TOWN OF VAIL

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TOWN MANAGER REPORT - DEC 4th TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TOPICS

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IT Update

As previously noted, Steve Blair is Interim Department Head of the IT Department while we endeavor to fill the vacant directorship position. Currently, we are updating the job description for that particular position, and posting will quickly follow. The revised job description will include much of the existing duties and requirements related to technology information, but will include expanded language related to human resource management, strategic planning, emerging technologies, and contract administration. We are quite optimistic that we will land the right candidate … stay tuned.

As also previously noted, interviews are in progress with respect to filling the position, Technology and Customer Support Specialist (Systems Engineer I) as vacated by Mike Griffin. Final interviews are slated for Friday, Nov. 30th. There have been worthy candidates at the table. The entirety of the IT staff is engaged in this recruitment process, along with Patty McKenny who is now overseeing the IT Department administratively.

Finally, a position that was previously split between the IT Department and Police Department, serving as point of contact for requests related to police evidence records and laserfiche administration, has also been revised to now report solely to the IT Department, while performing evidence handling under direction from the Detective Sergeant. This will be an improvement with regard to overall organizational structure and accountability. The position, Systems and Evidence Technician (Systems Engineer I), is currently vacant and will be filled upon successful recruitment of the right candidate. The recruitment process of the Technology and Customer Support Specialist, as noted above, may yield good candidates for this position as well. Stay tuned.

From the above, it can be readily determined that the IT Department is quite understaffed and is operating with minimum resources. The staff has been doing a stellar job of sharing the additional workload and handling the many important tasks and projects, on top of the day-to-day duties and recruitment efforts. We are grateful for their dedication and extra effort during these lean times. We have also seen some incremental success in buttoning up contracts and other loose ends.

Fire Department Promotions & Awards

The 2nd Annual Vail Fire Awards and Promotion Ceremony will be held Saturday, December 1st at the Grand View. I will be attending to observe. Last year's ceremony was very well attended and quite moving in terms of hearing the many life-stories that underlie these advancements and recognitions. Please note the following:

Promotions:

- Peter Hodgson from Firefighter to Engineer
- Josh Eaton from Engineer to Lieutenant

Awards:

- Safety Award -- Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator Paul Cada
- Hazardous Materials Technicians (commendation bar awarded to new Haz Mat Technicians) -- FF Rio Burgess, Engineer Peter Hodgson, FF Oran Tool. Please note that this is an important milestone as we identified in 2015 a deficiency in Haz Mat Technicians, and since that time we have increased the number of State Certified Haz Mat Techs from 4 to 11.
- Rescue Technician (commendation bar awarded to those who are rope, swiftwater, ice and confined space rescue technicians) -- Lt. Jim Rabidue, FF David McWhorter, FF Airek Streetz, Engineer Zach Herwehe, and Engineer Peter Hodgson.
- Fire Chief's Commendation -- Lieutenant Ryan Ocepek.
- Field Delivery Recognition (assisted with field delivery of a baby) -- FF Rio Burgess, Engineer Michael LeBlanc, and Lt. Scott Bridges
- Distinguished Unit Citation (for actions taken to protect the communities of El Jebel and Missouri Heights on the Lake Christine fire) -- Lt. Jim Rabidue, Engineer Peter Hodgson, FF Michael LeBlanc, Wildland Coordinator Paul Cada, Wildland Firefighter Kelly Klein.

Other Organizational Updates

In addition to the multiple positions within the IT Department as addressed above, a few more updates here. With the recent hiring of Tammy Nagel to fill the Town Clerk position, we are now endeavoring to fill the vacant Deputy position. The position has been posted internally and we anticipate good interest. Stay tuned on that one.

Community Development Department is fully staffed for the first time in a long while. We are grateful. With our recent new-hires, we are off to a good start, and just in time with the Civic Area Plan and numerous big projects on the horizon.

A similar note is made with respect to the Police Department. There are no less than five recruits that are making their way through the Academy, who will soon start working as sworn officers for the department. Coupled with some recent new-hires, the department will soon be at full staff and this is long overdue.

I have been quite busy with evaluations over the past several months, providing in-depth discussions and establishing future goals with all of our twelve department heads, as well as two staff members of the Community Development Department who were due evaluations during the recent transitional period (these evaluations have occurred, or are occurring, with the assistance of George Ruther, Matt Gennett, and myself). I am nearing the end of the list (the newly hired department heads are still awaiting their meetings) and am happy to report that the processes have been very good and quite meaningful. The typical evaluation consists of several pages, with detailed recaps and narratives to substantiate the rankings. It is a bit more of a comprehensive evaluative process than what has historically occurred, and one that seems to be appreciated by the employees.

We will be having a staff retreat with our leadership team in the weeks ahead, preceding the next Council retreat. I will forward an agenda to you once it has been formulated.

Vehicle Emission Standards

Last spring (March 30th), individual members of the Vail Town Council joined forces with many other Colorado officials, and notably the unified voice of the Colorado Communities for Climate Action (CC4CA), in authoring a letter to the Colorado Governor advocating for lower emission vehicle standards. Actually, the lower standards as proposed would basically preserve current standards at the federal level, countering attempts in Washington to rollback (lower) the standards in 2022. I will not restate the letter but will provide the following excerpt of the first two paragraphs which highlight its contents:

> Dear Governor Hickenlooper:
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> On behalf of the Colorado communities that we are privileged to represent, thank you for your leadership in working to reduce Colorado's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. We ask that you protect that legacy, now threatened by the impending rollback of the EPA's federal auto emission standards, by adopting Advanced Clean Car Standards.
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> On October 5, 2017, your Department of Public Health and Environment submitted comments on the federal government's proposed "Reconsideration of the Final Determination of the Mid-Term Evaluation of Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Model Year 2022-2025." The proposal would essentially undo the fuel economy increases through 2025 that EPA adopted in 2015. By 2030, these standards are estimated to annually save consumers over $50 billion, reduce oil consumption by 23 billion gallons, and reduce national greenhouse gas emissions by 270 million tons. They have already spurred innovation in the auto industry, leading to all kinds of improvements – advanced aerodynamic design, lighter weight materials, better engine design, and new electric vehicle designs – all of which are helping consumers save fuel costs. In other words, these standards have been working well in Colorado and across the country.

On November 16th of this year, the Colorado Air Quality Control Commission voted 8-0 to adopt the lower standards, establishing Colorado as the 14th state (and the District of Columbia) to apply the lower standards. Insofar as the Town of Vail is an active member of CC4CA (and has been since the inception of this coalition three years ago), and insofar as the adoption of these lower emission standards has been energetically pursued by CC4CA, this represents a significant win for both our community and the coalition. Congratulations!

Mention should also be made of some individual efforts that really helped in this process:

- CC4CA President Anita Seitz (Westminster City Council) and incoming CC4CA President Jill Ryan (Eagle County Commission) both testified in August when the AQCC formally kicked off the process.

- Jill Ryan and CC4CA Administrator Tom Easley both gave compelling formal testimony during the final two-day hearing.

- Other CC4CA members testified, talked to reporters, and submitted guest editorials in recent months, including Aspen Mayor Steve Skadron, Crested Butte City Councilor Will Dujardin, the entire Eagle County Board of Commissioners, Golden Mayor Marjorie Sloan, Pitkin County Commissioners Patti Clapper and Greg Poschman, San Miguel County Commissioner Kris Holstrom, Summit County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier, and Westminster Mayor Pro Tem Maria De Cambra.

The below two articles include a nice write up on this major accomplishment, as well as an informative article about the growing membership in CC4CA.

http://littletonindependent.net/stories/colorado-finalizes-tough-future-emission-standards,273584

http://www.dailycamera.com/boulder-county-news/ci_32289384/longmont-might-join-climate-action-coalition

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Meetings & Events Update

Colorado Municipal League

I will be attending the CML Executive Board meeting on December 14th. The meeting is of particular significance, as will be the next one in early January, as we will be going through the recruitment process for the new Executive Director. The intent is to have a new director named before, or very shortly after, the commencement of the new legislative session.

I-70 Coalition Board

The next meeting is December 5th, 10 am, via telephone conference. I will be attending. The agenda has not yet been established.

CAST

The January meeting is in Teton Village, January 16th and 17th. While I will not be attending, Mayor Chapin is attending (I believe) and Kristen Bertuglia will be presenting on the topic of Sustainable Destinations. Others may be joining. The DRAFT agenda is set forth below.

COLORADO ASSOCIATION OF SKI TOWNS

DRAFT AGENDA
January 16-18, 2019
Teton Village, Wyoming

Wednesday, January 16

5:30-7:30 pm "Meet Me at the Wort" Reception – heavy appetizers and cash bar
The Wort Hotel, *50 Glenwood St, Jackson*
Hosted by the Town of Jackson & Teton County

Thursday, January 17
Olympic Room, 3395 Cody Lane, Teton Village

7:45 a.m. Breakfast – hosted by Teton Village Association

8:10-Noon Morning Meeting

Emergency Management
Rich Ochs, Teton County Emergency Management & Tim Mason, General Manager, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
Wyoming ingenuity and the spirit of the West came together to address a six day power outage in Teton Village following a major winter storm that toppled 17 steel electrical poles in February 2017. That August, Jackson Hole was in the path of totality of the Great American Eclipse.

Air Travel Program
Kari Cooper, Executive Director, JH Air Improvement Resources
JH AIR is a long running and successful program that promotes collaborative community effort to guarantee the availability of airline seats coming into Jackson Hole.

Transportation Panel
TDM in Teton Village: Melissa Turley, Teton Village Association & Jeff Ream, Apex (tentative)
Aspen Mobility Lab: Steve Skadron, Mayor of Aspen
TBD (Pathways and/or Micro Mobility presenter)

Noon-1:00 Lunch-hosted by CAST

1:00-2:15 Global Sustainable Tourism Council – Sustainable Destination Program
Tim O'Donoghue, Jackson Hole & Yellowstone Sustainability Destination Program
Kristen Bertuglia, Environmental Sustainability Manager, Town of Vail

2:30-5:00 pm Tour

Stilson Park & Ride
The Stilson intercept parking lot began operation in 2003, as a planned TDM strategy to reduce winter traffic to and from Teton Village. Today, an average of 275 cars park at Stilson daily in winter, where drivers board free START Buses and shuttles to Teton Village.

START Transit Facility
Southern Teton Area Rapid Transit (START) is a public bus service provided by Town of Jackson and Teton County. Opened in 2014, the START Transit Facility Phase 1 was funded by $11.4M federal funding (including a TIGER Grant), $1M state funding and $8.35M local funding.

Teton County Search and Rescue Facility
Teton County Search and Rescue (TCSAR) boasts one of the most elite rescue teams in the world. Their team of 36 volunteers is highly skilled and trained to perform technical rescues, including short-haul transport of one or more persons suspended beneath a helicopter, in the most extreme circumstances and terrain.

6:00-9:00 p.m. Reception & Dinner
The Mangy Moose Saloon & Steakhouse, 3295 Village Dr, Teton Village

Friday, January 18
Olympic Room, 3395 Cody Lane, Teton Village

(Breakfast on your own)

8:00 a.m. Morning Remarks from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort
Coffee and light pastries provided

9:00 a.m. Ski Day - Jackson Hole Mountain Resort

Vail Library Update

The Vail Daily publishes the *Give* Magazine, and the current edition includes a nice write-up from the Vail Public Library. Enjoy.

VAIL PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Community comes first at Vail Public Library. This beautiful facility is a free public library that allows access to all locals and visitors who come to enjoy it.

"For us, community is not just people who live in Vail," explains Lori A. Barnes, Town Librarian. "It's the guests, the seasonal workers, the people down valley who are stopping in, the international people coming to ski for a day. It's whomever wants to use our services — that's our community."

Six core values are the pillars of this enriching organization: service, excellence, integrity, engagement, wellness and environmental consciousness.

The Library offers a wide variety of community programming, for children and adults, and has implemented many print and digital resources to use, including a rich collection of books, extensive databases, online archives, and a full Tech Studio.

With two 3D printers, a green screen and a variety of robotics, the Tech Studio is a place for creation, collaboration and innovation; it is a place for you to get hands-on experience in a variety of technologies.

Evenings of Engagement offers sessions for children and adults, including presentations, book discussions and creative workshops. The Library's Healthy Lifestyle Series hosts free classes for the community, including meditation, yoga and dance classes.

Recognized as Actively Green since 2015, the library is always working to improve its sustainability efforts. The facility is also a Gold Level Leader in the statewide Environmental Leadership Program of Colorado.

"We are the only library in the entire state that is Gold Level, and this is due to our sustainability efforts," says Barnes. "Our environmental consciousness value is so important to us."

The Vail Public Library relies on the energy, passion, excitement and engagement of the community. The Friends of Vail Public Library work to assist in improving library services, materials and facilities, as well as help in seeking financial donations. Vail Public Library also accepts book and media donations throughout the year for our Book Sale Nook.

MISSION

To make a world of difference through collaboration, service and resources, to inform and inspire our community of users.

Healthy Lifestyle Series @ your library

TOWN OF VAIL

Holiday Decorations

Nothing to report here, other than the fact that the holiday lights and decorations look beautiful and the crews have been hard at work. I caught Dave Richardson at the covered bridge, in action.