



DATE: December 2, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

The Town Manager and Planning Director presented to the Chamber of Commerce for their annual board meeting on Thursday. The presentation included information about the Town's upcoming projects and status updates on projects underway.

The Town Manager and Town Engineer will travel to Pueblo next week to present the Town's solar project that is part of the Basalt Forward 2030 projects. The Town is seeking a grant from the state to leverage the bond money with funding from the Department of Local Affairs. If successful, the state would cover half the cost (\$500,000) of a new 275 Kw solar project.

Police

Our two police officer cadets are in their final week at the Colorado Mountain College Police Academy. They will be taking the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training certification test next week. Upon passing this exam and several other practical and physical exams, given by the academy, they are scheduled to graduate on December 8th.

The police department had our on-site Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police re-accreditation inspection. Chris Andrist, Director of Support Services for the Colorado Bureau of Investigations, personally visited our department. Over the past several months Director Andrist has conducted a thorough review of our written policies, procedures and practices. He concluded his assessment with an on-site visit and physical inspection. Director Andrist was complimentary of our department, policies, procedures, equipment and operations. Director Andrist said, "I wish all departments had your up to date policies, procedures and equipment". He continued by saying, "Many agencies in Colorado can learn a great deal from you, including us at the Colorado Bureau of Investigations". Director Andrist was also complimentary of our staff and how we interact with and serve the entire community. No deficiencies were found during his inspection of 214 separate mandatory accreditation standards. We expect to receive notification that our department has received State of Colorado re-accreditation in the near future. We are 1 of only 39 law enforcement agencies in Colorado to obtain and maintain State of Colorado accreditation. To put this in perspective, there are 249 law enforcement agencies in Colorado that are eligible for accreditation.

Chief Greg Knott met with the River Bridge Child Advocacy Center staff and Multidisciplinary Team Members to review the service offered in 2022 and renew our memorandum of understanding. All Roaring Fork Valley law enforcement agencies including the 9th Judicial District Attorney's Office renewed our participation in the MOU. Special thanks to the River Bridge Child Advocacy Center for providing valuable services to abused and neglected youth in our community.

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney attended a staff meeting at the department. The Hope Center also attended and provided a re-cap of services offered through our co-responder and support programs. They also gave an update regarding legislative and legal changes that will be implemented in early 2023.

Planning

Basalt River Park Improvements – Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL has nearly reached completion for the year. RMCL has installed the irrigation, planted all of the trees and perennials, installed sod, the shade sail posts have been installed, and the signs will be placed in the near future.

Staff is working with the architects, structural engineer, and FCI on the shelter/restroom facility project to meet the Town's budgetary requirements. Staff has been meeting with the restroom/bus shelter team to review the revision process and has engaged an MEP engineer to finalize the design for pricing.

Staff has also 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. Staff presented some adjustments to the bandshell design to the POST Committee this week.

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 60% design level. 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. Staff has engaged a public relations consultant whose focus is keeping the public informed throughout the Project. Potholing was completed this week 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 at a 30% design level. Staff and McKinstry submitted a DOLA grant application for the project. McKinstry issued an RFP 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.

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 erected, utility connections have been made, and the foundation was poured. The perimeter fence has been constructed, and electrical work is underway. The project should be completed this month.

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. 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/>.

NWCCOG – Staff and Councilor Drummond attended the quarterly NWCCOG meeting virtually. Discussion items included the re-approval of NWCCOG policies, a discussion on the performance review of the Executive Director (John Stavney), and discussion of the 2023 budget items. Significant discussion was

undertaken on the topic of a proposed training through one of the members on the topic of mental health. The member will be bringing additional information to NWCCOG with a portion of the funding sought held until a decision is made on the topic. NWCCOG is seeking a Regional Grants Navigator, with a link to the job description on its website.

Community Events – This annual holiday tree lightings in Willits and downtown Basalt have been organized by Town Staff. The Willits tree lighting will be held December 2nd in Triangle Park from 4-6 PM and the downtown Basalt tree lighting will be held on December 9th in Lions Park from 4-6 PM. The annual Chanukah Celebration and Menorah lighting at Triangle Park is scheduled for December 18th, and is being coordinated by the Aspen Jewish Community Center.

Public Works

Tonight, is the first of two tree lightings. The first is at Triangle Park in Willits. There will be Santa and Mrs. Claus, wagon rides, doughnuts, and s'mores. Every Town department has been working hard to make these events a success. Administration and Planning Departments worked on organizing and coordinating the entertainment and food, Public Works provided the labor, logistics and material, and the Police approved the overall safety plan and Recreation will be the s'more chef. All departments will also be volunteering personnel and participating.

The Basalt Water Utility Master Plan is progressing with the contractor JVA. Public Works and JVA employees are gathering and sharing preliminary information for the study. The study was approved by Council, and will look at the water infrastructure, capital needs and fee structure needed going forward. The State of Colorado is now mandating that all municipalities in Colorado have an inventory of water services to its customer's houses. This is to identify and eliminate water services with lead contained in the service line material.

Public Works will be adding additional signage to streets for the new and recently approved snow routes and parking on various streets in Town. We have been sweeping the excess sanding material up and cleaning the fleet vehicles after the last plowing event. We ordered and received several more loads of the sanding material and have been cleaning drainages of leaves and dirt to keep them open.

Recreation

We had an awesome time playing sports and games over Thanksgiving break with a fantastic group of Kinder through 2nd graders. It was really fun for all of our youngest community members to come together, learn sports skills, and just have a lot of fun!

The main thing we are focused on moving forward is the incredibly popular Mud-Season Rec Basketball league. We currently have roughly 9 teams playing in the 3rd/4th boys/girls and 5th/6th grade boys/girls levels and we may be adding more teams with additional sign-ups. If you or anyone you know is interested, sign up ASAP at <https://secure.rec1.com/CO/basalt-co/catalog>. Practice starts in December and games start the week of January 16th. It's going to be an amazing season of learning the game and having a ton of fun! Additionally, if you or anyone you know are interested in earning a little money by refereeing rec games, please reach out to matt.k@basalt.net!