

## **Town Manager Report 4/1/26**

### **Grant Reporting**

I have submitted all final reports for the REDI Ice Wall Expansion Project grant and LPC Housing Plan grant necessary to receive the final reimbursements and close the grants out. We are now waiting to receive the last reimbursement of \$3,770 for the REDI grant and \$6,000 for the LPC grant.

I will be submitting the MHN Design and Engineering 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2026 report and reimbursement request sometime in the next week or so.

### **DIRT Grant Writing Training for Staff**

We will be scheduling three 2-to-3-hour grant writing classes with Kristi that will most likely be weekly starting in the last week of April. Christina, Tina, Danny, Ethan, and I will all participate in the training. We will need to close the office down for 2 to 3 hours at a time while the training takes place. We will notify the public in advance once we have hard dates and times scheduled.

### **Community Junk Cleanup Weekends in June and August**

Tina called Reclametals and spoke with Greg the owner of Reclametals. He quoted us \$600 for a 30 yard roll off for scrap metal, appliances, old ATV's/snowmobiles, and even vehicles. He said that if we filled it up that it should pay for most if not all of the \$600 fee. We are considering having a weekend in June and in August where residents can get rid of their junk for free by using the roll off. We are working on organizing some volunteers to help with removing junk that can go in the roll off from the properties of elderly and disabled residents as well. Greg Levine has volunteered to remove freon from appliances for free. We will most likely use the medical center lots to have people drop off their junk in the parking lot in separate piles of things so that we can properly process and load everything in the roll off. I think there will be so much junk that we will need to get the roll off twice this year.

### **CCCMA Conference**

I will be attending the CCCMA conference in Glenwood Springs from April 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>. Since I will be out of Town I will have Christina attend the BOT meeting in person on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Water Meters**

Willy took several of the old brass mechanical water meters whose batteries had died to Montrose and got the meters bench tested for accuracy. All the meters tested passed and

recorded accurate usage. Now that we know they are recording accurately we now need to address the Bluff Street Master Meter. After we get a new master meter then we will be able to see if the old master meter was recorded accurately or not. If the numbers are still as extreme, then we will know that we have significant active leaks in the system. All this troubleshooting, data gathering, and technical comparison will be used in future grant applications for the new AMI system. The biggest thing that Kamstrup provides and that other systems do not is that it can detect leaks on mains between service lines and on the service lines themselves. We suspect that most of the active leaks come from service lines between the tap and the water meter and on old main extensions. Staff recommendation is to replace Bluff Well master meter.

### **Tina Coniglio Promotion to Deputy Clerk**

Tina just passed her six-month probationary period and received her 6-month evaluation. She has performed far above and beyond all expectations in her performance of her duties as the Admin Secretary and in all assigned tasks. She is capable and possesses all the skills necessary to be the deputy clerk and has expressed interest in the position, so I offered it to her and she accepted. After the election and we swear her in as the deputy clerk she will begin attending BOT meetings so that she can record and draft minutes. We are working on updating the deputy clerk and town clerk job descriptions to reflect a more appropriate and efficient division of duties. We will seek board approval of the new job descriptions soon.

### **Water Restrictions**

Western Slope water restrictions for 2026 are expected to be severe due to record-low snowpack and drought, with the Colorado Division of Water Resources warning of potential cutoffs for water users. Many communities are implementing immediate outdoor watering limits, advising residents to prepare for dry lawns and adopting proactive conservation measures as early as March.

#### Key 2026 Western Slope & Colorado Water Concerns

- Severe Drought Conditions: 2026 is emerging as one of the worst water years on record for Colorado River headwaters, with early snowmelt and high temperatures reducing supply.
- Potential Cutoffs: The Division of Water Resources is warning of potential shutdowns for water diversions, even for senior water rights.

- **Mandatory Restrictions:** Many communities are implementing mandatory Stage 1 restrictions, including limiting lawn watering to designated days and hours (before 10 a.m. or after 6 p.m.).
- **Action Required:** Residents are encouraged to reduce non-essential water usage immediately, including reduced watering of outdoor landscapes and delaying new landscaping.

If we do not receive significant precipitation in April then we should consider implementing water restrictions before everyone starts watering their lawns this summer.

### **Wildfire Tabletop Exercise**

Public works and I will be participating in a multi-agency wildfire tabletop exercise at the school on April 28th.

### **Code Enforcement Violation Notices**

Gabe and I will be working on generating the first round of code violation notices over the next several weeks with the plan of notice going out the first two weeks of May.

With the notices we will include a list of resources and places that people can call to donate vehicles for charity. We will also include a notice about the junk removal weekends for residential owners with a list of what can go in the roll off. I think this will help the process to be more acceptable and digestible by the public since we will provide information and resources to those that are being noticed.

I am also working on an application for people that may need either physical or financial assistance in cleaning up their property.

Any and all Town staff and Town trustees that are in violation of the junk ordinances will be on the first round of notices that will be sent out. The initial notice and period to bring a property into compliance can be extended up to a maximum of 180 days upon request.