

**From:** [Patrick Davidson](#)  
**To:** [Angela Ternus](#); [Tracy Hutchins](#); [Loren Einspahr](#); [Michael Schroder](#); [Shannon Downs](#); [Dave Conley](#)  
**Cc:** [Patrick Davidson](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Update for 2-7-2025  
**Date:** Friday, February 7, 2025 4:10:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

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Good morning, Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of the Board of Trustees. Here is your newest weekly update:

Audit by Unemployment Insurance Division. Last Fall an anonymous contact/complaint was filed with the Unemployment Insurance Division and triggered the Town's unemployment insurance to be audited. The audit is now complete, and there were no material findings. In 2023 the Town overpaid unemployment insurance by \$87.78 resulting in a credit for the future. The Division is now closing the file, and no further action will be required.

Planning Commission Trainings. As a follow up to my January 31, 2025, weekly update, the Planning Commission has had a total of fourteen (14) training workshops since March 2023. Should you have any additional questions regarding this, please just let me know.

Town Clean Up Day. Unfortunately, I left May 17<sup>th</sup> off the list of dates for Town events. The Town's cleanup day will be from 8:00 to Noon at the Town's Shop off Washington Street. Additional information will be coming, but I wanted to make sure May 17<sup>th</sup> worked its way onto your calendar.

Updated Housing Data. I try to provide the Board with housing data every few months to gauge the local economy, trends, etc. Zillow lists the median sale price within Elizabeth at \$663,882 and Realtor.com lists the median home price at \$666,900. Using the Realtor.com median, and applying a 30yr mortgage, 20% down, HOA fees, taxes, and 6.750% interest, the monthly mortgage payment remains quite high in Elizabeth at approximately \$4,250/month [\$51,000 annually]. With the median household income in Elizabeth being \$129,668.00, housing will continue to remain an issue.

Update on The Depot. The Planning Commission recommended the approval of the minor development and site plan for The Depot on a vote of 5-1. The matter will advance to the BOT on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

Employee Handbook Revisions. The handbook is being reviewed to comply with any changes in state/federal law, as well as to conform to amendments authorized by the Board last year. I hope to have it finalized for your review next week, and for Board action in March. All substantive changes will be identified to assist in the review. I will keep you posted.

Board Retreat. The retreat is being finalized, and will occur on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Elizabeth School District Administrative Office. The facility has WI-FI, projector/screen, and related equipment

requested by the facilitator. Staff is working to provide any office-type supplies that may be required. Food will be provided by Catalina's. The facilitator, Todd Leopold, will be reaching out to each of you via email to set a time to visit.

Community Development Director. The position will be reposted. There are lots of planning positions open across Colorado so filling this position at a department head level will remain a challenge.

Patrick

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**Cc:** [Patrick Davidson](#)  
**Subject:** Weekly Update for 2-14-2025  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:56:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
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Good evening, Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of the Board of Trustees. As you may recall, I will be out of the office on February 13 and 14<sup>th</sup>. The office is closed on the 17<sup>th</sup> for President's Day. My absence is for medical reasons for a family members, so I may be slow to respond to email, but should be able to respond Tuesday.

Community and Elected Board Meetings. A separate email was provided yesterday which gives the date/time of meetings of various boards. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to let Michelle or I know.

Notice of Board Retreat. The notice has been posted as a public meeting on both the website and on Town Hall. The facilitator should be reaching out to you later this week, or early next week to have some discussions on your individual hopes for the retreat.

Elizabeth Police Department Training. A couple of members of the Board have inquired about the police department training, and the need for the same. Law enforcement training is relatively expensive and is a large line-item expense in the budget. I was asked why the need for "extra" training, and what does it accomplish. At some level it is to stay current with learned skills such as marksmanship. In other instances, it is required for POST certification. Another category is simply to have a well educated and cross-trained department. In some instances, specific types of cases are rare enough in Elizabeth, that keeping skills toned ensures the right approach to various criminal issues.

Please note that attending the police academy and field training is the *minimum* necessary to be a police officer. Colorado requires a minimum of 556 basic training hours, as well as 24 yearly in-service hours for new police officers. To put this in perspective, nationally a cosmetologist generally requires 3,000 training hours, a plumber requires 3,500 training hours, and a nurse 4,500 training hours. While this does not put an emphasis on the importance of one career over another, it does demonstrate how training is viewed in differing occupations. The goal of the EPD is to maximize as many training opportunities as possible, and to have officers attend "train the trainer" programs so that the skills learned elsewhere can be taught to others in Elizabeth. Lastly, it has been documented time and time again that increased training improves proficiency; reduces incidents of negligence; improves officer safety; reduces the likelihood of lawsuits and claims against departments; and reduces the likelihood of officer involved shootings and fatalities.

Bulmer Transaction. I have visited with Corey, and he will be completing the updates for the paperwork for the transaction. He will also be here on February 25<sup>th</sup> for any questions the board may

have to finalize the process.

Morrison Police Department. The Town of Morrison is again disbanding its police department. We are one of the departments that are being given “first picks” for some equipment they have, including training equipment, Tasers, office furniture, vehicles, tactical equipment, a gun safe, and other supplies. These items are between good to new-in-box condition. Some of these can and will be used going forward, and some may be kept in reserve as back-up. These items will be free. [Ultimately, if we end up with things we truly do not need or cannot use, we will plan on providing to the Elbert County Sheriff or the Simla PD.] In addition, we are working to secure between 3 and 4 of their Ford Explorers. These are fully equipped and in good condition. They will have cages, lights/sirens, equipment upgrades, etc. These vehicles are at about ½ their anticipated useful life, so likely have 5-7 years of service left in them. These vehicles are also free to the Town, subject to having them restriped with Town of Elizabeth emblems, etc. The cost of striping is about \$650 per vehicle. Finally, there is a Polaris Ranger (side by side) 4-seat that we will likely be able to acquire. It may also be free to the Town.

There are an additional 11 Chevy Tahoe police vehicles, and 2 Dodge Chargers that will be for sale. We do not have prices yet but will be visiting with Morrison to get more information. Some of these are only a year or two old, and fully equipped with cages, lights, etc. While we are not anticipating the purchase of vehicles for PD until 2026, and no funds are set aside this year, this may be a good time to act. The Town currently has \$135,205.95 in its vehicle depreciation account. Of this, \$38,197.58 is earmarked for PD. Additionally, PD has \$73,349.10 in its Police Impact Fee Account. The last pickups purchased were 2024 Ford F150s and with purchase price and upfit were \$66,378.88. If the vehicles offered by Morrison are even ½ of the new price, this would be a substantial savings for the Town, and can be done with existing funds, subject to Board approval. I hope to have more information to you for a discussion on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great weekend!

Patrick

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