



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: October 9, 2020
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

CDPHE HALLOWEEN GUIDANCE

CDPHE recently issued guidance and tips for families to minimize the risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 while having fun on Halloween. Click [here](#) to check out CDPHE's general recommendations and ideas for alternative celebrations.

CLEAN ENERGY PLAN

CDPHE has posted the draft version of the Clean Energy Plan Guidance document for public review and comment. Click [here](#) to check it out. Public comment will close on October 16th.

GHG POLLUTION REDUCTION ROADMAP

On September 30th the state released a public comment draft of its Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap which details early action steps the state can take toward meeting the near-term goals of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution 26% by 2025 and 50% by 2030 from 2005 levels. The state is seeking comment on additional action steps to reduce GHG pollution and reap the full benefits of swiftly and equitably transitioning to a clean energy economy. Comments are due by 5:00 p.m. on November 1st. Click [here](#) to access the draft Roadmap and to learn how to submit comments.

BUSINESS MEETINGS

Ouray County Unified Command will host two virtual business meetings next week. The first will be held on October 13th at 10:30 a.m. and second will be held on October 14th at 3:00 p.m. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss preliminary winter COVID-19 guidance and potential business grant opportunities. Unified Command would like to hear about the needs of the business community and answer questions as we approach the winter season.

REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

The Town has been notified by CDOT that our funding application to the Revitalizing Main Streets Program has been awarded \$50,000 for our Multimodal Safety Enhancement Project. The Town was seeking funding to assist with improving stop bars and cross walk markings and to add bike symbols to paved roadways. This is desired in an effort to alert motorists to the potential of



pedestrian crossing and define the area where pedestrians have the right-of-way. The Revitalizing Main Streets Program was developed to support infrastructure projects that provide open spaces for mobility, community activities and economic development in the wake of the COVID-19 emergency. The work for our Multimodal Safety Enhancement Project is slated to be completed in the coming weeks.

CML POSITIONS ON 2020 BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

The Colorado Municipal League Executive Board has voted to take positions on four propositions appearing on the November 2020 statewide ballot. They are as follows:

Amendment B - Gallagher Repeal (SUPPORT)

Amendment B repeals provisions related to the residential and nonresidential assessment rates from the state constitution, including the provisions commonly referred to as the Gallagher Amendment. The Gallagher Amendment requires that residential and nonresidential property make up unvarying proportions of total statewide taxable property over time. Specifically, it requires that the assessed value of residential property make up 45% of statewide taxable property with the remaining 55% derived from nonresidential property. The Gallagher Amendment also requires the assessed value of nonresidential property to remain fixed at 29%.

Over time, without this measure, the residential assessment rate is projected to continue to fall due to the relative growth of residential versus nonresidential assessment rates. A stabilized assessment rate for residential property will result in higher property tax revenue for local governments in many locations in Colorado, including municipalities, counties, school districts and special districts.

The CML Executive Board voted to support Amendment B because it will resolve conflicts in the Colorado Constitution, provide additional flexibility to lawmakers and help to stabilize local property revenues over time.

Proposition EE - Cigarette, Tobacco, Nicotine Products and Vaping Products Tax Increase (OPPOSE)

Proposition EE is a legislatively referred \$294 million state tax increase, primarily for preschool and K-12 education programs. Of interest to municipalities, a fraction of the revenue will be earmarked for housing programs – but only in the first three years after it takes effect. The measure preserves the historical allocation formulas that apportion some state cigarette tax revenues to municipalities, as well as recent statutory reforms that allow municipalities to regulate tobacco and nicotine without forfeiting their cigarette tax allocation. There are concerns with how Proposition EE would affect local nicotine taxes.

The CML Executive Board voted to oppose Proposition EE as a statewide tax would preclude the likelihood of passage of any subsequent local taxation questions, if proposed.



Amendment 77 - Local Voter Approval of Gaming Limits (SUPPORT)

Amendment 77 would amend the Colorado Constitution and state statute to allow voters in Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek to vote to increase bet amounts beyond the current \$100 maximum and expand the types of games allowed at casinos in the three cities beginning in May 2021. Additionally, the measure would allow gaming revenue distributed to the state's public community colleges to be spent on programs that improve student retention and increase completion of credentialed programs. Because it amends the Colorado Constitution, Amendment 77 will need 55% approval to pass. If it passes and local communities vote to increase bet limits, local government revenue may increase if gaming tax revenue goes up.

The CML Executive Board voted to support Amendment 77 because it enhances local control for aspects of gaming in the cities of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek, may increase revenue to community colleges in several Colorado municipalities, and may increase municipal revenue received through limited gaming fund distributions.

Proposition 118 - Family Medical Leave Insurance Enterprise (OPPOSE)

Proposition 118 creates a state-run paid family and medical leave (PFML) insurance enterprise in Colorado that allows employees to take up to 12 weeks of leave. An eligible employee may take leave for reasons such as caring for their own health condition, caring for a new child, or caring for a family member. Employees are not required to take leave consecutively. Both employers and employees will pay into a new Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund. The state will use money in the fund to pay wage benefits to employees during their leave, similar to unemployment insurance. The amount an employee will receive during leave is based on the employee's average weekly wage. Most employees become eligible to take paid leave after they have earned at least \$2,500 in wages and become eligible for certain job protections after being employed with their current employer for at least 180 days.

Proposition 118 allows a municipality to "opt out" of the program. However, there are operational aspects of the initiative that will still impact the employer-employee relationship, even if the municipality opts out. The largest is that an employee can still join the program even if a municipality opts out. This creates confusion and inequity between employees and will disproportionately impact smaller municipal employers in rural areas in order to provide services for an employee that is out 12 weeks.

The CML Executive Board voted to oppose Proposition 118 because it directly interferes with a municipality's ability to determine the terms and conditions of employment.

LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Marshal:



ALICE Instructor Recertification

Two years ago, I attended and received Instructor certification from the ALICE Training Institute. ALICE training is a widely adopted, effective method of active shooter response training. ALICE stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and evacuate. I just recertified and am able to administer ALICE training to business, schools and churches in the County. We will be working with a local business, along with a company they have retained, to provide training and we will provide ongoing support after the training once the COVID-19 response has been lifted.

National Night Out

We partnered with the Ouray Police Department and Ouray County Sheriff's Office on October 6th for a National Night Out event in Ouray. The event was very well attended. We served food and had conversations with people from the area and beyond.



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Predevelopment

The September 17th public meeting updated attendees on the status of the project, including a projected timeline through early 2022, new renderings of the exterior and interior of the building, and approximate income eligibility and rental rates. The meeting recording and the presentation slides are available on the Town website. Work continues weekly with Artspace, the design team, and Town personnel, with discussions also on strategy to fill the financial gap for construction costs. A permit request is anticipated this fall.

Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements

After a Request for Quote process, a contract was awarded to Rainmaker Inc. from Montrose to install the irrigation system surrounding the Visitor Center at Heritage Park. Work recently began, to be completed at the latest by the end of November, leaving the ground ready for plantings this spring (assuming budget allows).

Business Grant Program

Bulk sanitizer was purchased from sister creative district Carbondale with remaining Business Grant funds from Colorado Creative Industries. Bottles of sanitizer were refilled at two downtown locations on Saturday, September 26th. A number of retail businesses had their bottles refilled by RCD Creative Advocacy Team (C.A.T.) volunteers, Betsy Baier, Andy Nasisse, and Diane Thompson. Thank you to Diane Thompson and Lonnie White for the use of their eye-catching



truck with a beach umbrella as a staging platform! Lonnie and his guitar also serenaded all within ear shot. More bulk sanitizer remains for future giveaways.

Ridgway Independent Film Festival (RIFF)

Filmmakers submitted sixty-two short independent films by the September 25th deadline. The RIFF subcommittee of the C.A.T. is now working hard to watch and select films for this year's virtual event, November 6th through 12th. The films and "extras" will be available online in conjunction with the Sherbino, including films from professional filmmakers who will act as awards judges this year. The hard-working RIFF crew is: Amanda Gabrielson, John Clark, Liana Schmidt, Joan Chismire, and Andy Nasisse, with assistance from Jim Courson and Kamron Odwin. Professional filmmakers Renan Ozturk, Taylor Rees, Kali Davis, and Henry Wolf have agreed to serve as the awards judges. John Clark's commitment to this festival and his technical computer skills are absolutely invaluable, especially with the need to move the festival online due to the pandemic.

C.A.T. Retreat

Most of the Creative Advocacy Team attended a retreat at Top of the Pines on October 6th, to plan further for next year, as well as to receive appreciation and recognition for their dedication to the Ridgway Creative District. This has been a tough year for the C.A.T. with the challenges of the pandemic, and the gathering felt important to revive the group's spirits.

Colorado Creative Corridor

The five Creative Corridor communities agreed to apply for the fourth time for the Colorado Tourism Office Marketing Matching Grant, under the continuing leadership of the Carbondale Chamber and Creative District, to focus primarily on widespread marketing in 2021 of the Corridor's promotional video which is in the editing process. The Ridgway Area Chamber committed \$1,250 to the match for 2021, while the Town committed \$2,500. Most of the other communities committed to the same amounts as prior years.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE

From Chase Jones, Public Works Services Administrator:

Lena Street Infrastructure

The Town's contractor has installed the new water and sewer main under Lena Street from Charles Street to Otto Street. The project is anticipated to finish shortly. The neighboring private development is utilizing the same contractor and has decided to break ground this fall. The contractor is currently phasing over to their project.

Tri-County Water Interconnection

Connecting with Tri-County Water for an emergency water connection is nearing complete. All of the groundwork and major plumbing is done with only relatively minor finish and in-vault work



being required. This will allow for the Town to have an alternate water source if the primary were to become contaminated or a distribution issue arose in certain areas of town.

Snowplow

The Town will soon take delivery of a snowplow for the winter season. The current plow is roughly four decades old.

Drought and Winter Preparation

The Western Slope is in an extreme drought. Please conserve water whenever possible. Many landscapers recommend cutting back on your outdoor watering schedule during the fall months to help prepare turf and plants for winter. Remember to blow out any irrigation system to prevent freezing and damage. Frozen pipes and damaged irrigation systems result in a large percentage of leaks found within Town during the following year.

PLANNING UPDATE

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

Park Pavilion

The pavilion roof is complete, the siding is almost finished and some of the light fixtures have been installed. The counters, sink, roll up concession door and other smaller details are in the works. The Town is completing the water connection and a few small upgrades in the restrooms. We should see this project wrapping up on time.



Planning Commission Bylaws

The Commission adopted bylaws at the regular September meeting. They have been distributed to the Commission and will be online soon.

Lena Street Commons is Under Construction

You may have noticed that the Lena Street Commons development, near the Library, has begun construction. This preliminary plat was approved mid-2018 and had three years to submit a final plat per the development agreement. Current construction includes most infrastructure and is expected to be completed by mid-November. Staff has been told that upon completion of the infrastructure work, the developer will submit a final plat to build one of the buildings, which would be five residential units.



Habitat for Humanity Triplex

We have received a building permit for the Habitat for Humanity triplex planned for the Parkside Subdivision, located on the corner of N Railroad and N Laura. A Ground Blessing was held on October 5th and many attended. They have 2 of the 3 families selected and will follow their procedures to select a 3rd family.



National Community Planning Month

October is National Community Planning Month and this year's theme is Planning is Essential to Recovery – which highlights how planning and planners can lead communities to equitable, resilient, and long-lasting recovery from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. You can learn more [here](#). Basically, the goal is help people understand the importance of planning in communities. In addition, the American Planning Association Colorado Chapter conference is happening this month. I will be a panelist in a session to talk about our land use code updates for affordable housing. I've been told to expect a large online crowd.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **COVID-19 Business Meeting to discuss winter guidance and grant assistance (hosted by Ouray County Unified Command)** – October 13, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom
- **COVID-19 Business Meeting to discuss winter guidance and grant assistance (hosted by Ouray County Unified Command)** – October 14, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – October 14, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Special Joint Policy Group Work Session** – October 15, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Ouray County Drive Thru Flu Clinic** – October 16, 2020 from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Ouray County 4H Events Center & Fairgrounds
- **Town Council Budget Retreat** – October 17, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – October 21, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – October 28, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

My wife is really mad at the fact that I have no sense of direction.
So, I packed up my stuff and right.