



DATE: November 11, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Police

The Lake Christine Fire rain gauge/flash flood alert and warning project has wrapped up for the year. Over the last four summers rain gauges have been deployed on Basalt Mountain. One above Basalt, one above El Jebel and one on the north side of Basalt Mountain. Participating agencies met this fall and decided to stop the annual deployments moving forward. The National Weather Service is confident they can accurately predict rainfall totals and issue timely public safety alerts during future rain events.

Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency, the Town's insurance provider, conducted a facilities inspection at the police department. We are pleased to report no violations were observed.

With winter approaching, we will bring our speed feedback trailers into storage until spring. Throughout the summer and fall the speed trailers provided valuable speed data and traffic count information at various locations around Town. This information is used to confirm citizen complaints and plan for possible road improvements in the future.

The Basalt Emergency Management Committee met and discussed winter preparedness.

We conducted a full lock down exercise at Basalt High School. School administration requested we conduct this exercise so all staff and administration could practice their lockdown procedures from their respective work areas.

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 cost share agreement and the Council approved the agreement 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 features were delivered and 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, structural engineer, and FCI to meet the Town's budgetary requirements. Staff met with the restroom/bus shelter team this week to review progress on the work to meet the 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. The design team have been working diligently to get the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project design to a 30%, or preliminary design level. Much of this initial design effort has focused on the subgrade utilities, their design and need for replacement. Staff has been working with the CM/GC on a preliminary construction phasing plan. The team is looking at a spring 2023 start for construction. Construction will start on Midland Spur in early spring, which will allow the Spur to be available for parking as the construction crew moves along Midland for the duration of the project. Staff has engaged a public relations consultant whose focus is keeping the public informed throughout the Project. This week potholing is underway. This is a one to two week effort to gain further information on the subgrade utilities.

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. McKinstry issued a RFP this week seeking qualified firms to provide installation services for each of the solar arrays, which includes one fixed-tilt ground mount and four pitched rooftop arrays. The RFP will be posted on the Town's website.

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.

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. A video of the new boardwalk between the Whitewater Park and the boat ramp can be found at the following link:
<https://www.facebook.com/pitkincountyrivers/videos/what-a-difference-a-week-makes-here-is-another-sneak-peek-of-the-new-healthy-riv/504409401702012/>

Green Team – Staff attended a presentation hosted by CC4CA and presented by Crested Butte Planning Staff and Councilors. The presentation focused on Crested Butte's decision and process to require 100% electric and no gas in new construction beginning January 1, 2023. The Staff also discussed ideas to incentivize retrofits, such as the Town covering the cost of building energy assessments for existing structures, and in the next phase providing funding for energy improvements.

Staff and Councilor Hottel are attending the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative on Friday morning. Agenda items include a discussion of the 2023 budget and goals, chair/co-chair, 2023 meeting structure, and the 2023 retreat.

Community Events – This week’s Annual Leaf Drop event will take place at the Southside Park on Sunday, November 13th.

Public Works

Public works had to do some sanding on Thursday morning, but mother nature gave us a break on the snow. We had two guys come in early Thursday and sand some intersections and steep streets to try to keep people from sliding in the intersections.

Public works also took advantage of the break in the snowstorms to get some sweeping done and to stain and seal outdoor benches and to repair equipment.

The holiday lights and decorations are going up as the Town gets prepared for our holiday celebrations.

The new Public Works Facility is getting ever closer to completion. The electrical contractor, the concrete sealer and the fence contractor are all on site working this week.

Trimming trees around Town continues. The sidewalk area across from the skate park will be thinned and trimmed and the small red willows in Linear Park have been thinned.

Public Works escorted an inspector from our insurance provider CIRSA this week. CIRSA is firm but fair and pointed out a few areas we need to improve. The positive thing is that they are good about giving us time to improve on their recommendations.

Recreation

Check out the Basalt Recreation Winter Programming Guide, linked below. As more programming is added, this guide will be updated and reposted online to this link. If you have a special skill, knowledge, or talent and are interested in leading programming, please reach out to matt.k@basalt.net. Similarly, if you have any questions or would like any additional information, please reach out to matt.k@basalt.net with your question/request.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zeXzvEIWWtGges43iDHbLjW6eneD60wj/view?usp=sharing>