



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: July 7, 2020
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

This report serves as an update to Council on key projects, activities and community issues.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC UPDATE

On June 30th, Governor Polis extended the Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors Executive Order, and provided an update on Colorado's next steps during the COVID-19 pandemic, introducing more details on the Protect Our Neighbors framework. Protect our Neighbors is intended to give local communities more freedom to provide economic opportunity while ensuring that they have the necessary public health capacity. In order to qualify for Protect Our Neighbors, a county (or region) must do two things:

- Certify qualification according to the scientific metrics; and
- Submit a mitigation and containment plan on what the county or region will do if they fall out of compliance with any of the metrics.

Communities in Protect Our Neighbors will be able to permit all activities to occur at 50 percent of pre-pandemic capacity, with at least six feet between non-household members and no more than 500 people in one setting at a time. Local communities may issue more detailed guidelines or public health orders for different settings, so long as the capacity does not exceed these caps.

To learn more about the Protect Our Neighbors framework, please visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Eww5S6uQcs8eVxBpZ54TAsd4o6kNFQ6E/view>.

On Friday, July 3rd, the Ouray County Public Health Director issued Public Health Order No. 9 which orders the following:

- All persons shall be required to wear a Face Covering when entering, waiting in line to enter and while in the following locations open to the public within Ouray County:
 - Any place of business or facility engaged in any sales or other transactions of any kind to the general public and any place that offers services, facilities, privileges, or advantages to the general public, including any outside courtyard, patio, seating, waiting or parking area associated with the place of business or place of service in which any kind of delivery, pick up or other service is provided;
 - Any County, City of Ouray or Town of Ridgway owned or operated building or indoor facility of any kind; and
 - Any public transportation.

Ouray County Unified Command has undertaken an outreach campaign to let residents and visitors know about this new local public health order and garner a high level of compliance.



FIRE RESTRICTIONS

Last week, the Town followed the lead of Ouray County in implementing “Stage 1” fire restrictions. The restrictions shall remain in effect until modified or revoked by further order of the Town Council.

GHG POLLUTION REDUCTION ROADMAP

HB19-1261 established science-based targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution 50% by 2030 and 90% below 2005 levels by 2050. Several state agencies - including the Colorado Energy Office, Department of Public Health and Environment, Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture - are developing a GHG Pollution Reduction Roadmap of actions that will reduce greenhouse gas pollution. The Roadmap will establish the 2005 greenhouse gas pollution baseline and will also assess the effects of recent legislative and administrative policy changes on meeting the state’s GHG pollution targets. Finally, the Roadmap will evaluate additional pathways to ensure timely progress toward the state's GHG pollution reduction goals. The state has hired Energy and Environmental Economics (E3) to help develop the Roadmap.

Throughout this process, there will be opportunities for Coloradans to provide feedback on the development of the Roadmap. Colorado residents can share their thoughts on the Roadmap and on policies or other actions that can help Colorado meet the GHG pollution reduction goals at the link below.

https://ceo.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2shMIFIY4ezMqTX

2020 CENSUS UPDATE

The Town of Ridgway’s self-response rate currently sits at 60.6%. The self-response rate includes responses from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail, or by phone. Colorado’s self-response rate currently sits at 65.2% and the national self-response rate is at 61.9%. Response rate rankings are featured at

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/us.census.bureau#!/vizhome/2020CensusSelf-ResponseRankings/RankingsDashboard>. Ridgway is currently tied for 8,440th place in the “Rankings by City.”

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY REFORM

SB20-217 "Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity" was signed into law a few weeks ago, which made Colorado one of the first states in the country to tackle wholesale, statewide police accountability reform. It’s an expansive law that will require police officers across the state to wear body cameras and overhaul how officers can use force against people. Shane and I will meet in the coming days to review the bill in its entirety to ensure that we meet the new requirements by the established milestone dates.



PLANNING UPDATE

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

Pavilion

The Pavilion now has a portion of the concrete foundation installed. Go walk by in the next week and check it out! This project calls for a lot of concrete so you may get lucky and see it being poured.

Subdivisions

The number of subdivisions in progress continues to increase! We have a few small subdivisions (2-6 units) happening and a few that are much larger (20-40 units). Lena Street Commons plans to break ground around August or September. Staff hopes to wrap up the conditions of approval for Vista Park Commons and Alpenglow Cohousing very soon. Both of these subdivisions hope to break ground this calendar year. Staff has heard very little on the Preserve Subdivision but assumes they are working internally. The newer Triangle Lot 1 project will be coming to the Commission and Council for Preliminary Plat review soon. The subdivisions listed above, if completed, would create 139 dwelling units total plus a handful of commercial spaces.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create

Artspace, Town staff, architects, engineers, and construction contractors/sub-contractors meet weekly to keep the last phases of the predevelopment process speeding along. Many balls are in the air with construction and funding elements, and we are grateful for Artspace's expertise in this arena. A public meeting will be planned once revised architectural drawings are available.

Business Grant Program

As of July 1, nineteen applications have been approved, totaling \$6,169, to assist businesses with restarting/reopening costs due to the pandemic. Please encourage business and creative enterprises to apply for the nearly \$4,000 in funds remaining from this Colorado Creative Industries grant.

Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements

Improvements to the area southeast of the Visitor Center were completed in June, utilizing an extended 2019 Colorado Main Street mini-grant. The area was leveled, weed barrier fabric laid, and gravel placed on top, which removed unsightly weeds and created a more functional flat surface. Boulders were moved to create a barrier with the parking lot. Four picnic tables were purchased and placed on the gravel. A red retro newspaper box was also purchased to hold Ridgway Visitor Guides to support visitors with



information. The Chamber also created and hung information banners in the windows of the Visitor Center to provide visitors with guidance, given the continued closure of the Visitor Center this year.

Colorado Creative Corridor

Eleven local businesses applied to be included in the video to be made this fall about the Creative Corridor. A subcommittee of the Creative Advocacy Team made selections from this applicant pool. More details will be known later this month about the process from here, including the date of filming.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

From Chase Jones, Public Works Services Administrator:

Deeply Digital

In conjunction with Clearnetworkx, Deeply Digital will resume installing conduit along Town rights-of-way and utility easements. Fiber-optic will later be pulled through the conduit to allow for individual residential service. This is part of a larger project to bring fiber optic internet to the region.

Lena Street Utility Replacement Project

The Town has contracted with Ridgway Valley Enterprises to replace the water and sewer mains in Lena Street between Charles and Otto. Work is scheduled to begin on July 20th. Alternate services or connections will be provided for all residences directly impacted by the work.

Street Repairs

Public Works will be repairing potholes and sealing cracks in asphalt streets in the coming weeks. Dates have not been finalized at this time.

Standards and Specifications

The General, Water, and Sewer standards and specifications have been updated and are pending adoption by Council. A version including staff comments on proposed changes can be found on the Town's website.

Water Meters

The water meter model the Town has used for years has been discontinued. Because of this, all new meters will be a different model and the current meters will begin phasing out. There are no accuracy or performance concerns with the meter model currently in use and those in service will remain in service for the remainder of their expected lifespan. Customers should not notice a change in service with this variation.

Rollans Park

The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership volunteered time and resources for their annual Rollans Park Clean-Up event in June. The group picked up litter and branches, cleared overgrowth and removed weeds throughout the park. Multiple seedlings were also planted and caged within the park. To those involved, thank you for your efforts.



Athletic Park Baseball Field

The Town has been working with local parents and coaches to improve the baseball diamond at the Athletic Park. To improve the infield surface, new soil is planned to be brought in shortly.

Drought

As southwest Colorado enters another drought year, please continue to be cautious of your water use. Consider native and/or drought tolerant plants during any landscaping project.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Joint Policy Group Work Session** – July 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – July 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – August 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

Two goldfish are in a tank. One says to the other, "Do you know how to drive this thing?"