



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: March 25, 2022
Re: Info Update

SHOCKING NEWS

January was busy. Sales tax revenue came in 94% higher in January 2022 than January 2021. To put that in perspective, this increase should remind us of how scary last year was regarding revenues showing up. Capacity restrictions were in place, COVID was hot and heavy and tourists weren't coming. In short, January 2021 stunk; it was the lowest producing January in memory, it was a super scary economic time. One year, later, January 2022 set a new record for sales tax revenue. The relative improvements between last January and January 2022 continue with Lodging Tax, up 179% over last year (again last year being the worst year in memory), RETT was up 63% over last year, marijuana and tobacco tax up 41%, and the County sales tax up 66% up over last year. A year ago, we were in a tough, scary place with revenues at super low levels. What a difference a year makes.

HEY, WE'RE COUNTY RESIDENTS TOO

Last year the Town wrote the County asking for its support to undertake a feasibility study to see if and how Pitkin County Library services could be expanded into Snowmass Village. Currently, the only Library services provided in the Village are:

- A courier takes requested items three times a week to the Rec Center for pick-up.
A public computer and printer, as well as an honor system book collection is located at Town Hall.
- Weekly story hours are presented during the high seasons at the Collective.
- A book return is located in the Snowmass Town Center.

There is obviously room for increased service levels. The County listened to our request and hired a consultant to start a feasibility/needs study. Details are still being developed, but in order to gauge interest and garner ideas, the County is planning several public outreach sessions in Snowmass Village on April 21, 22, and 23. Because the assumed logical site for a satellite library would be at/near the Recreation Center, we are planning to get the POSTR Board as involved as possible in this initial analysis.

HERE COMES THE 21ST CENTURY

Last year, the Town worked with the State of Colorado, Holy Cross Energy and regional partners (Pitkin County and Aspen) to install fiber optic cable from I-70 to TOSV (and beyond). Installation started last year and the initial project connecting Public Works, Town Hall and the Recreation Center will be completed this summer. The Town Council put \$500,000 in the budget for 2022 and directed staff to apply for another state grant so that the fiber optic cable could be extended up Brush Creek Road and eventually connect employee housing units, the Mall and Base Village. Well, ask and you shall receive (sometimes). This past week the state awarded the Town a grant amount of \$644K to assist with the Snowmass Village Partnership Phase 2 project. There is considerable planning and engineering (and a business plan) that still needs to be completed

(i.e. a ton of work), but I am confident this fiber project will prove to be a wise investment in critical infrastructure for the community.

TID BITS:

- The auditors have started their annual review. Yippee.
- The Mountain View major refurbishment project is getting close to being under contract. Construction, which includes a major moisture mitigation program and replacing the windows, doors, siding and decks, will likely start in May. We have known and planned for this to be a multi-year project. We have \$4 million (ish) in the budget in 2022 to start the project. In order to get the total project under contract and reduce the risks of inflation, we will be recommending/asking for a change to the budget in April. Essentially the project outcomes will remain the same, but instead of multiple contracts over multiple years, we will be asking the Council to advance the necessary funds to 2022 so the entire project is budgeted in one year. The dollars are available and creating one contract will make the project more (financially) efficient.
- We did not receive any bids on Snowmass Inn remodel project. We are developing a Plan B.
- We had 33 qualified applicants in the last lottery to purchase a Brush Creek workforce housing unit. No surprise here, the demand for these units has remained super high.
- A fun little fact, the \$13.5 million grant we received for the Mall Transit station was the 4th largest award in the nation.
- Warner Consultants has been hired to study how best to enhance the regional RFTA bus service to the Village.
- The micro hydro project is completed and commissioned; power is being generated. We will be getting the word out more officially in the near future, but in the meantime, congrats to the Team that got this project over the goal line.
- Be on the lookout for our new Marketing logo and branding effort. We will be making announcements and showing the new logo over the coming week.
- As a partner in the regional Emergency Dispatch Center we participated in a study to help find ways to make improvements to the service and to find more effective ways to pay for these improvements. We will be working with all of the regional public safety entities to continue this analysis over the coming months.
- Coincidentally, during a similar timeline, Pitkin County undertook an analysis/ needs assessment of the local Criminal Justice system. Fundamentally, knowing that the Pitkin County jail needs significant improvements, the County is trying to understand what those improvements should entail. The analysis is broad ranging including topics such as the rate of felony convictions, the time it takes to go through the court system, overall jail capacity, and how best to address other contributing capacity factors such as mental health (including Detox). There is a long way to go to determine what the best next step will be, but the analysis is underway.
- The Ice Cube art piece continues to be a PITA. We have asked the artist if he is going to be able fulfill his contractual obligation to the Town and deliver the art piece. While we have received some emails and missives about the increased costs of production, we haven't formally heard back whether or not he will be able deliver the art as he agreed to (and is otherwise contractually obligated to). We have already changed the initial

agreement once by removing the requirement for the artist to be responsible for building the pedestal and installing the art. We continue to await his reply.

- The 30th Anniversary of the Fanny Hill Concert Series kicks off June 16. Say it with me.....All the cool kids will be there.
- The season is getting long. Town Staff is powering through, doing great work with limited resources. While this time of year is always tough on the team, this year, in particular, is very difficult due to a number of issues including staff shortage. That understood, the entire Team deserves “big props”. Everyone continues to make great things happen and deserves a huge THANK YOU.
- Finally, Town Ski Day is Friday April 1. If you haven’t heard by now, skiing is really fun. And if you don’t ski, having lunch with your friends and colleagues on a sunny deck in Base Village is pretty nice too!

CC: Department Directors