

To: Minturn Town Council  
From: Michelle Metteer  
Date: December 6, 2023  
RE: Town Manager Update

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### **Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Grant Award**

The town of Minturn has been awarded a SS4A grant in the amount of \$80,000 for the creation of a Safety Action Plan (Plan). This Plan will identify the primary areas of risk to pedestrians, vehicles, and multimodal forms of transportation. The town will look to utilize this Plan toward supporting larger grant applications to address transportation safety within town. I participated in the grant kick-off meeting this week and will work to create an RFP for finding a facilitator to take the town through the community-centric process of creating the Plan.

### **Revitalizing Main Streets (CDOT) Grant Application**

Minturn has applied for a grant to improve upon the initial work planned for the Railroad Ave corridor. With the approximately \$80k committed by the Minturn North Development, Minturn would like to utilize those funds as a match toward a larger project of improving the North Minturn area corridor's access to Main Street. The Town will conduct the approved Railroad Ave work regardless of the grant approval, but if the grant is approved, we will be able to add a bulbout at the Railroad Ave/North Main Street intersection, additional walkways along the municipal lot and North Main Street and work at the Main Street intersection that is in line with the recently approved Community Plan. Total project cost applied for is \$252,000 with a 10% match included.

### **Minturn Concrete Water Tank #3**

Tank #3 is now online and operational. Final payment to the contractor and subs has been approved. John Volk is applying to the CDPHE for approval of the .1 baffling factor which allows the town to utilize the tank for necessary contact time requirements.

### **Evacuation Planning**

I met with representatives of the Eagle County Emergency Management Team, Sheriff's Office, Fire Protection District and Wildland Fire to discuss Minturn's evacuation planning efforts. Conducting a tabletop exercise and a full-blown evacuation exercise can get very expensive, so I am looking into planning grants to help facilitate this effort. A discussion point addressed in this meeting is finding the balance between traffic calming measures and emergency/safety measures. These two items can often contradict, and the community should be cognizant of working toward finding a balance.

### **Community Wildlife Protection Plan (CWPP)**

I represented Minturn on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> for the next steps in the updating of the CWPP. This is still a work in progress, but I anticipate, when completed, this will come before the Minturn Town Council for the option to adopt the plan. If interest was again the discussion in finding a balance between emergency management planning and street calming activities and how those two efforts often do not align. Minturn will continue to work toward finding a balance in this area.

### **Magnesium Chloride Discussion**

The Magnesium Chloride discussion has been removed from the Council discussion items due to feedback received from CDOT representative MR. Kane Schneider. I participated in a Zoom call with CDOT Region 3 Engineer John Kronholm, Mr. Schneider and Joseph Bajza on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was originally scheduled for the purpose of discussing Mag Chloride talking points at the Council discussion, but Mr. Schneider quickly devolved the discussion into, what I perceived to be an adversarial position on the contents of the Minturn/CDOT Annual Maintenance Contract. Mr.

Schneider's position is that the Town is responsible for the 24/7 plowing of the entirety of HWY 24 through Minturn, including the parking lanes and traffic lanes. This includes any de-icing efforts. In contrast, Mr. Bajza, head of plow operations for DCOT, indicated Minturn and CDOT maintain a productive arrangement and hopes that can continue.

Minturn's maintenance contract with CDOT began in 2006 and Jay Brunvand, town clerk/treasurer, indicates the contract was always discussed as a "team effort" whereby CDOT would lower their blades when coming through town and Minturn's PW staff would handle the removal of snow in the parking lanes. Jay provided me emails from past contract negotiations indicating this understanding. I will now work to address Mr. Schneider's claims and either work with CDOT representatives to maintain the understanding of the teamwork that has benefited both parties in the past or dissolve the contract. Minturn PW does not have the bandwidth to maintain the traffic lanes of HWY 24 24/7 for the small contract amount of approximately \$38,0934.

Regardless of the above, at this time, CDOT indicated Mag Chloride use on HWY 24 is rare, so the Mag Chloride discussion is a moot issue.