From:	Patrick Davidson
To:	Angela Ternus; Tracy Hutchins; Loren Einspahr; Michael Schroder; Shannon Downs; Dave Conley; Steve Gaither
Cc:	Patrick Davidson
Subject:	Weekly Update for 2-28-2025
Date:	Friday, February 28, 2025 1:41:00 PM
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Good afternoon, Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem, and Members of the Board of Trustees. Here is your newest weekly update:

Federal Funding/Executive Orders. Michelle and I attended a Zoom meeting discussing the impacts of the recent executive orders on local government throughout the State. There were approximately 600 participants on the call. Representatives of DOLA, the Governor's Office, Senator Hickenlooper's Office, and CML also participated. Here are the key takeaways: (1) The term "probationary" employees included long-term federal employees who were in a probationary phase due to a promotion. As such, it applies to administrative and command level roles in the Forest Service, Park Service, Federal Law Enforcement, FEMA, Wildland Fire Protection, as well as newly hired, out-of-college, employees. (2) Some communities and counties in the state are being notified that fire mitigation, anticipated firefighting, and related services are on hold for the upcoming fire season. Additionally, as you may know, local FEMA and OEM services are usually subsidized by Federal Grants. These are on hold for now, calling into question FEMA and OEM responses to summer emergencies. (3) In agricultural communities, grazing permit renewals, project matching funds, water projects, and related items are on hold or may be cancelled. A loss of matching funds and cease work orders are being to be received. It is uncertain what will happen to those projects which are to receive grant funds from reimbursement after a project as opposed as to prior to the start of construction. At this time, it does not appear that the Town of Elizabeth will be directly impacted by any of the Executive Orders [other than the sidewalk Kiowa Ave. grant] but we will keep you posted.

Sheep Fire Mitigation Project. A county resident, near the wastewater plant, has expressed disappointment in the use of sheep for fire mitigation. They would like it to be put out to bidder next summer if possible. It appears that they have horses that they want to pasture on the Town property. I will be working with Mike on this for next year, but I would note that the type of feed that the sheep eat can vary substantially from what either cattle or horses may eat, and this was the reason for Mike's decision. Because you may be contacted, I wanted you aware of the discussions.

Accessibility Updates. In 2022 the State passed digital accessibility laws subject to formal rules to be established prior to July 1, 2024. Recognizing in May/June 2024 that the technology either did not exist, or was price prohibitive, certain leeway has been provided to

municipalities. We are working to update forms on the website to assist in accessibility; changes to the way content is displayed; changes to font size and style; highlighted colors; and similar changes. In addition, not all digital programs work well together in this regard. For example, the Caselle accounting program can convert files to excel for conversion to .pdf. However, the accessibility program struggles to convert the .pdf to an accessible document due to the rows and columns found in accounting. Some of these changes are being now made through manual corrections. You will be seeing changes to the website, Laserfiche file storage, emails, and board packet memos to reflect these changes, and as such, we wanted you aware as you encounter changes. Should you run into problems viewing documents, please do not hesitate to let us know. If you are having difficulties, it may mean that others including the public may be encountering similar issues.

Community Development Director Position. After reposting for the position, we have received two (2) additional applicants. We will be conducting initial interviews on Monday, May 3rd. I will keep you posted of any progress in this regard.

Town Water Team Meeting. For those newer members of the Board, the Town has an experienced "water team" that we use for permitting, annexation reviews, wastewater design, etc. The team includes a water attorney, engineers, hydrologists, and geologists. It has been about 15 months since we all last visited together on the status of the Town, and we were able to walk through some thoughts on possible revisions to the water/sewer master plan, renewable water resources, and updates on Colorado water law. The team is interested in doing a Water 101 presentation to the Board to provide background information to Colorado water law as well as geology/hydrology in our area. We will be exploring dates and times, but they are proposing a pre-meeting workshop followed by a light agenda, perhaps in May.

Bulmer Transaction/The Depot Parking. The land transaction went off without a hitch. The land now is the owner of the property for the location of The Depot parking lot. Mike is working with Martin on the possible RFP for construction.

CORE Investment Account. A question was raised during a recent Board meeting about the availability of unallocated funds for a grant match. During that discussion, the "Core Investment Account" was identified as a possible revenue source. This account was set up on January 31, 2015, with an opening deposit of $389,691.10. The opening deposit was made prior to the adoption of our Caselle accounting program, and paper documents on the account appear to have been purged years ago. The account was likely set up to receive electronic payments from the State and is the payee account for payments like the CTF (Conservation Trust Fund 10-33-3000) and the HUTF (Highway User Taxes 21-33-1000). According to the Town's records no withdrawals have ever occurred. As of the date of this memorandum, the account balance is $5,219,260.24 and currently the account generates approximately $16,000 per month in interest revenue which stays in the account and is

subject to compounded interest.

Have a great weekend!

Patrick

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