



DATE: January 7, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Police

We closed out 2021 by certifying that all police officers exceeded state mandated annual training requirements through the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board. We also completed our annual Non-Secure Law Enforcement Facility Certification through the State of Colorado Division of Criminal Justice. A final reporting requirement was completed by submitting our bi-annual asset forfeiture reporting to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

We are sorry to report that Officer Evan Wagstrom resigned his position with the police department. This currently leaves us with two police officer vacancies. We currently have five people participating in our ride along program to decide if they want to apply for employment.

At the beginning of this year our patrol officers changed to 12 hour work schedules. With the change we are able to maintain 24 hours per day police coverage in town.

Our 5th Annual Community Police Academy will have its first class on Saturday, January 29th. We currently have 17 individuals signed up to participate and registration is still open. Our first class will cover police department operations and crime scene investigations.

Recreation

Youth Basketball League has started our regular season games this week. Basalt played Carbondale in the 5th and 6th grade boys division and lost. We had two Basalt vs Basalt games as well to end this week. Games and practices are scheduled through March 3rd. We are seeing some reduction in participants as they stay home awaiting tests or running the course of their quarantine due to the spike in COVID cases.

Bathroom repairs at the Arbaney Park Pool are still underway. The water damage from broken pipes in the attic space has been mitigated by Helpers Restoration. Helpers will hire a contractor to replace the damaged drywall, insulation, lights, and paint.

Public Works

Public Works has been very busy dealing with the latest round of snowstorms. The amount of snow that Basalt has seen lately is impressive. Due to the sheer volume, we were at one point just trying to maintain a travel lane in the middle of the streets. We were able to keep the streets open and then come back and widen the travel lanes. Once the snow slowed down, we can push the snow back further and start reducing the piles of snow. We use a backhoe to move snow and have incorporated a snow blower to move snow faster. We are already reaching capacity at some of our regular storage sites and may have to get some contractors help to reduce the capacity at the sites. At one point during the

recent storms Public Works was 4 staff members down out of 11 due to various issues. Thanks to the Public Works crew for holding it together and doing a great job with the staffing challenge.

The storm not only put a strain on staff, but we had to do some repair on our equipment. One of the plow trucks had to get the serpentine belt replaced to keep it running while another plow truck had to have a hydraulic ram replaced to make the plow work. The Toolcat had to be repaired due to an o-ring and plug wearing out and we had to put a temporary windshield and side window in the Ventrac. The sheer volume of the snow and the extra cold temperatures puts a lot of demand on people and equipment.

Public Works is starting off the year with getting some upgrades done at the water filter plant. The upgrades will consist of telemetry upgrades, back up pumps and water strainer filter upgrades. The work will start the middle of the month.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle Application – The Applicant is 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 25th. 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 some 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 finalizing the winterization of the site.

The Town received four bids for Landscape Plant Materials for Basalt River Park Phase II and will be finalizing a contract with the selected plant supplier next week.



Two Rivers Road Improvements – Work is substantially complete on this project, streetlights are being installed this week and next. The final landscaping work will not be completed until spring of 2022.

Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project – Proposals for this project were due on December 17th, and eight good proposals were received. Staff is working with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team to narrow the proposals to a top 3 or 4 that will be interviewed next week and the following week.

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 affordable housing.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – Phase 1A of the Project has been completed. 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. Bids will be received at the Town of Basalt on January 10, 2022.

Green Team – The Green Code Committee has been actively working on details for the recommended amendments. The Green Team is meeting on Monday, and one of the major topics is to discuss the grant program.

BPAC – Four ice sculptures are planned to be installed at the Basalt Regional Library, Triangle Park, and near Alpine Bank next week. The theme of this year’s sculptures is Objects of Nature. The current schedule is to have a live sculpture event at Arbaney Park on Sunday January 16th which will allow the public to see how the sculpture is created.

BACH – BACH is meeting on Monday and will be hearing from representatives from the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) on financing tools and to prepare for the Council worksession discussion on affordable housing which is on Tuesday. Staff is also working on items from the prior Council worksession, including Code language to remove the RETA mitigation option, a plan to refresh the Town’s housing needs and inventory data to understand housing gaps, and programs in other communities, such as Vail InDeed, that show how the Town can support and incentivize a voluntary buy-down process.

Basalt River Park Development LLC - Staff is preparing to issue a full building permit on Park Place east, which is a three-unit townhouse building and a foundation permit on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

BPAC – While BPAC did not have a quorum at their meeting on Thursday (two members had COVID), they made progress discussing the sculptures and the ice sculpture project.

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

Finance

Basalt Forward Bonds - The Town’s bonds approved at the November election for Basalt Forward projects closed successfully on Thursday! We are excited to have the funding available to get to work on these important projects!

COVID protocols – We are working to keep employees apprised of the changing COVID protocols, due to the new Omicron variant and a high current transmission rate. All employees are required to wear a mask in public places, and the Town is following the current CDC and County protocols for employees

who are sick or have tested positive for COVID. We appreciate the Town employees and their efforts to keep everyone safe!

2021 Audit – McMahan and Associates will be starting their audit early this year, with an on-site review of processes and discussions with Department Heads on January 11. We are looking forward to their suggestions for improvement and look forward to another successful audit year!

New Online Credit Card Processing Option – Finance Staff has been looking into various options for credit card processing for Water Utility, Court, and miscellaneous billing. Finance will be recommending moving forward with the Invoice Cloud system, that will allow Town customers to pay their invoices from their phone. The additional cost for this service will be split between the Town and the customer, however, the customer can still choose to write a check for free. We will start with Water Utility invoicing and will add other payment options soon.