



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: February 24, 2023
Re: Info Update

THE SECOND HAPPIEST TIME OF YEAR

Everyone knows the happiest time of the year is budget development time. A time to set priorities and put our resources into those goals..... be still my beating heart. So, it goes to reason that Audit Season is the second happiest time of year; and that season is upon us. Attached is a love note (aka, a notification letter) from our audit team at EideBailly. The letter explains what the Audit Team will be looking at and what risks they will be focused on. At least one member of Council should expect to be called by the team as they go through their review. Let's celebrate!

CALLING ALL KNITTERS.....A CHANCE FOR COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Get your needles ready! Snowmass Village is inviting all area knitters and crocheters to participate in a community-based art project that is geared to generate smiles. Participants will have the opportunity to pick their yarn-bombing target from a selection of trees and other objects in and around Town Park. We have worked with Parks and Trails as well as the Village's Parks Open Space & Trails Advisory Board to identify suitable trees and objects. Free yarn will be provided and the fiber artists will need to provide their own needles/hooks. The crafting can be done at home, in knitting groups or wherever they prefer. Snowmass will have sample patterns available as well. Some inspiration can be found here <https://pin.it/5WINffv> Installation should be around the middle of June.

RAIN, SLEET, SNOW OR THE DARK OF NIGHT (In some places)

The Town of Crested Butte has engaged Kaplan Kirsch Rockwell (KKR) to investigate possible claims and litigation path against the USPS for failure to provide sufficient services in western slope Colorado communities. So far, the following municipalities have verbally committed to joining in this investigation:

- Avon
- Parachute
- Silverthorne
- Snowmass Village
- Steamboat Springs

Each community will commit up to \$5,000, sharing equally in the cost of this investigation. We expect to have an initial analysis from KKR in mid-March. No party has committed to anything beyond this initial investigation. I understand that Routt County, Steamboat and Crested Butte have all been contacted by the Colorado Attorney General's office recently regarding this topic. It appears like they are considering ways that they could be involved and supportive of our efforts, but no specific actions from them is pending. One very important bottom line topic is the fact that

our (lack of) service level is not a result of the dedicated staff that currently serve the town. We know our Postal Employees are doing all they can with the resources they have and we are greatly appreciative of their hard and dedicated work. Our delivery issues are not the fault of those folks working hard behind the counter. We are highly confident that this is systematic failure that is going to need a wide systems approach to solving the issues. Hence, the regional approach led by our friends at Crested Butte.

TID BITS

- Plans are continuing for the Brush Creek culvert project. We are planning to make improvements to Owl Creek to help traffic flow better for the 5 minute detour. Improvements include more rapid flash beacons at crosswalks and bus stops that are out of the flow of traffic. Details are still being developed but utilities work on Owl Creek Road could begin as soon as April in anticipation of a mid May closure of Brush Creek. We continue to try to keep the necessary work on Highline Road at a minimum.
- Base Village Building 10 AB is continuing through the review process.
- We remain on track to have the Short Term Rentals permit process in place by May 1.
- We are working to complete the planning documents finalizing the Snowmass Center project.
- The Village Shuttle is piloting an Audio Visual Announcements (AVA) system in one of our buses. Call it a test drive. The system is similar to the automatic stop announcement you hear while riding RFTA buses and will help us meet ADA compliance regulations.
- GREAT NEWS, we can help rescue the world. We received a \$40,000 grant to help us develop an Electric Vehicle Transition Plan (EVTP). Developing and adopting an EVTP is the first required step necessary to (eventually) convert our transit vehicles to electric buses. Considering some of the necessary vehicle technology may not even exist yet, these plans can be tricky, but they are important. The Council will eventually need to formally appropriate these grant dollars; the Town’s \$40,000 matching funds were already appropriated in the 2023 budget.
- Speaking of dollars, 2022 was a strong year for sales taxes. Overall sales tax revenues were a 36% increase over 2021 or about a 10% increase over the budget expectation. Every category of “industry” showed an increase. Lodging tax was up 49% over (a weak) 2021. These numbers are almost back to pre-pandemic amounts.
- The Transit Center will continue its hearing in front of the Planning Commission on March 1. It could be in front of Council as soon as March 6. We are trying our best to keep the Mall Merchants up to speed on where the project stands.
- The Airport is closed May 10-24 for repairs to the runway. The table below illustrates the final passenger #'s for January compared to the prior five years at the airport. Although it is busy, it is not pre-pandemic busy.

ASE Total Passengers In & Out								
Month	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	% Chg 2022	% Chg 2021
January	75573	77832	41700	79805	80807	75082	-2.9%	81.2%

CC: Department Directors