



DATE: October 28, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Staff is continuing to revise the 2023 draft budget and anticipates bringing that to Council for first reading on November 8th. We have been gathering more information regarding costs and have been able to refine some of our 2022 expenditure projections and 2023 revenues and expenditures. No major changes have been added and we do not anticipate any at this time.

Police

The Police Department would like to thank our Public Works Department for their assistance on Wednesday with a vehicle versus school bus traffic collision. Public Works assisted, two separate times during the day, closing Midland Avenue between Two Rivers Road and the post office. Their willingness and ability to assist our staff is greatly appreciated.

Lieutenant Aaron Munch attended a four-day death and homicide investigation training in Eagle. This training focused on all aspects of death investigations regarding initial response, crime scene management, evidence collection and preservation, roles and responsibilities, mutual aid partners, community expectations and the court process. The training was provided by the Fifth Judicial District Attorney's Office.

Administrative Assistant Dina Prieto, Officer Isabel Leach-Herrera and Sergeant Nino Santiago attended a three-day COVA (Colorado Association for Victims Assistance) conference in Keystone. This conference is one of the largest in the nation that focuses specifically on victim rights, services and assistance. The conference had three keynote speakers and thirty-six workshops where participants learn new skills and best practices to assist victims of crime. Conference, lodging and per diem costs were paid for by scholarship funds.

Chief Greg Knott attended a meeting with the National Weather Service, Pitkin County and Roaring Fork Conservancy to review our Roaring Fork River ice jam buildup and release protocols. Our collaborative efforts to provide timely public safety community notifications will continue throughout the winter months.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle (BCC) Application – The Application received second reading approval on August 23rd. Town Staff and the Applicant reviewed the “lightning bolt” sanitary sewer line concept and cost sharing proposal with the Basalt Sanitation District Board -- deal points were established for the Council's review. Town Council reviewed and approved the presented deal points on the cost sharing proposal at the September 27th Council meeting. The Town approved deal points were provided to the Sanitation District's attorney for further discussion with the Sanitation District Board and potential formulation of an agreement. The Sanitation District Board reviewed a draft agreement and were accepting of the agreement. The agreement will be scheduled for review by the Council on October 25th.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL is well underway. RMCL has installed the irrigation, planted a significant portion of the trees and perennials, and installed sod. RMCL is now working on the western extent of the park near the river. Fabrication on the park signage has begun, the misting feature was delivered this week and has begun to be installed.



Staff readvertised the bus shelter/restroom facility project for Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC) services to refine the design and construction schedule to build the project within budget. One bid was received from FCI and Staff is working with the architects and FCI to meet the Town's budgetary requirements.

Staff has been working with the bandshell design team to create a design within budget. The goal is to create a space that can host events, as well as provide an integrated climbing structure.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – The Design Team and Town Staff have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. On August 9th P&Z and Council provided direction to move into design of the preferred conceptual plan. The Planning Staff met with the Public Works Staff to evaluate the current design drawings related the water system, snow storage, and landscaping. A 3rd party fire protection engineer is reviewing the current design as it relates to the effective life safety and fire protection aspects of the design. The CM/GC Team is working on developing a proposed construction phasing plan based on the 30% design drawings. The Design Team and staff provided an update to Council, and P&Z heard an update on the phasing last week.

Green Initiatives and the Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project – Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project. McKinstry made a presentation to staff and representatives of the school district to discuss preferred options. The final report summarizing the site analysis and preferred options is being finalized, and the selected sites are now being developed to a 30% design level. Staff and McKinstry submitted a DOLA grant application for the project. The project was presented to Council in early September.

Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

Basalt River Park Development LLC – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the four affordable housing units.

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

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4/Public Works Facility –Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with the construction of the building. The building has been ordered, utility connections have been made, and the foundation was poured. The pre-engineered steel building has arrived onsite, and erection has begun.



Water Utility Master Plan – Town staff issued an RFP for the development of a Basalt Water Utility Master Plan which will serve to inform the planning of capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and rate increases that may be necessary to help fund the water enterprise. The Council approved a contract with JVA, Inc. Staff submitted a Colorado River District grant application to help fund some of this work. A kick-of meeting for this project occurred on Friday last week.

Linear Park Irrigation – Town staff received two bids for the rebuilding of the Linear Park irrigation system. The project was awarded to RMCL by Council and work is nearly complete.

Whitewater Park Construction - Pitkin County started construction on improvements to Fisherman’s Park and the area around the Whitewater Park. The improvements being made include improving the condition of the Fisherman’s Park Boat Ramp, constructing a boardwalk between the Whitewater Park and the boat ramp, and improving the shoulder of Two Rivers Road by the boat ramp for better access to the boat ramp. Additionally, Pitkin County will be clearing sediment from the Whitewater Park structures and making slight adjustment to the in-river wave structures.

Community Events – The Annual Leaf Drop Event is set to begin the weekend of October 15th and 16th and will run for five consecutive weeks through November 12th and 13th. As in previous years, the event will have venues between Arbaney Park, Willits Rugby Field, and Southside Park. More information on the event can be found on the main page of the Town’s website. Flyers are being hung at locations around town, and information has been posted on the Town’s Facebook page and the Basalt Community page. EverGreen Zero Waste is also hanging banners in locations around town to inform Basalt residents of the event.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – At this month’s meeting the Coalition discussed Stott’s Mill and overall capacity, with Honey Tree noting that they have their expansion trailer now on-site and are now awaiting licensing. The additional capacity at Honey Tree will be used for infants and toddlers. The Coalition also discussed the impending retirement of Shirley Ritter (Kids First) and Kathy Hegberg (FocusedKids) who have been instrumental to early childhood education in the Roaring Fork Valley. Other discussion items included quality improvement for Basalt area centers and meeting with less frequency in the new year as the Coalition pairs with Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council for discussions on regional matters.

Public Works

Public Works has been busy this week cleaning up after two snowstorms which caused several tree branches to come down and dislodged rocks from the hillside along Two Rivers Road. The first snow was on Wednesday, and it was about 3 inches in accumulation the second snow was Thursday and we received about 5 inches. The snow from both storms was wet and heavy but it melted relatively fast. Public Works was out early on both mornings clearing the streets. The snow left us with slick roads which resulted in a few vehicle accidents. We were glad to be able to assist the Basalt PD during the storms to keep our roads safe.

Public Works is restocking supplies and doing some repair work on equipment that is needed after the storms. Snowplowing is hard on equipment and staff. It is amazing how well both hold up. The equipment must be cleaned, refueled and parts, such as cutting edges for the plows, have to be replaced.

The new Public Works pole barn is almost completely “dried in” meaning the roof and walls have been installed. Once the building itself is complete, the electricity will still need to be hooked up and the perimeter fencing installed.

The Willits Trail repair was completed this week. The sections that had roots protruding up and the areas that were cracked have been fixed.

The Public Works crew will be putting up the holiday decorations starting in the next several weeks.