool is beginning and will require a closure of the pedestrian walkway between Park Circle and Arbaney Park for several weeks.



Basalt River Park Development – Staff continued to work with the Developer and consultants on addressing technical issues and preparing the plans for bidding Phase I of the project for construction. A sign has been installed next to the development providing information on the project as requested by the Council.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Staff worked with the park, engineering and architecture consultants on details related to the park improvements, bus stop and restrooms. The Council reviewed the park plans and directed Staff to work on putting the park out to bid. Additionally, Council approved a resolution to give Staff direction to enter into the agreement with Basalt River Park, LLC for the construction of the Two Rivers Road improvements associated with the Basalt River Park. The Planning Staff is also coordinating with RFTA regarding bus service during construction and with HR Green regarding the installation of fiber infrastructure in conjunction with the Two Rivers Road work.

Basalt Sunday Market – Staff has received over 40 applications to date. The formal application period closes today, but Staff and the Market Manager will consider applications received after the deadline depending on availability of space and items offered. The 2021 Basalt Sunday Market is set to begin on Sunday, June 20th and will run every Sunday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm through September 26th.

Green Team – Staff is continuing to work with Eagle County on the Community Waste Event, scheduled for June 26th. These details will be solidified in the near future. Vendors will receive electronics, appliances, metal items, household hazard waste (antifreeze, paint, oil, etc.) tires, compost, and paper shredding services. The event will be free and advertised for Basalt and El Jebel area residents only. After Staff and Eagle County solidify the details, Staff will begin advertising for the event.

BPAC – Staff continues working to implement BPAC's 2021 projects, including murals around town, painted barriers around expanded outdoor seating, and virtual studio tours.

Development Review/Applications - Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with the construction activities. The temporary parking space and sidewalk closure in front of St. Vincent's Church will be closed through May 5th. The purpose of the closures is due to utility trenching for the new addition as well as the demolition of the existing driveway ramp, railroad tie wall, and the reconstruction of the sidewalk. Additionally, Staff has been working on numerous administrative development review applications that take Staff time but that do not require review by the P&Z or Town Council. Staff also spent time on responding to County referrals, addressing complaints, land use preapplication questions and development inquiries.

Events – Public Works Staff participated in an Arbor Day cleanup event with Basalt Middle School students. Mountain Family Health Centers will continue doing vaccination drives at Basalt Middle School on select days. The Basalt Half Marathon and Relay is scheduled for June 6. The Town is reviewing the special event activity permits submitted by the Basalt Regional Library for their summer activities.