



WRITTEN REPORT

To: Honorable Mayor Clark and Ridgway Town Council
From: Preston Neill, Town Manager
Date: March 6, 2020
RE: **Town Manager's Report**

INTRODUCTION

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

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE

Ouray County Public Health and Ouray County Emergency Management called a Multi-Agency Coordination Group meeting on Thursday, March 5th to discuss the local response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). We recognize that everyone has a role to play in getting ready and staying healthy. Our community should be ready to implement strategies to protect our community members from COVID-19 while ensuring continuity of services and operations.

In the coming days, the Town will work with Ouray County Public Health Department and other local government entities to communicate, through our various communication channels, updated information about COVID-2019 and current response efforts. We will post information on the Town's website and social media platforms, and we will post flyers on our community bulletin boards. Ouray County Public Health plans to send out regular updates to the agencies in the Multi-Agency Coordination Group. Another update meeting is scheduled for the week of March 16th.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. Their website, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>, is chalk full of information and resource documents about COVID-19. They are providing updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance. The CDC recommends the following everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.
 - CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).



- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

CLERK'S DEPARTMENT UPDATE

From Pam Kraft, Town Clerk/Treasurer:

Update on Annual Events

The Love Your Valley Festival will be held on May 30, 2020. The festival, which began in 1997 as a fund raiser for the Valley Land Conservancy (I was a member of the board at that time), donates all proceeds to the concert series. This event could not take place without the support of Box Canyon Lodge, which continues to provide lodging to all the brewers and band members. Orvis Hot Springs, another sponsor of the concert series, provides day passes for the brewers. The festival runs from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. and is free, with a \$20 fee to purchase a glass for microbrew tasting. The band this year will be Elder Grown, from Durango.

The free concert series, held every Thursday in July, will have five shows this year. We have a number of bands lined up, providing a spectrum of genres. I am currently recruiting food vendors. We have a commitment from the Chautauqua Society to operate the alcohol tent, and also from the people who worked the children's area last year.

Townie Tuesdays, free movie nights held at the stage in Hartwell Park, will begin on June 23, 2020. There will be six nights of films, ending on July 28, 2020. The following weekend there will be two nights of Telluride Mountain Film on Tour.

This year's Clean Up Day will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020. The location will again be in the parking lot at the Athletic Park, with four dumpsters available. The event will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end after all containers are full. Alpine Bank will hold an Electronics Recycling event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Clerks' Department

The annual election will be held on Tuesday April 7, 2020 for the Mayor and three Councilors. This is a polling place election, which will be held in the Community Center. Voters who wish to vote prior to election day can contact me to request an absentee ballot.

ROCC will host a Candidates Forum on Monday, March 16, 2020 in the Community Center. Additionally, the Plaindealer will publish information about each candidate in the local paper.

We are preparing for an organizational inventory of tools, equipment, supplies, vehicles and assets, along with preparation of depreciation schedules.

Finance Department

Last month we undertook a major update to the utility billing program.



A loan the Town has had for forty years with the Colorado Water Conservation Board was paid off in January.

The final numbers for 2019 marijuana sales tax remittances have been compiled. Local tax was \$322,443 and the share of state tax (15% of the 10% state tax) was \$135,362. These receivables are placed into the sales tax line item of the General Fund.

STORMWATER MASTER PLAN UPDATE

From Chase Jones, Public Works Services Administrator:

The Town has received all final deliverables from RESPEC for the Stormwater Master Plan project. The project consisted of a Master Plan portion as well as creation of Standards and Specifications for stormwater infrastructure. The Master Plan is very intensive and based on computer modeling, local storm history and public input. A computer program will now be able to predict maximum flow rates at various locations throughout town to aid in planning and development. Staff is doing a final review and plans to present this plan for adoption during the April 8, 2020 Town Council meeting. Final additions and edits are also being performed on the Standards and Specs documents. These documents will be combined and presented to Town Council with the new Water and Sewer Standards and Specifications when they are finalized.

BUILDING UPDATE

From Mike Gill, Building Official:

We are approving our first single family dwelling under the new 2018 code and it is a strawbale construction. In the 2018 IRC, there is an Appendix S that deals exclusively with this type of construction. Never before have we had a portion of the code that dealt with this alternate means of construction. The energy code will take some time to fully understand and enforce. I tell our builders that this will require their input as we try to understand the intent of these provisions. We have a great group in our building community. Their efforts to 'get it right' make my job easier. We will all continue to learn and improve our understanding of these new codes.

PLANNING UPDATES

From Shay Coburn, Town Planner:

Ouray County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan

Back in December, Council approved Resolution No. 19-19 adopting the Ouray County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, Comprehensive Update 2019. The resolution specified that the plan was adopted as approved by FEMA. On February 18, 2020, the Town was notified that the plan was approved by FEMA and the State and received the final document with a few minor changes. The plan will be on our website soon under Plans, Documents and Studies.

Park Pavilion

Thanks to our generous community, we have raised the funds needed to build a stunning pavilion in the Athletic Park! In addition to the \$300,000 donated by the anonymous donor, we raised a total of \$84,060



from various community members and organizations. The Town has also committed to providing \$25,000 of in-kind support.

The Request for Bids to build the pavilion has been published. The RFB documents are on our website so feel free to send it along to anyone you think might be interested. A recommended contractor and draft contract should be prepared for the Council to review at the regular April meeting.

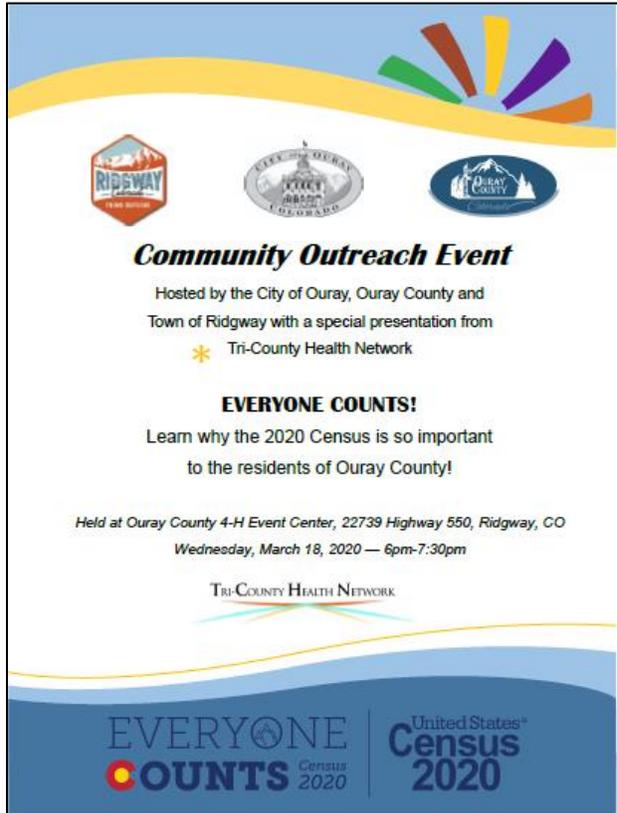
2020 Census

In an effort to get a complete count of our region's population, the Town is helping to promote the upcoming 2020 Census. Please help spread the word that the Census is important, easy, and safe. For more information visit <https://2020census.gov/en.html>.

Ouray County, the City of Ouray, and the Town of Ridgway are planning a forum to provide information and answer questions that the community may have. It is scheduled for March 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the 4H Events Center. Check out the invitation for more information.

Remaining Key Milestones for the 2020 Census:

- **March 2020**—The public can begin responding to the 2020 Census online at 2020census.gov. Replying by mail or phone will also be an option.
- **April 2020**—Every 10 years, we observe Census Day on April 1.
- **June 2020 through July 2020**—Census takers go door to door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.
- **December 31, 2020**—By this date, as required by law, the Census Bureau reports to the President of the United States the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state.
- **2021**—Initial 2020 Census data are made available to the public on census.gov.



Master Plan Implementation – Land Use Code Updates Phase 1, Address Housing

A Joint Workshop with Town Council, Planning Commission, and the public was held on February 10, 2020. There were about 35 community members in attendance as well as most of the Council and Commission. The proposed edits to the Municipal Code were generally well received with some finer details discussed. All participants at the workshop and those unable to attend were to submit their comments by Monday, February 24, 2020. The Town received about 10 very detailed written comments which have been



compiled and sent to the consultant team for consideration. Staff will work with the consultant team to reconcile the comments and bring a revised draft of edits to the next Planning Commission meeting on March 31, 2020.

LENA STREET INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

As you all may know, the Town submitted an Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Grant application to DOLA for the Ridgway Lena Street Infrastructure Improvements Project. *I'm excited to announce that we were recently notified by DOLA that we have been offered a grant award in the amount of \$125,000 for the Project!* The Town had requested a grant of \$145,250. The project was reviewed based on a variety of factors such as its connection to energy impact, degree of need, measurable outcomes, amount of request, relationship to community goals, level of local match and community support, management capacity, and readiness to go. Competition for these limited funds was intense and DOLA had many more requests than they had funds available.

The Project will replace approximately 700 ft. of water main and 700 ft. of sewer main under Lena St. between Charles St. and Otto St. The water main's thin walled piping will be replaced to meet current standards and lowered by a minimum of 1 ft. to prevent freezing. Additionally, the present sewer line has multiple sags, flow inconsistencies, obstructions and some ovaling present. A new sewer main would resolve the flow issues and provide full bodied wyes to each current and anticipated service to minimize future alterations and maintenance issues. The Project is slated to take place this summer and the total cost is estimated at \$290,500.

We have been in contact with our DOLA Regional Manager, Patrick Rondinelli, to discuss the Scope of Project and how to proceed.

STATE LEGISLATION TO REDUCE SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

During the current legislative session, several bills have been introduced with the aim of reducing single-use plastics. The status of each bill is provided below:

- HB20-1162 recently passed the House Energy & Environment Committee and was referred to the House Appropriations Committee. If approved and signed by the Governor as currently written, the bill would prohibit a retail food establishment from distributing an expanded polystyrene product for use as a container for ready-to-eat food in this state. The proposed effective date is January 1, 2022.
- HB20-1163 recently passed the House Energy & Environment Committee and was referred to the House Finance Committee. If approved and signed by the Governor as currently written, the bill would prohibit stores and retail food establishments, on and after July 1, 2021, from providing single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use plastic stirrers, single-use plastic straws, and expanded polystyrene food service products (collectively "single-use products") to customers at the point of sale.
- SB20-010, which was introduced in the Senate Local Government Committee, was postponed indefinitely earlier this month. The bill would have repealed the local government preemption in Section 25-17-104, C.R.S. More specifically, it would have removed that language that currently prohibits local governments from banning the use or sale of specific types of plastic materials or restricting or mandating packaging or labeling of any consumer products.



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- **Town Council Candidates Forum, hosted by ROCC** – March 16, 2020 in the Ridgway Community Center (Time TBD)
- **2020 Census Community Outreach Event** – March 18, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ouray County 4-H Events Center
- **Joint Workshop Meeting of the Ridgway Town Council, Ouray County Commissioners, and Elected Officials from the City of Ouray to discuss the Ouray County Housing Advisory Committee** – March 25, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center
- **Planning Commission Regular Meeting** – March 31, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center
- **Regular Municipal Election** – April 7, 2020
- **Regular Town Council Meeting** – April 8, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ridgway Community Center
- **New Town Council Member Training/Elected Officials 101 Workshop** – TBD

JOKE OF THE DAY

What's that Nevada city where all the dentists visit?

Floss Vegas.