



DATE: December 10, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff is continuing to make progress on the new *Basalt Connect* Downtowner shuttle. The RFTA Board approved funding for one-year which equates to half of the funding for the pilot project. Next steps will include approving a contract with Downtowner, a grant agreement with RFTA and finalizing graphics for the two busses.

Town staff participated in the process to complete a new S &P rating for the Town. The rating will be AA which will allow the town to get favorable interest in the sale of our bonds for Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

Town staff participated in a regional discussion with partner agencies, Forest Service, State Forest Service, private landowners, and fire districts to discuss regional approaches to wildfire mitigation. We are at the beginning of this process but believe that the scale necessary to address wildfire dangers in the Roaring Fork Valley will require the broader regional approach.

Staff is working on an approach to discussing strategies for affordable workforce housing that will be scheduled for our first meeting in January. We plan to have

We received word today from Eagle County that Cottonwood Pass is closed for the winter.

Police

Colorado State Patrol advised our department of a visit by Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold. She had a speaking engagement on Thursday afternoon at a restaurant on Midland Avenue. Our staff was present outside the event.

Administrative Assistant Dina Prieto and Corporal Thomas Wright attended a four day peer support *train the trainer* training in Rifle. This year, the police department created a peer support program that includes all upper valley law enforcement agencies. Officer Isabel Leach-Herrera attended a three day patrol *rifle and less lethal shotgun* certification training.

Over the past three years our officers have been issued Narcan to be carried while on duty. Narcan is a nasal spray that is used for the treatment and reversal of known or suspected opioid overdoses. We received a \$1,688 grant to replace our expiring supply.

Our annual *Shop with a Cop* event will be held Friday evening. Roaring Fork School District staff assisted us in selecting the five students who will participate. We received \$500 donations from Walmart and Holy Cross Electric to take the students holiday shopping. Photos from the event will be in next week's report.

The Pitkin County face covering order is still in effect. Information regarding the Pitkin County Order can be found at: <https://covid19.pitkincounty.com/mask-recommendations/>

Individuals wishing to submit complaints, regarding non-compliance with the Order, can visit the following webpage to advise Pitkin County Public Health: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFSoQvz0-ko4tjKbg2tCvIWvxBOk2ejfM_vRbAhDkwYj_cEg/viewform

Public Works

The public works department has been helping with the holiday lighting events and catching up on fleet maintenance. We had the bucket truck repaired in Grand Junction. We have also listed some assets for sale on a government website for auction that were approved at a prior council meeting. The auction for those will be over next week. Water has been keeping up with end of the year reporting.

We have submitted end of the year documents to the Federal Energy Regulation Commission for our hydroelectric plant and finished working on the CIRSA facility maintenance report and submitted that back to them for our premium discount credits. All departments are taking the required yearly CIRSA safety courses online and are just about finished with the six of those courses.

Streets continued to sweep up leaves and replace old signs and install more leash law signs, with the break in the snow. Snow operations started on Friday with the entire team out doing their routes.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle Application – The Applicant is now working on the Final Plan application.

Lot J, Basalt Commercial Park – The Council’s consideration of this application for a 12-unit apartment building is being continued to January 11th. We are waiting for the necessary LOMR-F to be completed.

Basalt River Park Development – There is a page on the Town’s website that provides further detail on each of the construction projects that are underway, along with their general schedule: <https://www.basalt.net/629/Current-Construction-Projects>

Basalt River Park Improvements – Walters Inc. has continued work on Phase I of Basalt River Park. They are completing final grading, constructing the wall elements, and preparing the winterize the site. The Town is accepting bids for Landscape Plant Materials for Basalt River Park Phase II until December 17th.

Two Rivers Road Improvements – Work is substantially complete on this project. The landscaping work will not be completed until spring of 2022.

Early Childhood Development Center on Sopris Meadows PUD Parcel 2E – The Resolution approving Land + Shelter in partnership with Alan Ford Architects for the Conceptual Design of Early Childhood Facility is included in this week’s agenda. Staff has also posted an advertisement for a Request for Qualifications of an Early Childhood Facility Provider for the facility. The Town will be accepting proposals from potential providers until January 21, 2022.

Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project – Staff responded to questions on this RFP this week and is accepting proposals on this project until December 17th.

Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects. The Team has had several meetings since the last Manager’s report to further the implementation of the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project and locations and ideas for affordable housing.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – The contractor has completed the sewer and water utility connections at the site. Paving has been completed, the site’s trailer has been moved, and striping will happen next week as this was delayed due to weather.

The Town has gone out to bid with Phase 1B of the Public Works Facility development plan which includes the building of a new pre-engineered steel building and perimeter fence. An addendum with clarifications and answers to questions was issued this week. Bids will be received at the Town of Basalt until January 10, 2022.

Development Review/Applications – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits and certificates of occupancy.

BACH – BACH prepared this week for their worksession with Town Council on December 14th. Topics of discussion include proposed criteria for SHEC waiver requests, RETA on rental properties, reduction considerations for affordable housing parking, and a voluntary buy-down program.

Green Team – The Green Code Subcommittee will be going before Town Council on December 14th to provide recommendations on updates to the Town’s Building Code and Sustainable Building Regulations.

Special Events – The Basalt Tree Lighting will occur in Lion’s Park tonight (December 10th) in downtown. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to talk with the children, and there will be horse drawn carriage rides, and hot chocolate and chili from the Lion’s Club. The Willits Town Center Tree Lighting was held last Friday evening with a great turnout. On Saturday afternoon, Free donuts will be available in Willits Town Center on Market Street across from Mezzaluna. A complete list of Basalt Holiday activities can be found on the Town’s website www.basalt.net. The Basalt Regional Library is hosting a Winter Solstice Celebration event in Midland Park the evening of December 21st.



BPAC – The Commission is proceeding with the ice sculptures which will be installed, with one live carving, the second weekend of January. The ice sculptures will be located at the library, in downtown Basalt and Willits. Three videos showcasing local artists and their studios have been loaded to the BPAC webpage.

Finance

Bond Update and S&P Rating Report – It is a requirement of issuing the 2022 bonds for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects that the Town update their credit rating. A credit rating is a professional opinion about credit risk. The Town previously completed a rating for its bonds in 2013 and 2014. Bruce Kimmel and Christy Chicoine have been providing Basalt’s financial and economic information to the S&P rating agency over the past few weeks. The S&P goes through a rigorous review and process with a panel to determine the final rating. The S&P issued its report today, and indicated in its report that the Town has a AA stable rating, meaning that the rating has not changed since the prior rating. This rating is good news, since the pandemic is perceived to increase financial risk for everyone. The rating report, which is included in the Council packet for December 14, noted the organization’s good financial management and fiscal policy.

The bonds will be sold to investors on December 15. A report will be provided to the Finance Advisory Board that evening. Council will receive notice of that information as well.

Open Positions in the Town – The Town currently has four open positions. A Police Officer position has been open for a year, despite multiple searches and attempts by the Police Department to recruit that position. Aaron Munch will be attending a recruiting fair soon on the Front Range in hopes of getting

applicants for that position. The Town is currently recruiting for its Staff Planner position, which has been open for three months. We continue to brainstorm ideas to get qualified candidates in the door. Additionally, the Town has posted its new Plans Examiner and Building Inspector position. This position is open until filled with the first review of applicants on January 3.

Grant Writer and Fundraiser Request for Proposal – Basalt Forward 2030 projects – On Monday, the Town released an RFP for grant writers that is due by January 6. This contract position will be responsible for pursuing, writing, and reporting on grants with the assistance and direction of Staff and Council. The initial focus will be on filling the \$2.5 million funding gap for the Midland Avenue Streetscape project, but the successful candidate will then look for opportunities to increase funding for all three projects.