



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: August 19, 2018
Re: Info Update

SEPTEMBER TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

In the course of the marijuana discussion during the August Council Work Session, the Council asked that the discussion be continued to the September Work Session in order to have some questions answered and for the Council to provide direction to staff for the creation of regulations. When this date was set, we all forgot that the September Work Session was previously cancelled for Rosh Hashana. In order to meet the Council's goal of continuing this discussion, it has been suggested that the Work Session be moved to Tuesday September 11 at 4:00. We will make this switch, but if for some reason the new date does not work, please bring it up during a Council meeting so we can get a new date set. In addition to scheduling this Work Session, the Council may want to spend some time at an upcoming meeting to decide when it would like to schedule the hearing dates for the proposed ordinance that will determine the regulations.

SIGNIFICANT TRAIL PROJECT

The most significant trail project we are going to get completed this year won't have the traditional asphalt component associated with it. The Woodbridge rehabilitation project is shaping up to be the largest trail project this year. The project was originally intended to be a beautification (and minor maintenance) project. When the State undertook their bi-annual inspection, they found some structural issues that will be addressed in the coming weeks. Because the Woodbridge is such a critical trail connection we will be using trail enhancement dollars from the CIP to complete the project. Starting this week, you will see brush getting removed from below the bridge in order to start the work.

GOD BLESS DEMOCRACY

Petitions are still available for two seats on the Town Council and the Mayor's seat.

TID BITS:

- Sales tax number for June are in. TOSV sales taxes were up 7.8% for the month and 3.5% for the year. Pitkin County sales tax revenue is up 3.5% for June and 6.1% year to date. Lodging tax was down 1.3% for the month but remains up 2.1% for the year.
- Yep, if July felt busy, it is because we were busy. Lodging hit a record in July with 70.4% occupancy rate. July was the first summer month in Snowmass's history to exceed the 70% mark. For comparison's sake, this past February had an occupancy rate of 78%.

- Speaking of busy, Tough Mudder will be in the Village next weekend. We are expecting about 7,000 participants on Saturday and about 1,000 on Sunday.
- East West is continuing to focus on parking management in the garage. If they catch their construction crews in violation, they can charge the individual \$500.
- Although dates and times are still tentative, it looks like Ski CO's Annual Upload for the Download event will be Friday afternoon September 28.
- Although we do not anticipate being able to use the inside of Building 6 this Winter (we will take possession on November 1) we are working with East West to have a liquor license issued that can be used on the deck.
- In other Building 6 news, East West continues to interview and recruit for a food and beverage operator. They have their architect on board for the interior designs and are working on a second draft of a lease for the building.
- We are continuing to analyze and determine the best course of action to deal with the gym floor. Although analysis is still underway, it appears that we may be able to simply sand the floor instead of doing a total replacement.
- Howard Gross, who has deftly chaired the Marketing, Group Sales and Special Events Board for a few years, announced at this past week's meeting that he will be moving out of the Village and will no longer be able to serve on the board. This is a tremendous loss for the Board and the Village. He is a cool kid, and will be missed.
- We are still working to find a date for this year's Boards and Commissions Appreciation Dinner. At this point it looks like October 4th works for 4 out of 5 of the Town Council members. It looks like the Artisan will be able to host us again on that date. If this date can be agreed upon (sorry we can't find a date that works for everyone) we will start spreading the word to all of the Board's and Commission members.
- CAST is holding their summer meeting in Crested Butte at the end of this week. Senator Bennet's and Gardner's offices will both be at the meeting to discuss and get input on their proposed Ski Area Fee Retention Act. Sen. Bennet and Sen. Gardner are both sponsors of the Act. Attached is a summary document of the proposed bill. I had a chance to review the bill and the summary. On my first read it appears to me that the proposed bill likely (in my not so humble opinion) earmarks the money too specifically so that it can only be applied to improving ski area permit administration, processing of ski area proposals, and address any backlogs in permit administration or processing of ski area proposals. Having been part of a team that has worked for over 4 years to get a simple bridge replacement completed in the National Forest over East Brush Creek, I think there are a plethora of other places this revenue can, and should be spent including fire mitigation and/or other infrastructure upkeep. To be sure, I have only started looking into this, so I am no expert and may be missing something. Or I may just be blasphemous and ignorant of ski area permit issuance problems. The Senators' Offices will be looking for feedback, so if I am off base in thinking the permitted use of revenues ought not be so restrictive (to ski area permit issues only) let me know.

CC: Department Directors

STAND-ALONE SKI FEE RETENTION BILL SUMMARY

This bill locally retains a portion of the roughly \$37 million in permit fees (5 year average) that ski areas generate annually to improve ski area permit administration, processing of ski area proposals, and address any backlogs in permit administration or processing of ski area proposals. The Forest Service, the 122 ski areas operating on National Forest System lands in thirteen states, and potentially other recreation permittees would benefit from the bill. Approximately \$22-24M would be retained annually by the Forest Service under ski fee retention.

Benefits of Ski Fee Retention

Ski Fee Retention would provide the Forest Service with the capacity it needs to administer ski area permits and review ski area proposals for future improvements. It would also provide ski areas with the certainty they need to make long-term business decisions on making private investments on needed infrastructure on public land; help facilitate implementation of year-round recreation activities, thereby creating year-round jobs, boosting rural economies, and improving the recreation experience for visitors; and ultimately support the Forest Service in fulfilling its recreation mission.

Partial Retention of Fees

Forests with ski area fees in excess of \$15M annually would retain 50% of the fees locally. The remaining 50% would continue to go to the Treasury.

Forests with ski area fees at or below \$15M annually would retain 65% of the fees locally. The remaining 35% will continue to go to the Treasury.

Transfer of Fees to Other Ski Forests

To the extent a forest with greater than \$15M in annual ski area permit fees can't reasonably spend the money retained, the fees may be shared or transferred to other national forests with at least one ski area, however the originating forest is guaranteed a minimum of 35% of those retained fees.

To the extent a forest with \$15 M or less in annual ski area permit fees can't reasonably spend the fees retained, the fees may be shared or transferred to other national forests with at least one ski area, however the originating forest is guaranteed a minimum of 50% of those retained fees.

In transferring fees to other ski forests, the following considerations would be taken into account:

- The number of proposals for ski area improvements on those forests;

- Any backlog in ski area permit administration or processing of ski area proposals; and
- The need for services, training, staffing or contracting in other forests that would improve permit administration.

Other Recreation Permits

In the event that ski area permit administration needs are met across the country, including the transfers or sharing of retained fees to other national forests, the bill allows retained funds to be expended on non-ski area recreation permit administration.

Limits on Expenditures

Retained fees may only be used for ski area permit administration and processing of proposals for ski area improvement projects, training programs for ski area permit administration and processing of proposals, and interpretation, visitor information and visitor services to enhance visitor experience and support delivery of the USFS Avalanche Information and Education Program. They may be spent on other recreation permit administration (non-ski area) to the extent funds exist after all ski area program needs have been met.

Retained fees may not be used for wildfire suppression or preparedness, biological monitoring under ESA except as required by law in conjunction with a ski area improvement project, acquisition of federal land or USFS administrative sites.

Retained ski area permit fees are in addition to appropriated funds, not in lieu of appropriated funds.