



DATE: December 9, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

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.

Eagle County has sent out [Winter Emergency Preparedness](#) information that we will post to our website and social media.

Police

Alec Mass and Steven Holmgren successfully completed their 16-week police officer training academy. They graduated from the Colorado Mountain College Police Academy on Thursday and were sworn in as officers for our department. Congratulations to Alec and Steven! They will now begin their 14-week field training program with our Field Training Officers.



Our medication takeback box continues to be a popular and safe way to properly dispose of unused prescribed and household medications. Over the past four months we collected 46.7 pounds of unused medications. Since starting the program, we have collected and safely disposed of 410.06 pounds of medications that would have ended up in the landfill or water treatment plant. If you have unused medications, please bring them by our office to be disposed of.

Finance Director Doug Pattison and Chief Greg Knott met to discuss FY2022 budget projections. We also discussed the police department's 2023 annual budget and identified ways to make account tracking more efficient for both departments.

Officers attended the Christmas tree lighting at Triangle Park. We will be at the Lions Park tree lighting, this week, to enjoy the festivities.

This week Chief Greg Knott attended the Roaring Fork Fire Rescue Station 46 dedication and grand opening. Station 46 is located approximately four miles up West Snowmass Creek Road. Greg also attended a retirement luncheon for Aspen Police Chief Richard Pryor.

Planning

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. 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. Those proposals were due this week and are being reviewed. Staff and McKinstry submitted a DOLA grant application for the project. Town Staff presented the project to the State Energy and Mineral Impact Advisory Committee this week in Pueblo and hope to hear back on whether the project will be funded by the DOLA grant later this month.

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/>.

Community Events – The annual holiday tree lighting events in Willits and downtown Basalt have been organized by Town Staff. The Willits tree lighting was held last Friday in Triangle Park and was well attended. The downtown 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

Public Works plowed this week due to the town receiving approximately three inches of snow. The crew came in around 4 a.m. to start plowing and cleaning the streets, sidewalks, and trails. The Streets Department had anticipated the storm and had done some pretreatment with the sanding material to reduce the impact on local traffic. We have a contract mechanic doing our repair work on the Town's fleet and equipment. We have also had him add some additional caution lights to make our equipment and staff more noticeable.

Public Works continues to participate in the review of the Midland Avenue project. We were invited to review and comment on the sixty percent drawings. The parks, streets, water and maintenance staff individually reviewed the plans and then we met as a group with the Planning staff and the consultants to discuss our comments.