



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: February 9, 2021
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

COVID-19 DIAL 2.0

Colorado's COVID-19 Dial is a tool that allows Colorado to balance the ongoing need to contain the COVID-19 virus with the need for localized guidance during the pandemic. Dial 2.0 went into effect Saturday, February 6th at 9:00 a.m. At that time, counties were moved to the appropriate level on Dial 2.0. For now, Ouray County remains in Level Orange.

The metrics that determine the dial level have changed. The range of disease incidence metrics have increased for all levels to better reflect a balance between disease suppression and economic activity, given the level of vaccinations occurring and decreasing COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. Additionally, instead of looking at the numbers over a 14-day period, this new dial considers metrics within a 7-day period, making the dial more responsive. When county cases are increasing, the state will not require mitigation plans but will still encourage them. Once a county hits the metrics for a more restrictive level, the state will confirm the metrics then move the county to the more restrictive level.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the COVID-19 Dial Dashboard.

TOWN STAFF TRANSITIONS

- Shay Coburn, Town Planner, has accepted a new position with the City of Delta and her last day of employment with the Town will be February 19th. Her in-depth knowledge, poise and positive demeanor will be hugely missed. On January 29th, the Town issued a Request for Proposals seeking qualified and experienced planning consultants to provide professional planning services for the Town while the Town seeks to fill the vacant Planner position. Proposals are due on February 10th. The aim is to have a Professional Services Agreement with a firm or individual executed by the time Shay departs. The Town has posted for the full-time Planner position and it is currently listed as open until filled.
- Chase Jones, Public Works Supervisor, will be leaving his post in March. His last working day with the Town will be March 5th. He has been an excellent representative of this organization and his dedication, hard work and in-depth knowledge of all segments of our



Public Works Department will be sorely missed. We are in the process of putting a transition plan in place.

- Chris Bolane, Operator in Responsible Charge for the Town's Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant, will be leaving his role by April 1st. All of his efforts to keep the Water Treatment Plant running smoothly are greatly appreciated and his technical knowledge related to water and wastewater plant operations will be hugely missed. The Town has posted for the part-time Water and Wastewater Operator in Responsible Charge position and it is currently listed as open until filled.

TOWN HALL LED LIGHT CONVERSION

With assistance from several community volunteers led by Dave Jones, the Town has replaced all the lights in Town Hall with LEDs. In addition, the fixtures have been rewired to remove the ballasts, which has further cut energy use and has eliminated humming and the potential for ballast failure. A special thank you goes out to Steven Schroeder for all his work on this project.

WATER TRUCK

As budgeted for and approved by the Town Council, the Town recently purchased a used 2005 International Water Truck, complete with a rebuilt engine and a new tank and spray heads. The total cost was \$37,000, which was well below the \$50,000 that was budgeted for this purchase. A special thank you goes out to Mike Jenkins for all his work on this acquisition.

BUSTANG OUTRIDER – TELLURIDE-GRAND JUNCTION ROUTE

Bustang, CDOT's branded bus service, began in 2015 with routes from Denver to Glenwood Springs, Fort Collins, and Colorado Springs. In 2018, Bustang expanded to include Outrider – a regional bus network designed to connect rural Colorado. Right now, Outrider is proposing to expand service to four new routes starting in 2021:

1. Sterling-Greeley
2. Telluride-Grand Junction
3. Trinidad-Pueblo
4. Craig-Denver

The Telluride-Grand Junction Route is proposed to start by running five days per week, pending demand for weekend service. Timing could be delayed if COVID-19 or other unforeseen issues impact ridership. This route will follow the same payment model as existing Outrider routes.

- Seniors ride the bus at half price
- Prices vary based on distance:
 - Telluride-Grand Junction (\$22)
 - Telluride-Montrose (\$11)
 - Telluride-Placerville (\$3)



CDOT recently launched a digital sales platform that will allow riders to purchase tickets through the Bustang Outrider mobile app. The app is available to download from Google Play and the App Store. Riders can also purchase single ride tickets when paying with cash onboard. All bus stops will be ADA compliant and accessible for individuals with disabilities. Outrider will implement flag stops, where buses will only stop if requested by passengers.

CDOT is continuing to hold individual meetings with key stakeholder groups to present the final bus stop locations, schedules and answer any outstanding questions. CDOT will choose the Telluride-Grand Junction operator through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The final RFP is pending.

GREENHOUSE GAS ROADMAP STAKEHOLDER PROCESS

In response to the “Climate Action Plan to Reduce Pollution”, known as House Bill 19-1261, and the Greenhouse Gas Pollution Reduction Roadmap, the Air Pollution Control Division has commenced a process to develop rules to address greenhouse gas emissions from the oil and gas industry. Members of the public are invited to attend upcoming public meetings on this subject.

Public Listening Session
Thursday, March 4, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Public Stakeholder Meeting
Thursday, March 25, 2021
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Click [HERE](#) to visit the Air Pollution Control Division’s website for more information on the stakeholder process and GHG reduction goals for oil and gas sources.

SPENDING OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUNDING DOLLARS IN 2021

As you know, the CARES ACT funds that govern the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CVRF) allocated to municipalities, counties and special districts through the Department of Local Affairs have been extended through December 31, 2021. The Colorado Municipal League is strongly encouraging their members with a CVRF contract balance to spend these funds by June 30, 2021. They explain that faster spending is better for all of Colorado as we prepare for the next phase of financial assistance from the federal government during these challenging and uncertain times. The Town of Ridgway’s CVRF contract balance stands at \$8,641.84. Staff is in the process of putting together a spending plan for the remaining funds.



MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Marshal:

New Part-Time Deputy

The Marshal's Office has a new face. Jim Duncan started with the department on February 1st and has filled the regular part-time Deputy position. Jim comes to the Marshal's Office with 30 plus years of law enforcement experience. He was last with the University of Colorado Medical Campus in Aurora, CO. He retired in 2018 and moved to Montrose with his wife Stephanie. He is still interested in law enforcement but did not want a full-time role, so the position works well for him. Jim will be working Friday, Saturday, and Sunday day shifts, so if you see him around, please say hi. Jim is a great addition to our department.

VOCA Grant Update

Victim Advocate Elaine Wood and I were notified that there may be some left over funds available under the VOCA program for 2021. We completed a survey and are meeting with our state grant administrator on February 12th to go over our request. We are requesting approximately \$10,000.00 more to cover the short funding from the VALE Grant. If we receive the extra funding it will cover the three agency contributions for this year, administrative costs, and will increase the amount allocated for victim advocate training.

CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk:

Update on 2021 Annual Election

The Town's annual election process began on February 1st. The nomination period ends February 19th. Four Council seats will become available, which are currently held by Angela Ferrelli, Eric Johnson, Beth Lakin and Russ Meyer. The election will be held on April 6th.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Diedra Silbert, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

Ridgway Space to Create Predevelopment

Much work is happening on all sorts of behind-the-scenes details as this major project moves toward financial closings and the end of the predevelopment phase. Town staff, with the assistance of external consultants, are close to being ready to issue the permit application after thorough review. Agreements between Town and Artspace have undergone a careful review process with the Town Attorney and Town Manager, including due diligence research on local preference issues and the federal Fair Housing Act. Artspace is working with investors on legal documents. Artspace is negotiating a limited partnership agreement with the Montrose County Housing Authority. Estimates of construction costs, which are critical to the closing process, are



being finalized by Stryker & Company, the general contractor. Financial closings are still anticipated in the first quarter of 2021 with the construction process beginning soon afterward.

Bank Building Selected

Local architect Sundra Hines, working with the prospective new owner of the Bank Building on Clinton St., applied in a statewide competition through Colorado Main Street for the Heritage Energy Pilot Project. The Bank Building application was selected as one of two inaugural projects for this new State effort to increase energy efficiency and sustainability in a historic building. Assistance will be directly available to plan for energy efficiency improvements while preserving the building and maximizing available incentives and resources in a coordinated local and State effort.

Heritage Park/Visitor Center Improvements

The newly formed Visitor Center-Heritage Park Ad Hoc Advisory Committee held its first meeting with 21 members in attendance, including Town and Chamber staff and a facilitator provided through Colorado Main Street technical assistance. Its plan is to meet three to four times to produce recommendations for Town Council about whether or not to build a new Visitor Center accompanied by budget and phasing priorities for the project. Budgeted for spring of 2021 are continued irrigation system improvements along Highway 62 and landscaping from the current Visitor Center eastward along the highway. The Chamber hopes to open again in May 2021 and plans to propose some improvements to the Visitor Center building which could be completed in time for opening.

Ridgway Creative District Creative Advocacy Team

Subsequent to last month's Town Council support for moving forward to merge the citizen engagement aspects of both the Creative District and the Main Street initiatives, the Creative Advocacy Team has begun to work on transition planning to expand and reorganize the stakeholder group. This work will likely continue for the next few months. Both Colorado Creative Industries and Colorado Main Street staff were excited about the change and offered various technical and financial resources to assist, if desired. A merged work plan for the two initiatives was submitted.

Certified Local Government

The Town kicked off its learning and exploring process on what it would mean to become a Certified Local Government through History Colorado in conjunction with Colorado Main Street by attending an introductory webinar from those two organizations. Three Councilors, two staff, and one community volunteer listened in. This historic preservation tool could bring in additional funding to locally designate and rehabilitate historic buildings. It would require the passage of a Town historic preservation ordinance and the formation of a historic preservation commission, among other requirements.



Colorado Creative Corridor

The Colorado Tourism Office awarded a fourth year of funding to this collaboration between five communities with certified creative districts (including Ridgway) to invite creativity- and outdoors-oriented tourism. The focus for 2021 will be on promoting the Corridor promotional video produced last quarter, building and marketing a new stand-alone Corridor website (separate from Colorado.com with its high cost), and further developing and updating content from each town. End-of-year reporting for 2020 documented the following:

Creative Corridor brochures distributed to Colorado Welcome Centers

Colorado.com Corridor Brand Channel Page:

- 13,643 Home Page Pageviews
- 13,506 Pageviews to Destination Articles
- 1,284 Clicks from Page to Partner Websites

Colorado.com Corridor Advertising:

- 824,887 Impressions
- 2.84K Clicks
- 34% Click-Thru Rate

Creative Corridor Facebook Page:

- Followers To-Date: 573
- Page Likes To-Date: 509

Corridor Instagram:

- Followers To-Date: 1,062. 100% Increase in 2020
- Following To-Date: 597
- Posts To-Date: 282

PLANNING UPDATE

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

County-Wide Planning Refresher Workshop

The Department of Local Affairs hosted a Planning Refresher Workshop online on February 3rd with about 15 Commissioners from the Town, City and County present. Thank you to those Ridgway Planning Commissioners who took the time to attend! We are lucky to have dedicated Commissioners like you. The presentation was recorded and has been posted to the Town's YouTube Channel. Click [HERE](#) to check it out.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – February 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – February 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Special Joint Policy Group Work Session** – February 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – February 23, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – February 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Second meeting of the Visitor Center-Heritage Park Ad Hoc Advisory Committee** – February 25, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

I went in for a COVID test and my doctor asked if I had a sudden loss of taste.

I replied, “No, I always dress like this.”