



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: November 9, 2022
RE: Town Manager's Report

INTRODUCTION

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

WWTP POND LINER REPAIR

A contractor has been selected to perform the overlay work for the damaged pond liner along the north end of Pond 3 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The contractor is slated to undertake this work the latter half of this week.

SPEED RADAR SIGN TO BE MOVED

The speed radar sign located on eastbound Highway 62 at Mile Post 22.55 (near Amelia St. crosswalk) needs to be moved as the voltages are consistent with the solar panel not getting enough sunlight for the amount of activations. CDOT has spent a considerable amount of time troubleshooting on the radar sign and the decision has been made to move the sign to a different location that isn't blocked by trees. CDOT is aiming to get the sign moved soon approximately one block to the east next to the intersection of Highway 62 and S. Elizabeth St.

REMINDER RE WINTER EXCAVATION IN PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

In 2009, the Town Council adopted Resolution No. 09-11, adopting an administrative policy pertaining to winter excavation in public rights-of-way. That policy reads as follows: *"Absent prior Town approval, no excavation shall occur in Town streets, alleys and other rights of way between November 15th and March 15th in any year."*

MESSAGE FROM JULIE CONSTAN, CDOT REGION 5 TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR, RE WINTER MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

I hope you have enjoyed the spectacular and colorful fall season we've been experiencing here in southwest Colorado, but as we all know, winter is certainly on its way!

While our crews gear up for the winter with their seasonal trainings and equipment prepping, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of the procedures surrounding our winter maintenance operations.

Our CDOT patrols pride themselves on keeping our roads safe and open. We understand it is critical for our rural communities to maintain travel to access resources and medical care. But



please note, there is a bit of finesse involved with how we tackle different highways. We must prioritize the attention given to the roads.

- Any state or US highway that goes through a city or town's business corridor will be maintained and plowed 24/7. The same is true for most of our US highways, with high volumes of traffic, that connect our communities to one another. For example, US 160 between Bayfield and Durango, and Cortez and Durango will be maintained around the clock.
- Mountain corridors and passes: US 550 Coal Bank, Molas, & Red Mountain; CO 145 Lizard Head; CO 62 Dallas Divide; and US 160 Wolf Creek
 - It is important to keep these mountain corridors open as long as it is safe for our crews to work. However, conditions like severe storms, visibility, and avalanche danger may hinder operations at times, causing safety closures.
 - Safety closures may be necessary. All mountain passes, particularly Red Mountain, Lizard Head and Wolf Creek, may experience lengthy closures, several hours long, due to heavy snows or avalanche mitigation.
- US 550 mountain corridor and passes: Coal Bank, Molas, & Red Mountain
 - On the south side, crews' priority is Coal Bank and Molas passes in order to keep the highway open between Silverton and Durango
 - To the north, crews' priority is to keep the highway open from Ouray north to Montrose
 - Red Mountain Pass between Silverton and Ouray may experience lengthy closures due to heavy snows or avalanche mitigation
- Some state highways, with lower volumes of traffic, are plowed only during the daytime hours. These highways, like CO 141 between Dove Creek and Naturita, have signs posted stating the hours of the limited plowing service.

In regard to our avalanche mitigation, you are likely very aware that this program is a big component of our winter operations. CDOT works closely with its sister agency, the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, to determine when mitigation is needed for known avalanche paths that are prone to hitting the highway. Depending upon snow accumulations and the severity of the avalanche danger, control missions may be performed quickly with short road closures, or the missions may require more lengthy closures lasting several hours.

When time and opportunity allow, public notification of any planned safety closures will be distributed by our communications team. Please, note that there may be instances when last minute decisions may prevent that advanced notification. You may contact our regional communications team at 970-749-2015 or 970-385-1423.



We hope this helps you understand our approach to our winter operations. Please feel free to share the information with your colleagues and community members. If you have any questions, you may contact me anytime.

Safe travels,
Julie

HB21-1162 MANAGEMENT OF PLASTIC PRODUCTS

HB21-1162, which was enacted in 2021, prohibits stores and retail food establishments, on and after January 1, 2024, from providing single-use plastic carryout bags to customers; except that retail food establishments that are restaurants and small stores that operate solely in Colorado and have 3 or fewer locations may provide single-use plastic carryout bags. Between January 1, 2023, and January 1, 2024, a store may furnish a recycled paper carryout bag or a single-use plastic carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale if the customer pays a fee of 10 cents per bag or a higher fee adopted by the municipality or county in which the store is located. On and after January 1, 2024, a store may furnish only a recycled paper carryout bag to a customer at the point of sale at a fee of 10 cents per bag or a higher fee imposed by the municipality or county in which the store is located.

The Town of Ridgway currently prohibits disposable plastic bags and non-permitted paper bags from being distributed by businesses, so on January 1, 2023, only recycled paper carryout bags will be allowed to be provided to customers at the point of sale in Ridgway. Additionally, businesses will need to begin imposing the 10-cent fee for each bag distributed.

A store is required to remit, on a quarterly basis beginning April 1, 2024, 60% of the carryout bag fee revenues to the municipality or county within which the store is located and may retain the remaining 40% of the carryout bag fee revenues. A municipality or county may use its portion of the carryout bag fee revenues to pay for its administrative and enforcement costs and any recycling, composting, or other waste diversion programs or related outreach or education activities.

The Town is in the process of communicating with the business community about these upcoming mandates in an effort to be ready for a January 1, 2023 rollout.

COLORADO WASTEWATER MONITORING PROGRAM

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) is partnering with Colorado Wastewater Utilities to monitor pathogens of concern in wastewater influent at wastewater utilities across the state. The goal of wastewater monitoring is to provide data that can be used by local public health agencies to understand the presence and/or trends of disease in their communities for public health action. Public health action may include community messaging about the pathogen detected, the importance of handwashing, encouragement to receive



vaccines, and other resources providing more information about disease control for a specific pathogen.

Staff is aiming to, in the next week, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with CDPHE for the Town to participate in the program and to begin working the bi-weekly grab sampling of influent wastewater into our SOP.

MARSHAL'S OFFICE UPDATE

From Shane Schmalz, Town Marshal:

Statistics

2020 (thru Nov. 8th) – 3746 calls for service and self-initiated field activity

2021 (thru Nov. 8th) – 3901 calls for service and self-initiated field activity

2022 (thru Nov. 8th) – 3923 calls for service and self-initiated field activity

“I Love U Guys” Training

On October 6th, Deputy Ryan Hanson and Deputy Jeff Pickle attended the “I Love U Guys” training along with 54 other participants at the Ridgway Secondary School. The schools and area law enforcement agencies made contributions to make the training possible. In 2018 agencies throughout the area held a training at the Ridgway Secondary School and from that training we identified areas that we needed to improve in. Since then, we have worked closely with the schools to improve the overall response to a critical incident.

New Contracted Deputy

Deputy Rachael Esters has been added to our part-time, on-call deputy pool, Rachael comes to us with an extensive law enforcement background and is a great addition to the team. She'd also a part time officer for the Ouray Police Department.

Lock Down Drills

Deputy Esters and I were at the Ridgway elementary and secondary schools when they conducted their lock down drills a couple of weeks ago. We worked with school staff to identify any issues and ways to better communicate in the event of a critical incident at the schools.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES UPDATE

From Tera Wick, Community Initiatives Facilitator:

October 6 – Art Unveiling

John Clark joined local creative Cie Hoover and over 25 community members in a dedication ceremony for “Crescendo”, the latest piece of public art which Cie installed by the Athletic Park Pavilion. The artist raised funds for the project from local private donors and worked in collaboration with Public Art of Ridgway Colorado – PARC.



October 7 – Final First Friday

The First Friday event ran for five months – June through October – as a means of highlighting art and creative businesses in Ridgway’s downtown. Approximately 25 businesses and creative venues participated. The Fuse committee’s next step is to evaluate the outcomes of the event and consult with local businesses and creatives about how the event can be improved or reimagined to best showcase Ridgway’s unique art scene in 2023.

October 13 – Space to Create Open House

Artspace hosted over 60 new Space to Create residents and Ridgway neighbors who toured the new, modern, light-filled units, the resident-run gallery and the 2,000 square foot community room that will be managed by the Town. Residents are moving into the apartments at last!



October 17 – Colorado Main Street Annual visit and Main Street Open for Business Award

Nearly thirty state and local elected officials, colleagues from Department of Local Affairs and community residents gathered to celebrate the completion of the Ridgway Bank Building project which received a \$250,000 Main Street Open for Business Heritage Energy Project grant. The funds were received from DOLA by the Town of Ridgway on behalf of local business owner, Greg Young. Greg invested substantial personal funds, employing seven different local contractors to complete the needed masonry repairs and energy efficiency improvements to the historic Ridgway Bank Building, one of the few remaining historic buildings on Ridgway’s historic main street, Clinton Street. The Bank Building award ceremony





was followed by a visit to Heritage Park to discuss the COMS programs contributions to the project over the last six years. Staff and Fuse members met with the COMS staff into the evening at Lazy Dog Saloon to discuss ongoing collaboration opportunities.

November 3-4: Colorado Main Street Manager Summit, Victor, Colorado

The Community Initiatives Facilitator traveled to Victor, Colorado to take part in the annual Colorado Main Street Manager’s summit. The agenda includes presentations on communicating your community’s greatness, and community engagement. The Ridgway Fuse rebranding project will be used as an example of a successful project.



Upcoming events

Ridgway Independent Film Festival

November 11 – 12

Sherbino Theater

www.ridgway-fuse.org/RIFF

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

From TJ Dlubac, Contracted Town Planner:

The development review team for the Town of Ridgway includes the Town Manager, Town Attorney, Town Engineer, Public Works Department, and Town Planner. This group meets regularly to discuss various land use and development-related projects and reviews all applications submitted to the Town to ensure compliance with applicable rules, regulations, and standards adopted by the Town Council. This team is currently working on the following projects:

1. Yellow Brick Lane (Wetterhorn Homes) Sketch Plan and Preliminary Plat

Construction of the public improvements is underway. Staff is working with the applicant to memorialize agreements through a development agreement and an SIA. These will be coming to the Council for consideration when they are ready.

2. Riverfront Village

Installation of public improvements is still underway. Nothing new to report since last month.



3. Vista Park Commons

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the Final Plat for Vista Park Commons at their October 25th meeting with conditions. Staff is coordinating resolution of conditions prior to scheduling the hearing with Council. While staff received updated documents from the applicant last week, no meeting date has been scheduled at this time.

4. RidgSix PUD/PP (Mclsaac)

Conditions of approval of the Preliminary Plat and PUD are being coordinated with the applicant and staff. Once those conditions are met, a pre-construction meeting will be held, and construction can commence. This will likely occur in the spring of 2023.

5. Lakin-Arnold Plat Amendment

The Plat Amendment was approved by the Town Council at their October meeting. The applicant has provided the Town with mylars for Town signature and recordation with the County Clerk and Recorder's Office.

6. Ironrail Preliminary Plat

The applicant team met with Town staff regarding stormwater management on this site. Resubmittal addressing review comments is anticipated in the coming months.

7. Four Winds (McChesney) Sketch Plan

No updates since last month.

8. 320 S. Amelia Fence Variance

The applicant withdrew their variance requests.

9. Preserve PUD

Following a joint meeting with Board of County Commissioners and the Council, staff is coordinating necessary processes to facilitate the annexation of the portion of the project that is currently outside of Town limits.

10. Wilson Lot Line Adj & Variance

The rezoning, variance, and plat amendment were recommended for approval by the Planning Commission and will be considered by the Town Council at their December meeting.

11. Habitat For Humanity lots

Additional information was received by the applicant on November 4th. This information will be reviewed to determine completeness of the application in the coming weeks and will be processed according to the RMC.



12. Ridgway Village Condos

This application was deemed conditionally complete on October 29th and is now being reviewed by Town staff. No meeting dates have been scheduled.

13. 715 North Laura St. Temporary Use Permit

Upon review of the application, staff is trying to coordinate with the applicant to determine if this is the proper request for what is being requested. This is requiring coordination between the Building Official, Planner, Attorney, and Town Manager.

14. Chapter 7 Updates

CPS presented a proposed Table of Contents and select sample sections for Chapter 7 to town staff for their review on November 4th. Once feedback is received, CPS will put the pedal to the metal to complete a draft of the Chapter to present at a work session with the Planning Commission on November 29th. As a result of the discussions around the Preserve PUD, staff is recommending that the Chapter 7 updates include a section on Annexation as well. This will be rolled into the updates.

15. Miscellaneous Planning Items

In addition to the applications and projects identified above, the Planning team has been involved in a variety of other discussions:

- Building permit reviews
- Ridgway Lodge building permit coordination and interpretation associated with a proposed Food Trailer
- Trail Town building remodel to add bathrooms to each unit.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Ridgway Town Council Regular Meeting** – November 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway FUSE Meeting** – November 15, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom
- **Ridgway Town Council Budget Workshop** – November 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Planning Commission Meeting** – November 29, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Ridgway Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – November 7, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. in-person at Ridgway Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



- **Town of Ridgway Holiday Party** – December 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Town Hall
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – December 14, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom

JOKE OF THE DAY

From Steven Schroeder, Public Works Maintenance Operator II:

The bank keeps calling me to give me compliments.

They say I have an “outstanding balance”.