



To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: January 8, 2024
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

RIDGWAY ATHLETIC PARK MASTER PLAN ADOPTED

The Town of Ridgway is excited to share that the fruits of our collaborative efforts, nurtured through the master planning process for the Ridgway Athletic Park, are now final, adopted, and available for public viewing at <https://townofridgway.colorado.gov/>.

The collective voice of our community, coupled with expert insights from DHM Design, have guided us in crafting the Ridgway Athletic Park Master Plan, which will serve as a guide for the future development of the Athletic Park. The document features information on existing conditions, a preferred concept plan, community engagement and background, as well as funding opportunities and a preliminary opinion of probable costs. The final preferred master plan design focuses on athletic uses for the park, while also maintaining the well-loved panoramic views and openness of the space. Our aim with this project was to ensure that the Athletic Park continues to be a vibrant and integral part of our community, reflecting the collective aspirations of tomorrow. The Town would like to thank DHM Design and everyone who participated in the community engagement process associated with this project!



DUCTILE IRON WATER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Town has submitted a pre-application for State Revolving Loan Funds and a grant application for Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program funds (EIAF) to support the Ductile Iron Water Line Replacement Project in 2024. The project will replace 4,000 lineal feet of ductile iron pipe with plastic pipe designed to serve the pressures and corrosivity of soils. The pipe replacement will start about 400 feet horizontal below the Water Treatment Plant and extend about 4,000 lineal feet horizontal to the pressure reducing station at Moffat St. and Amelia St.



Related to the loan application, on January 3, 2024, the Town received a Pre-Qualification Review Letter from CDPHE laying out next steps in the process and an anticipated project timeline. A Project Needs Assessment is due soon (aim is January 10, 2024) to hold a required public meeting on February 14, 2024 to inform citizens in the affected area of the proposed project. The meeting will include a discussion of project alternatives, preferred alternative, projected rate increases, and construction and environmental impacts of the project. The anticipated date for the Town to submit the load application is April 5, 2024 and the anticipated date for construction to start is August 1, 2024.

GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON PROJECT UPDATE

The Town received \$100,000 from the Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Program to support the Granular Activated Carbon Project at the Ridgway Water Treatment Plant. On December 6, 2023, the Town received Option Letter #4 from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) extending the grant agreement expiration date to December 31, 2024. The Town has entered into a contract with Filter Tech Systems, Inc. (Filter Tech) in the amount of \$348,049.00 for the Granular Activated Carbon System Project. Town staff has worked diligently with Filter Tech reps to continue designing the treatment system to fit within the constraints of the existing Water Treatment Plant. In late September 2023, the Town submitted the updated design of the treatment unit to CDPHE for review and approval. As of today (January 8, 2024) the Town is still awaiting approval from CDPHE. We are approaching the 100-day mark of CDPHE review. Upon approval, Filter Tech will be authorized to begin constructing the system according to the approved design specifications. We are very excited to begin constructing and installing this project once we hear back from CDPHE and we are fully confident that the scope of work can be completed by December 31, 2024. We greatly appreciate DOLA's support and patience throughout this process, and we thank them for standing with us as we continue to pursue this project.

OURAY AND RIDGWAY COMMUTER ROUTE UPDATE

Last week, representatives from the Town, City of Ouray, Ouray County and All Points Transit met to discuss the rollout of the new pilot transit service. Below is a list of discussion points and information on how the new service will be rolled out next month.

- New Vehicle and Route Name
 - The arrival of the new vehicle for the route was confirmed.
 - Considerations about the name's spelling, hyphenation, and capitalization were discussed.
 - Consensus leaning towards "OurWay" with a capital "W" for visibility and appeal in graphics.
 - Encouragement for further suggestions via email.
- Route and Parking Locations
 - Concerns about the steep and icy location next to the Ouray firehouse were raised.



- Alternative location near the school was considered but found unsuitable due to school buses.
 - A new suggestion was made to use the area near City Hall, specifically between an alley and a brewery, considering the terrain and traffic.
 - Consensus is that the southern side of the fire station on the corner of 6th Avenue and 4th Street should be safe and accessible to the vehicle, even in snow and ice.
- Operational Logistics
 - Discussion on the feasibility of operating the route five days a week due to maintenance requirements.
 - The need for a backup vehicle was discussed, along with potential limitations on current vehicles owned by APT due to grant restrictions.
- Route Schedule and Purpose
 - Clarity was sought on the schedule, focusing on later hours to cater to Main Street restaurant employees and tourists.
 - Proposed schedule included early morning starts and late evening finishes, varying between winter and summer.
 - During the winter, the van should arrive in Ouray by 11:00 in winter, around 10:00 in summer for the first route; the last route should depart Ouray around 21:15 in winter and 22:15 in summer.
- Inclement Weather Plan
 - Strategies for handling service disruptions during bad weather were discussed.
 - The importance of a communication plan for notifying passengers of service changes was emphasized.
- Service Funding and Start Plan
 - Confirmation of federal funding received for the route.
 - The goal to start the service by February was stated, depending on completion of vehicle graphics and scheduling logistics.
- Passenger Capacity and Ticketing
 - Concerns were raised about the van's capacity, especially when accommodating a wheelchair.
 - Discussion on ticketing options, including the feasibility of weekly or monthly passes, to manage demand and ensure seat availability.
- Action Items:
 - Finalize the vehicle route name and design graphics accordingly.
 - Finalize the most suitable parking and stopping locations for the Ouray "in-town" stop.
 - Develop a detailed schedule for the route, considering operational logistics and maintenance.
 - Create a plan for inclement weather situations, including communication strategies.



- Explore options for managing passenger capacity and ticketing.
- Investigate the possibility of using reserve vehicles as backup.

A LEGACY THAT MATTERS

I'm subscribed to Strategic Government Resources' free, weekly newsletter *10 in 10 Update on Servant Leadership*. I thought I'd share a message from one of their recent newsletters that encourages elected officials to make eleven commitments that will help them leave a legacy that matters.

A Legacy That Matters

In electing me to office, my fellow citizens have entrusted me with the sacred duty of shaping the future of our community. Because I am committed to creating a future that is brighter and healthier and more beneficial to all citizens than when I was called to lead, I will:

Base my decisions on the next generation more than the next election - and remain committed to the ideal that my loyalty must be to the entire community, both now and in the future, and not merely to those who got me elected.

Focus on our mission, vision, and values as a benchmark for my decisions and recognize that my responsibility is the pursuit of the greatest good for the entire community and not the satisfaction of any particular group's agenda.

Make decisions centered on fact-based evidence and not allow myself to be manipulated into bad decisions based on the decibel level of the critics.

Recognize that "it takes a smart person to know where they are stupid" - and have the wisdom to be smart. Accordingly, I will value those who have the courage to tell me what they really think, and I will listen sincerely to those who disagree with me to truly understand their perspective, recognizing that understanding other perspectives makes me a better leader.

Embrace my responsibility to govern rather than to manage, recognizing that if I am doing staff's jobs, I am not doing my job—while also understanding and embracing the appropriately exercised governance role of holding staff accountable.



Place a greater emphasis on solutions than on a problem - while refusing to offer solutions before I understand the problem.

Understand that my deeply held beliefs, values, and positions will be strengthened, not compromised by, courteous, respectful, and civil discourse. I will not treat someone as the enemy just because we disagree.

Protect the integrity of the process more than the rightness of my position. I will fight hard for my issue but will unify behind the governing body once the decision is made, even if I disagree with the outcome, because the decision was made with integrity of process.

Understand that my deeply held beliefs, values, and positions will be strengthened, not compromised by, courteous, respectful, and civil discourse. I will not treat someone as the enemy just because we disagree.

Treat everyone with dignity and respect because of who I am as a leader - not because of how they treat me or what I think about them.

Be a role model for civility. I will not treat my colleagues or staff in any way that I would be embarrassed by if my five-year-old child treated someone the same way.

NEW STATEWIDE SINGLE USE PLASTICS RULES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024

One of the important pieces of legislation that CC4CA advanced in 2021, the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act, has a number of important provisions taking effect on January 1. The Legislature adopted House Bill 21-1162 in 2021. The first implementation phase took effect January 1, 2023 and required large retailers in the state to charge a minimum fee on single use plastic and paper checkout bags. The legislation was a priority for CC4CA in part because so many of the members wanted stronger local rules on single-use plastics but were arguably preempted by state law.

More generally, the legislation also gets at the continued production and disposal of single use plastics, which are highly problematic from a climate, toxics, resource use, and landfill management perspective.

The Provisions Taking Effect January 1

1. No More Plastic Check-Out Bags (Large Colorado Retailers)



Large Colorado retailers are prohibited from distributing plastic checkout bags beginning when their remaining supplies are used up or June 1, 2024, whichever comes first.

2. Continued Minimum Bag Fee (Large Colorado Retailers)

Large Colorado retailers must continue charging a minimum fee of \$0.10 per paper checkout bag and for remaining supplies of plastic bags until they run out or until June 1, 2024 (whichever happens first for each retailer). Retailers are required to remit \$0.06 of each bag fee to their municipality on a quarterly basis and are allowed to keep the remaining \$0.04.

3. No More Styrofoam Food and Beverage Containers (Retail Food Establishments)

Retail food establishments may no longer use polystyrene foam (i.e., Styrofoam) containers for food and beverages. Remaining supplies may still be distributed but new polystyrene foam containers may not be purchased.

STATE APPROVES PLAN TO REDUCE OZONE POLLUTION

Colorado has adopted a new plan to reduce ozone pollution across the state. The plan contains new protections for communities that are cumulatively impacted by pollution. These are communities that are overburdened by the impacts of environmental health risks. Reducing ozone pollution is one of the state's top priorities because it can cause health impacts.

The Air Quality Control Commission voted to adopt the plan on December 15, 2023. The new State Implementation Plan will help Colorado achieve federal standards for ozone pollution. The commission also adopted innovative measures to curb air pollution emissions from the oil and gas sector.

The commission also unanimously agreed to reduce air pollution from gas-powered lawn and garden equipment. The commission is expected to formally adopt the rule in February 2024.

For more information, visit <https://cdphe.colorado.gov/nonattainment-federal-ozone-pollution-standards>.

BLACK HILLS ENERGY ANNOUNCES CLEAN HEAT PLAN TO ADDRESS COLORADO'S STATEWIDE EMISSIONS REDUCTION MANDATE

Black Hills Energy announced the filing of its first ever Clean Heat Plan to address Colorado's statewide mandate calling for the reduction of both greenhouse gas emissions from the natural gas delivery system and emissions created by customers who use natural gas in their home or business.

According to a 2021 Colorado law, natural gas utility companies are required to submit Clean Heat Plans to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission that model scenarios for achieving emission reduction targets of 4% by 2025 and 22% by 2030, based on a 2015 baseline. The plan



must utilize qualified Clean Heat resources and include options that achieve the emission reduction target and stay within an annual spending cap of no more than 2.5% of a utility's annual retail sales revenue.

The 2015 baseline doesn't account for significant customer growth in natural gas usage driven by Colorado's population boom, customer desire for natural gas, and colder weather over the past eight years, especially in the mountain communities and areas of the front range served by Black Hills Energy. With this in mind, the seemingly modest Clean Heat emission reduction targets are, in reality, aggressive mandates, as emissions must be brought below 2015 levels. This increases Black Hills Energy's actual targets to a 25% emission reduction by 2025 and 43% reduction by 2030.

To learn more about Black Hills Energy's Clean Heat Plan, its preferred plan and optional scenarios, visit www.blackhillsenergy.com/clean-heat.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – January 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **FUSE Creative Main Street Committee Meeting & COMS Annual Visit** – January 16, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Parks, Trails & Open Space Committee Meeting** – January 17, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.
- **Youth Advisory Council Meeting** – TBD
- **Planning Commission Meeting** – January 30, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting** – February 7, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Special Meeting (*Public Hearing for Town of Ridgway Ductile Iron Water Line Replacement Project*)** – February 14, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** – February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in-person at Town Hall and virtually via Zoom



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JOKE OF THE DAY

From Russ Meyer, Mayor Pro-Tem:

What do you call a Christmas wreath made of one-hundred-dollar bills?

Areatha Franklins