



## WRITTEN REPORT

**To:** Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council  
**From:** Preston Neill, Town Manager  
**Date:** March 8, 2022  
**RE:** **Town Manager's Report**

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### INTRODUCTION

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

### REQUEST FOR BIDS: LENA STREET NORTH PROJECT

The Town is looking to move forward with making improvements to Lena Street between Charles Street and Otto Street. The work will consist of the excavation, reconstruction and paving of the street, and the installation of sidewalk, curb, gutter, parking, drainage, landscaping and other related facilities and improvements on both sides of the street. The Town has issued the advertisement below:

**REQUEST FOR BIDS  
TOWN OF RIDGWAY  
LENA STREET NORTH PROJECT**

Notice is given that the Town of Ridgway, Colorado, will receive sealed bids from qualified contractors until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at the Ridgway Town Hall, 201 N Railroad, PO Box 10, Ridgway, CO 81432, to furnish all labor, equipment, and materials, and incidentals for the Lena Street North Project in accordance with the Contract Documents.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by contacting Joanne Fagan, Town Engineer, at [jfagan@town.ridgway.co.us](mailto:jfagan@town.ridgway.co.us).

The Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. with in-person and virtual meeting options. The zoom link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84809818844?pwd=NHB3YmIhRWWhYdGh5Y3gvTHdUYzNQdz09>.

Bidders are strongly urged to make an independent site visit in advance of the Pre-Bid Meeting. Questions regarding the Contract Documents should be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022.

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all informalities in bidding and to negotiate contract terms with the successful bidder, or to make award in such a manner as it may deem right for the best interest of the Town.

By: Pam Kraft Town Clerk



### **REVITALIZING MAIN STREETS: SMALL MULTIMODAL AND ECONOMIC RESILIENCY GRANT**

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Town staff submitted a completed application to the *Revitalizing Main Streets Program - Small Multimodal and Economic Resiliency Grant*. The request is for \$150,000 to support the Lena Street North Project. Specifically, and if awarded, the funds would go toward the construction of the sidewalk on the west side of the street and the integrated curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the east side of the street, as well as bulb outs and curb ramps on both sides of the street.

### **UPDATE ON SPEED RADAR SIGNS**

The Town applied to CDOT Region 5 Traffic for the installation of speed radar signs at two locations along Sherman St/Hwy 62. The signs have been ordered and, once installed, will be located on westbound Hwy 62 at Mile Post 23.16, and eastbound Hwy 62 at Mile Post 22.55. The Town is responsible for reimbursing CDOT for the purchase of the signs, attachment hardware and installation costs. The estimated ship date for the signs is May 6, 2022.



### **UPDATE ON HB21-1271 DOLA INNOVATIVE HOUSING STRATEGIES: INCENTIVES GRANT PROGRAM – CATALYST ROUND**

After venturing through a robust pre-application process (October thru January), the Town of Ridgway was invited by DOLA’s Community Development Office to apply for the Catalyst Round of the HB21-1271 Innovative Housing Strategies: Incentives Grant Program. **The application was due on March 7<sup>th</sup> and was successfully submitted on March 4<sup>th</sup>.** If awarded, the funding would go toward the Telluride Foundation’s proposed Rural Homes development.

HB21-1271 created three new programs to offer grant money and other forms of state assistance to local governments to promote innovative solutions to the development of affordable housing across the state. The Affordable Housing Development Incentives Grant Program provides grants to local governments to develop one or more affordable housing developments in their community that are livable, vibrant, and driven by community benefits. These incentive grants can help cover tap fees, infrastructure, parks/playgrounds and other needs and amenities that support the affordable housing project. Local governments are encouraged to pick one or two shovel-ready projects that can spend all of the funds by June 2024 and provide gap funding. Projects must provide community benefits (e.g., covering tap fees or infrastructure costs for an affordable housing project and/or with a childcare center, for example). A small portion can be used for needs and amenities in the neighborhood where the affordable housing development is located. To qualify, local governments must adopt at least three strategies from the menu of policy and regulatory options listed in the program guidelines.



### **WATER SUPPLY ASSESSMENT**

In a Town Council Workshop that was held on February 28<sup>th</sup>, Ashley Moffat, Senior Project Engineer, and Mark Mitisek, Senior Project Manager, with LRE Water presented the ***Water Supply Assessment prepared by LRE Water for the Town of Ridgway***. Over the last seven months, Town staff has worked with LRE Water to provide the information and production data necessary for LRE Water to quantify the Town's existing and future water demands, to evaluate the adequacy of the Town's existing water supply system to meet those demands, and to identify any deficiencies in either available physical or legal supply. The resulting investigative study can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#). The video recording of the Workshop can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#).

### **GRAYWATER UPDATE**

Staff attended the Water Quality Control Commission's (WQCC) February meeting to listen in on the Regulation 86 Public Informational Hearing. The WQCC agreed to the proposal for a Regulation 86 Graywater Control Regulation stakeholder process. The aim is to have a kick-off meeting in March to go through a proposed work plan and establish routine meetings. The division is hoping to have a proposal to the WQCC in May of 2023. The Town Manager will participate in the stakeholder process.

### **BALDY MOUNTAIN PROJECT DECISION SIGNED**

The Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forests' Ouray Ranger District and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Uncompahgre Field Office finalized an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Baldy Mountain Landscape Resiliency and Habitat Improvement project in Ouray County. The decision signals the kickoff of implementation of fuels reduction activities on up to 6,106 acres to benefit wildlife habitat, reduce fuels both within and outside of the wildland urban interface and improve landscape resiliency. The project will take place over approximately five years and provides for maintenance treatments in future years.

Mechanical treatment implementation is scheduled to begin this summer on the north end of the project area. Treatments will provide quality summer elk habitat and prepare the area for future prescribed fire. The focus will shift to improvement of bighorn sheep habitat and fuels reductions in the wildland urban interface as treatments transition to the south end. The earliest prescribed burning would occur is 2023.

The project has been closely coordinated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Mullin's Ranch, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Ouray County, Colorado State Forest Service, West Region Wildfire Council, Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control and private landowners.



For more information on this project, please visit: <https://www.nationalforests.org/regional-programs/rocky-mountain-region/baldy-mountain-landscape-resiliency-and-habitat-improvement-project> or <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=58554>.

### **SPACE TO CREATE LEASING INFORMATION SESSION**

Artspace Projects, Inc. (Artspace), the non-profit developer of the Ridgway Space to Create Project, hosted the first online leasing information session for Ridgway Space to Create on Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. Attendees learned about the upcoming opportunities for residential leasing, and how to apply. Attendees also received the latest updates on the project and met the project team supporting the leasing process. The session was recorded and will soon be shared on Artspace's website at <https://www.artspace.org/ridgway-space-create>. For more information on residential leasing, please contact Greg Foley, Director Asset Management, at [greg.foley@artspace.org](mailto:greg.foley@artspace.org) or 612-812-1999.

### **OURAY COUNTY FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP AND FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has provided the Town of Ridgway with preliminary copies of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for Ouray County for review and comment by Town officials and members of the public. FEMA prepared the preliminary version of the FIRM using a process that involves capturing flood hazard information in a digital format and plotting map panels using computer technology. In so doing, they have incorporated all non-revised flood hazard information from all current effective FIRMs, Flood Hazard Boundary Maps, and Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps as appropriate. FEMA has posted the digital copies of the revised FIRM and FIS report materials to the following website:



[www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata/](http://www.fema.gov/preliminaryfloodhazarddata/)

The review period provides community officials and citizens in the affected communities with an opportunity to identify changes or corrections to non-technical information, such as corporate limits, road names, and stream names on the FIRM or in the FIS report. Comments are due by Friday, March 18, 2022, and may be sent to:

Christine Gaynes, FEMA Region VIII  
Denver Federal Center, Building 710  
Post Office Box 25267



Denver, Colorado 80225-0267  
[christine.gaynes@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:christine.gaynes@fema.dhs.gov)

All comments and changes received during this review period will be incorporated, as appropriate, before the FIRM and FIS report become effective. The community's comments on the preliminary FIRM panels and FIS report are an important part of FEMA's review process, and they will consider them carefully before publishing the FIRM and FIS report in their final form. Once the review period has concluded a formal community coordination meeting will be scheduled so that the Consultation Coordination Officer can present the preliminary FIRMs and FIS report information to community members, answer questions, gather any additional comments, discuss community outreach efforts, and discuss the upcoming appeal period.

If you have any questions regarding the preliminary copies of the FIRM and FIS report, please call (303)235-4830. For general questions about mapping issues, please contact FEMA Mapping and Insurance eXchange at (877)336-2627 or [FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-FMIX@fema.dhs.gov).

#### **UPDATE ON TRI-AGENCY DINNER**

The City of Ouray is working to resurrect a regular event called the "Tri-Agency Dinner", where elected officials and department heads of the three local governments in Ouray County get together in an unofficial setting. Initially set for the evening of March 24<sup>th</sup>, **the function has been rescheduled for Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the City of Ouray.**

#### **WORKING TOWARD A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE ROUNDTABLE**

The Sneffels Energy Board, San Miguel Power Association, and EcoAction Partners are hosting a roundtable to discuss how to reach our goals, overcome our challenges, and develop actions that can be implemented to turn visions into a reality. They are initiating this event as a quarterly roundtable discussion and invite you to be a part of shaping our regional energy future. Topics for discussion will include:

- Increasing local renewable energy
- Electricity storage
- Electric vehicle transition & charging
- Electrification of building energy use
- Grid infrastructure
- SMPA rate structure

This initial online meeting will be a general overview and introduction of participants in order to help guide the development of a plan for productive action. It will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Please register [HERE](#). If you are interested in this discussion but are unable to attend, please reach out to Kim Wheels, Energy Specialist with EcoAction Partners, at [kim@ecoactionpartners.org](mailto:kim@ecoactionpartners.org).



### **WATER REVENUE UPDATE**

Staff is working to complete an analysis of Total Water Fund Revenues for FY2021 in an effort to see if the service revenue goal was met in the second full fiscal year since the current water rate structure was implemented. You may recall that the Town exceeded the service revenue goal in FY2020 by an estimated \$2,788 or 0.39%. The analysis will be provided in next month's Town Manager's Report.

### **HOMEBUYER OPPORTUNITY FUND**

Given Mr. Joel Cantor's recent pledge of \$50,000 to start an affordable housing down-payment assistance program, the Home Trust for Ouray County has begun running with the idea and has started organizing the "Homebuyer Opportunity Fund." The Fund is meant to assist folks in purchasing homes here in Ouray County. Through an upcoming campaign they hope to grow the "Homebuyer Opportunity Fund" to at least \$250,000 which can then be distributed to qualified applicants that need assistance in buying a home. The revolving fund could distribute up to \$10,000 per qualified affordable unit which would be due upon resale of the home which ensures the investment stays in our community.

### **ADOPT A HIGHWAY**

In 2021, the Town Council entered into an agreement with CDOT to "adopt" a segment of State Highway 62 from milepost 20 to milepost 22 for a period of two years. As part of that agreement, the Town Council committed to picking up litter a minimum of two times each year. All volunteers are asked to watch two safety videos which are located at <https://www.codot.gov/programs/adopt-a-highway/videos.html>. The time has come to pinpoint the first clean up event date this spring!

### **MONTHLY SPACE TO CREATE PROJECT UPDATE WITH STRYKER & COMPANY**

Each month, the Town hosts a virtual project update meeting on the Ridgway Space to Create Project. The next meeting will take place on March 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. Reps from Stryker & Company, the contractor for the project, attend each meeting to provide the updates and answer questions. The recurring Zoom meeting information can be found below. For more background information on this project, visit <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/i-want-to/space-to-create-ridgway>.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81166252778?pwd=VElvVWZlYllwSXY5ajRBZzhraY2UT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6625 2778

Passcode: 778450

Dial by your location

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 312 626 6799 US



### **MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE**

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

#### **Naloxone (Narcan) Supply**

With the increasing opioid crisis in the United States and an increase in Colorado, I found Naloxone (Narcan) Bulk Fund and the CDPHE Naloxone Standing Order Program. I reached out to these programs and was able to get standing orders through CDPHE and free Naloxone through the Bulk Fund which will supply the Marshal's Office with Naloxone to carry in patrol cars and have officers trained in its use.

#### **Victim Services Program**

Our Victim Advocate Elaine Wood was able to get a mass casualty kit supplied through VOCA and it will be housed in the Marshal's Office should the need arise within the county.

#### **Training Update**

Deputy Marshal Jeff Pickle attended Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Basic Training on February 14<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup>.

### **CLERK'S OFFICE UPDATE**

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Town Treasurer:

#### **Annual Election**

The annual election will be held as a polling place election on April 5<sup>th</sup> in the Community Center, from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

There are four seats becoming vacant on the Town Council, and seven candidates running for the office. The order of names as they will appear on the ballot were chosen in a random drawing and witnessed by the staff in the Clerk's Department. The candidates for Town Council are: Terry Schuyler, Kevin Grambley, Polly Enochs, Nicole Johnson, JT Thomas, Adam Beck, Jay R. Tunnicliff. There are four vacant seats, three which will have a two-year term and one with a one-year term. The candidate receiving the fourth highest votes will be given the one-year term. There was one candidate for Mayor, John Clark.

Voters registered in the Town may vote prior to the election, either in the Clerk's Office or by mail, after contacting the Town Clerk to receive a form requesting an absentee ballot. I will perform outreach to the community regarding election day, and how to vote prior to the election.

#### **Concert Series**

In January we began working to line up bands for this year's concert series, and I have begun the process of addressing all the other parts of the series. This year we will be returning to the Town running the alcohol tent. I had a few members from local non-profits speak to me about equity



in receiving benefits from the receipts generated by the tent, so this year we are going to try following what Paonia and Ouray have been doing for years, and will be supporting a different local non-profit at each show. We will ask the organizations that are chosen (from a random drawing of names) to bring members of their organization to volunteer in the tent, and will allow them a few minutes on the stage to explain to the community who they are and what they do. After the show we will share 10% of the night's proceeds with the chosen non-profit organization.

In 2016 the Town began closing the restrooms and renting port-a-potties for this event. This began in a year when the Town had issued water restrictions, and to mitigate the large amounts of water used, the facility was closed completely and the standing units offered. A few years prior to this, due to excessive lines for the two stall restrooms, a few units were brought in to augment the need to wait in line. The use of porta-toilets at the event is an efficient and environmentally sound choice to mitigate excessive water use. This is why the Town began to request all large events held in Hartwell Park use porta-toilets and we began locking the restrooms during events.

### **Love Your Valley Festival**

During budget workshops this last year staff reported that funds were not budgeted for the Love Your Valley Festival, which has been a fundraising event for the Concert Series. This event was able to raise money due to a large donation through sponsorship from Box Canyon Lodge of rooms to house all the brewers. After the owners sold the lodge, and loss of this donation, the idea of using the festival as a fundraising event is no longer viable.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE**

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

#### **Creative Main Street**

The eleven-member Creative Main Street committee includes Alison Etheridge, Arielle Bielak (chair), Ashley Perkins (Ridgway Area Chamber of Commerce rep), Clifford Pastor, Guthrie Castle, Jill McCord (vice-chair), Joan Chismire, Kevin Grambley (Town Council rep), Sue Husch (Secretary), Tammee Tuttle and Vanessa Backer. Amanda Gabrielson resigned from the committee in January 2022.

- **The group adopted a new mission:** Ridgway Creative Main Street nurtures a welcoming, thriving, ecologically responsible community and main street environment that is creative, unique, and unified. We accomplish this through facilitating community connections, storytelling, learning, gatherings, and place-building.



- **The group also organized new sub-committees:**
  - **Community Connecting:** Facilitate cross-sector connections to ensure work is not being replicated and that all members of the Ridgway community feel welcomed, valued, and nurtured.
  - **Gatherings:** Support and plan events that showcase Ridgway's creative and entrepreneurial spirit and bring the community together.
  - **Organizing:** Structure and organize CMS activities for visibility, transparency, and maximum impact.
  - **Place-building:** Champion initiatives that make Ridgway accessible, navigable, and "one-of-a-kind" for generations to come. Examples of projects include parks, parking, Space to Create, signage, reviewing street art, infrastructure.
  - **Storytelling:** Broadcast through digital, physical (reports, etc.), and community channels, the impact that the group and creatives have in Ridgway.

### **Heritage Park**

DHM Designs has begun implementing a contract with the Department of Local Affairs on behalf of the Town of Ridgway to develop a new concept design for Heritage Park that integrates feedback from the stakeholder committee whose recommendations were approved by the Town Council on August 11, 2021. DHM Design has committed to deliver a new concept plan by June 31, 2022.

In response to the stakeholder recommendation to “include representation of themes and interpretive information about Ridgway’s Ute heritage” the Community Initiatives Facilitator has begun information gathering about Ute heritage in the area. Initial consultations have taken place with local Indigenous leaders, CJ Brafford, Director of Ute Indian Museum in Montrose and O. Roland McCook Sr, Founder of Native American Cultural Programs. CIF is also reviewing historical texts and best practices for Tribal consultation. CIF will assemble a written report to summarize information gathering efforts. Further guidance from Town Council on the thematic focus of Heritage Park will be helpful soon.

### **Space to Create**

Space to Create construction is proceeding as planned. Expected completion is late summer, 2022. Artspace held a leasing information session on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Applications are expected to be available in the Spring. Interested candidates can sign up for updates at <https://www.artspace.org/ridgway-space-create>.



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – March 9, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – March 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – March 14, 2022 at 3:45 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Creative Main Street Group Meeting** – March 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom
- **Ridgway Parks, Trails, and Open Space Committee Meeting** – March 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – March 29, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Monthly Space to Create Project Update Meetings with Stryker & Company** – Last Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- **Annual Election** – April 5, 2022
- **COVID-19 Multi-Agency Coordination Group Meeting** – April 6, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – April 13, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Ridgway Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Local Government 101/Quasi-Judicial Training Workshop** – April TBD

### **JOKE OF THE DAY**

I went to interview for a job today and the manager said, “We’re looking for someone responsible.”

“Well, I’m your man,” I replied. “In my last job, whenever anything went wrong, they said I was responsible.”