



DATE: January 6, 2023
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Happy New Year! After a few weeks of holiday cheer, Town Staff is back in full swing with what is shaping up to be a busy 2023. Staff is coordinating projects and laying the groundwork to get ready for an unprecedented year of capital investment in the community.

Highlights for the year include the Basalt Forward 2030 projects which are gaining momentum. Staff has secured over a million dollars of grant funding to leverage the resources approved by Basalt voters. These grants include a \$500,000 grant from CDOT for the Midland Avenue Streetscape project as well as \$550,000 from the Department of Local Affairs for a cooperative solar project with the Roaring Fork School District. Council continues to discuss affordable housing strategy and will provide more direction on that in early 2023.

Additionally, staff is underway with a parks study to determine the resources needed to maintain all our parks, open space and trails at the high level we do today. With the addition of the Basalt River Park, Arbaney Pool upgrades, Stott's Mill's new parks, and others, it has become evident that we need a solid strategy going forward to be able to give Council the tools to prioritize spending to keep these assets in good shape. Parks improvements for 2023 include the completion of the Basalt River Park with the public restrooms/bus stop and band shell, new playground equipment at Arbaney Park, improvements to irrigation systems and parking lot resurfacing at Arbaney Park and the Rugby Field.

Other projects underway will include streets maintenance, Willits Lane Corridor study, Completion of broadband infrastructure, improvements to Town Hall, site planning for the Police and Public Works campus, replacement of the irrigation system at the Cemetery, skateboard park improvements, and several other.

The Town's logo and rebranding project is well underway and interviews with Council, citizen committees and other stakeholders are ongoing. The steering committee is being assembled with members from our citizen committees and we should expect to see a roll out of a recommended logo in early spring. Keep an eye on our [Let's Talk Basalt](#) page for solicitation of citizen feedback.

Police

Officer's Alec Mass and Steven Holmgren have completed their two-week office orientation and are now out on patrol with Field Training Officers. They will be paired with training officers, over the next three months, to learn patrol operations and incident investigation.

Our annual Shop with a Cop event was held before Christmas. Six youth, who attend our schools, were taken to Walmart to purchase needed items. They were each provided \$300.00 to spend. Thank you to Walmart and Holy Cross Energy for donating to our event. A video of the Shop with a Cop event can be viewed on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BasaltPolice>

The Christmas and New Year holidays passed with no major incidents in Town. The Roaring Fork Club had a fireworks display on New Year's Eve. Prior to the display, their staff notified all surrounding home owner associations. We received no complaints during the display.

Chief Greg Knott and Aaron Munch met with the Communication Consultant for the Midland Streetscape Project. We identified several areas of concern and ways the Communication Consultant can assist us during the project.

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. The bid documents are being prepared for the lightning bolt improvements and it is anticipated that it will go out to bid in the next week or two.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL has 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 some final work will occur in the spring. 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 for approval.

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 which will be presented to Council next week. Construction will start on Midland Spur in early spring. Staff has engaged a public relations consultant, Mitzi Rapkin, whose focus is keeping the public informed throughout the Project. Mitzi presented her work to Council in December. Potholing was completed in November to gain further information on the subgrade utilities. Some geotechnical exploration of the existing retaining wall and steep slope along Midland Spur also has occurred and Staff and the contractors are looking at options for retainage of this slope. Staff will provide an update to Council at the January 10th Council meeting.

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 completed the final report summarizing the site analysis and preferred options. 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, two proposals were received. It was announced that the project received a DOLA grant for 50% of the project construction costs.

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

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4/Public Works Facility –The building has been erected, utility connections have been made, and the foundation was poured. The project is receiving final inspections for issuance of a certificate of occupancy, and a final punch walk is scheduled for next week.

Water Utility Master Plan – Town staff is working with JVA on 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. JVA has completed a site visit and have been working diligently on progressing the plan.

Staff applied for and was granted a Colorado River District Community Funding Partnership grant to help fund some of this work.

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/>.

BPAC – The Commission underwent a short survey from Slate Communications regarding how BPAC identifies with Basalt, and where they see Basalt going in future years. BPAC also engaged in an exercise identifying potential areas for temporary or rotating public art along Midland Avenue with the Town Engineer. The ice sculpture's theme and dates have been firmed up – the theme being objects of magic and whimsy, with two live sculpting events and once installation taking place throughout the third week of January.

Public Works

There were two snow events that came through our area this week. Public Works was out early getting the roads ready for the daily commute. We plow to open the road, pile it up, and then haul it off to a storage area. On the days when we only get a light snow, we will use the sanding trucks to increase the traction at intersections, in the hill district, and in any shaded areas that don't melt on their own. The techniques we use varies depending on the amount of snow, the temperature, and the weather forecast. Public Works is fortunate to have experienced personnel that know what the most effective solution in each circumstance will be.

Public Works did some repairs on the Ventrac, a small machine that is used on the smaller sidewalks where the Bobcat Toolcat is too wide. We had to replace a broken belt on the Ventrac this week. Usually, it is not a big deal to replace a belt, but the Ventrac has to be loaded on a trailer with the backhoe, brought back to the shop and put on a lift. It is time consuming process for such a minor thing. Public Works also had to repair two plows this week. The plows are the implement that get the most wear and therefore require consistent maintenance. We were out between storms breaking ice to keeping the drains and gutters open to reduce flooding.

Public Works assisted the Planning Department with their office upgrade. We moved the old office furniture to other departments and helped set up newer furniture in Planning offices. The upgrade really looks good and makes their office more functional.