



WRITTEN REPORT

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

INTRODUCTION

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

WATER TREATMENT UPGRADE

During late summer/early fall, staff undertook a pilot testing process to explore the benefits of transitioning from a chlorine dioxide treatment to a GAC treatment at the Town's water treatment plant. The initiative evolved quickly and, as a result of the preliminary testing results that suggest that GAC will improve the finished water quality compared to chlorine dioxide, staff has recommended to the Town Council during the current budget preparation process that the Town proceed in 2021 with replacing the chlorine dioxide treatment step with the GAC filtration alternative.

In early October, staff submitted an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Fund (EIAF) Tier I grant application to DOLA for the Granular Activated Carbon Water Treatment Upgrade Project. Tier I grants are for projects up to \$200,000 and are a 50/50 match.

I am excited to announce that DOLA has offered the Town a grant award in the amount of \$100,000 for this project! The project was reviewed based on a variety of factors such as its connection to energy impact, degree of need, measurable outcomes, amount of request, relationship to community goals, level of local match and community support, management capacity, resiliency and readiness to go. Competition for these limited funds was intense and DOLA had many more requests than they had funds available.

I'd like to give a **HUGE** shout out and thank you to Chase Jones, Chris Bolane and Joanne Fagan for their work in researching and pilot testing the GAC treatment alternative. Chase also put a ton of time and energy into preparing and submitting the EIAF grant application.

COMMUNITY-WIDE COVID-19 TESTING EVENT ON DECEMBER 16TH

The Colorado National Guard testing support team and Ouray County Public Health Agency will once again offer a community-wide, voluntary, no charge testing event. The event will take place on Wednesday, December 16th at the Ouray County 4-H Events Center parking lot from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The testing will be done in a drive-thru testing format. A doctor's note or order will not be required and people seeking tests do not need to show symptoms.



CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND PROGRAM UPDATE

Staff continues to work through the CVRF Spending Plan that was put together last month. Expenditures must be incurred by December 30th to be eligible for reimbursement. Staff submitted the Town’s second request for reimbursement in the DOLA Grants Portal on December 3rd.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

As highlighted during the November 19th Budget work session, I have reviewed and revised the job descriptions of the Public Works Services Administrator and Town Planner for purposes of efficiency and more effective organizational structure. The titles and some of the essential functions have been amended and will go into effect on January 1, 2021.

SNOW AND ICE CONTROL OPERATIONS

The Town recently issued an official communication that reminds residents and businesses about snow and ice control operations in the Town of Ridgway. It goes into detail about the Town’s policies and procedures for when it snows. If you haven’t seen it, you can check it out by clicking [HERE](#).

TAKEOUT PARKING SPOTS

Last month, in an effort to further assist downtown restaurants this winter season, Council asked staff to earmark several public parking spots as short-term, takeout parking spaces. Staff has identified several spots and is finishing up the process of installing new takeout parking signs.



RIDGWAY MUNICIPAL CODE – TRANSITION TO MUNICODE

The Town has entered into an agreement with a company called Municode for codification services and for online hosting of the Municipal Code. The Ridgway Municipal Code will soon migrate to Municode’s fully responsive code hosting application featuring seamless navigation through our Code. Municode will also handle supplementation and will update our online Code upon the adoption of ordinances.

MARSHAL’S OFFICE AWNING

For safety purposes, the Town budgeted money in 2020 for an awning to be constructed over the entrance to the Marshal’s Office. The awning is nearly completed. Mike Gill managed this project from start to finish and even completed some of the installation work himself.





LAW ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Marshal:

Funding for Victim Services Program

Ever since the Ouray County Victim Services Program was started, we have been trying to secure funding that would ensure the future of the program. Initial funding came from the Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE) Grant and in the first year we received the full requested amount. Due to increased requests for funding, a shrinking pool of money, and the VALE Board's request for stronger buy-in from the agencies the program serves, the grant award has been cut each year since the program started. In 2019, Victim Advocate Elaine Wood and myself searched for a stronger funding source and were able to find the Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) Grant which is on a two-year grant cycle and the next cycle was for 2021 and 2022. In early 2020, Elaine and I attended the VOCA Grant class, to help us better understand the funding opportunity and the filing nuances.

In the end, we were able to secure \$56,768.00 for 2021 and 2022. This came at an ideal time with VALE cutting their contribution from \$ 21,000.00 to \$ 12,000.00 for 2021. With the two funding sources and with the contributions for the Town, County, and City, we are able to fund the Victim Services Program for 2021 and 2022.

As part of the grants, we are required to hold two Victim Rights Act (VRA) trainings per year with the three law enforcement agencies in the County. In early 2020, the District Attorney's Office provided the first training. Last week, we held the second training in the Ridgway Community Center. Chantelle Bainbridge with the Montrose Police Department's Victim Advocate Program provided the training for us in the Zoom format. Along with this training, we also reviewed SB20-217 and the most recent updates related to that legislation. We also received an update on the Critical Incident Investigation Team.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Predevelopment

This long-term affordable housing project has been steadily moving toward the final designs and financial closings necessary to break ground, as projected, in the first quarter of 2021. Regular weekly meetings continue with Artspace, the design team, and Town personnel. Artspace submitted a permit application to the Town for the project in November which is making its way through a careful staff review process. Additional funding applications have been submitted by Artspace to the Colorado Health Foundation, Telluride Foundation, and the State Department of Housing to address the need for gap funding.



Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements

A new irrigation system was successfully installed on three sides of the Visitor Center at Heritage Park, utilizing grant funding from Colorado Main Street and AARP. Additional funding will be needed in 2021 to prepare this newly irrigated area for plantings and to extend the irrigation system and plantings east along Highway 62 according to the Heritage Park Strategic Master Plan. Chamber board members and Town Councilors together toured the Visitor Center and surrounding site to further the discussion about priorities for future improvements.

Ridgway Independent Film Festival (RIFF)

For the first time in its six-year history, the RIFF took place online, Nov. 6th- 12th, requiring significant effort especially from techie extraordinaire and RIFF founder, Mayor John Clark. In addition to John, Amanda Gabrielson, Liana Schmidt, Joan Chismire, and Andy Nasisse served as organizers. They were assisted by festival judges and local professional filmmakers Taylor Rees and Renan Ozturk and community member Jim Courson. Though online attendance was lower than desired (about 60 tickets purchased), the collection of films and extras dazzled. A high school student filmmaker through the Colorado Springs Youth Documentary Academy, Kallista Palapas, won two awards for her film, I'll Be There: Best Amateur Film and Best of the Fest (selected by the filmmaker judges). Her touching film honored the life of a friend who suicided the year before. The Best Professional Film award went to Iranian filmmaker Alireza Ghasemi for his film Better than Neil Armstrong, an exceptionally creative low-budget film with children as actors. Two films from Brazil and from Spain received Honorable Mentions. The collaboration with Sherbino and Weehawken staff to carry out the RIFF in this unusual year was invaluable.

Colorado Creative Corridor

The Colorado Tourism Office awarded another year of Marketing Matching grant funding (\$21,600, matched 1:1 by the communities) to the Colorado Creative Corridor, under the continuing leadership of the Carbondale Chamber and Creative District. The video produced by filmmaker Zach Wolfson about the Creative Corridor towns will be ready for widespread marketing starting in the spring of 2021. The Corridor communities will focus on creating a stand-alone website which will link to Colorado.com but not be hosted there as a push toward sustainability. (To see other CTO grant awardees, click [here](#).)

Another Award for RAMP Up Ridgway

DHM Design applied for and was awarded Best Catalyst Project by the Congress for New Urbanism Colorado 2020. DHM's strong design work and careful implementation of Ridgway's streetscape project continues to impress beyond our community as a great example of downtown revitalization. (<https://cnucolorado.org/awards/>).



PLANNING UPDATE

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

Subdivisions and Building Projects

A quick update of the many subdivisions and larger building projects going on in town:

1. Lena Street Commons (near the Library) – worked on infrastructure improvements in the last few months, staff is expecting a final plat application soon which will likely be followed by a building permit application for five townhouse units, their first phase.
2. Vista Park Commons (east of Hwy 550) – have preliminary plat approval, not sure when this project will begin infrastructure work, preliminary plat approval expires August 2021.
3. Alpenglow Cohousing (by Cimarron Coffee) – have preliminary plat approval, working on the conditions of approval, preliminary plat approval expires October 2021.
4. Preserve (east of Athletic Park) – have preliminary plat approval but are potentially making some changes which have been in discussion with staff, preliminary plat approval expires March 2022.
5. Triangle Lot 1 (Hwy 550, north of traffic light) – staff received a revised preliminary plat submittal in late November, this will be taken to Planning Commission once reviewed by staff and clean up by the development team, they hope to break ground in the spring.
6. Block 28, six townhouse units (N Cora and Charles) – staff is expecting a preliminary plat submittal soon as the sketch plan approval expires in January 2021.
7. Firehouse project – development team seems to be working toward submitting a building permit early next year (this is staff's best guess).
8. Space to Create (Clinton and N Laura) – building permit is currently being reviewed, planning to break ground early 2021.

All together there are 175 residential units in the pipeline along with a handful or more commercial units. Given the Town has about 550 residential units, this would be a 32% increase of the existing housing stock if all built. This is significant and will require careful work to ensure quality projects that complement the Town!

Planning Commissioner Training

On Wednesday, February 3rd from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., a County-wide Planning Commissioner training will take place virtually. This training will be provided by DOLA, in collaboration with your Town Planner, the Ouray County Planning Director and the City of Ouray Community Development Coordinator.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – December 9, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom



- **Special Joint Policy Group Work Session** – December 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Community-Wide COVID-19 Testing Event** – December 16, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Ouray County 4H Events Center Parking Lot
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – December 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – December 22, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

Do you know the last thing my grandfather said to me before he kicked the bucket?

Grandson, watch how far I can kick this bucket.