



To: Mayor and Town Council
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager
Date: November 9, 2018
Re: Info Update

YEAH DEMOCRACY!!

At the risk of blatantly violating my International City Management Association Code of Ethics which mandates that I be dedicated to the highest ideals of honor and integrity in public relationships, requires me to remain objective and equally supportive of all local candidates and prohibits my participation (or favoritism of local candidates) in the election of the members of the Town Council; please allow me to unequivocally state that the best candidates for Snowmass Village won! Congratulations to Mayor Markey Butler on her election to her third term and to Councilors Bob Sirkus and Bill Madsen on their respective elections to their second terms. In other local news, the voters approved an additional 5% tax on retail marijuana sold in the Village by something like 70% supportive and 30% against. I'm no political scientist, but my guess is that those that want marijuana are happy to tax it to legitimize it and those that don't want marijuana think it should be taxed as much as possible and penalize it; hence the tax's overwhelming support by the Town's voters. At the risk of being ridiculously obvious, this new sales tax revenue will not materialize until the Council passes legislation allowing retail sales in Town.

SPEAKING OF NUMBERS

Now in the depths of off-season, you many not recall exactly, but we had a really busy summer in the Village and the sales tax receipts continue to reflect that. September receipts were up 6.5% for the month. They are up 6% year-to-date. Overall, sales tax receipts in the summer of 2018 were up 13% over the summer of 2017. As you will recall, winter of 2018 was up 2% over the previous winter season. The Winter Season continues to dominate economically, generating about 300% more revenue than summer. Still, in raw numbers, due to the strength of this past season, the summer season actually had a higher (real) dollar increase than did the winter season. No surprise here, but lodging continues to lead the way as the single largest source of sales tax revenue. Lodging tax was up 4.5% in September and is up almost 4% for the year.

KEEPING THOSE NUMBERS UP

In our efforts to keep these sales tax numbers rising, we continue to strongly support local businesses. Of course, we try to help everyone in our business community, but we are currently undertaking some specific steps to partner with businesses that should really benefit locally owned stores including:

- 1) A Professional Photography Initiative. In this program, the Town will pay for 3 professional photographs for each business here in town. These photographs can help with on-line efforts and/or simply be used in traditional marketing efforts.
- 2) Digital Best Practices Training. Town staff will be offering one-on-one training for local businesses to ensure they are taking full advantage of their on-line presence.
- 3) Revised Events Calendar. We have revised our events calendar so that local businesses can enter all of their specials and events. This revised events calendar should really help to get the word out on all of the great things going on in the Village.
- 4) Concierge Training—We will continue to undertake our efforts to ensure hotel front desk staff and concierge have good information on the local scene and are up-to-date on where to get that information.

KEEP'N US SAFE

In response to a 98% increase in emergency calls and a 42% increase in calls for service since 2010, the Aspen-Pitkin County Emergency Telephone Service Authority will soon be submitting an application to the State Public Utilities Commission (PUC) requesting to increase the monthly, per line 9-1-1 surcharge from \$1.25 to \$2.00. The Aspen-Pitkin County Emergency Telephone Service Authority is a separate legal entity created through an intergovernmental agreement, first established in 1990 and most recently amended in 2014. The Town is a member of the Authority. The Authority is responsible for administering the installation, operation, maintenance, upgrade and enhancement of emergency telephone services and provides guidance and funding support of operations for the Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center. The annual cost of operating the Center is about \$2.1M. The current surcharge generates about \$600,000 annually. The remaining \$1.5 million of the costs are divided among the authority members. If approved by the PUC, the surcharge increase of \$0.75 per line will be seen on phone bills and help us to address the ever growing demands placed on this public safety service. This upcoming year alone, the Town was required to increase our contribution to the regional dispatch center by about 30% or roughly \$50,000. With any luck, and with PUC approval, our annual contribution to the service can be moderated and the critical service can continue forward at a high quality.

TID BITS

- We have been advised by Ski Co that they are sticking with their initial schedule to open Snowmass on Thanksgiving Day. As we understand it, any rumors of the mountain opening sooner are not accurate.
- As a result of Ski Co's success with summer activities here in the Village they are increasing their summer Gondola operation hours. Rather than opening at 10, next summer the gondola will open at 9 and the schedule will be also be extended further into the Fall. We will make sure the Skittle schedule matches the gondola's.
- The engineering plans for the East Brush Creek bridge replacement are now in the hands of the USFS Engineering Department. Town staff will be meeting with USFS staff once the plans have been reviewed to set the project details and schedule for summer 2019.
- At Monday's Council meeting Tom Goode brought up the e-mail sent by Scott Akin regarding his request for improved pedestrian crossings at the Faraway and Brush

Creek intersection. I need to get some direction from the Town Council on when you would like to have this discussion scheduled.

- The Wood Bridge repair remains underway.
- This ice rink boards were set up on the tennis court this week. While that is good news, the better news is that ice naturally formed in the rink.
- Congratulations to Rich McDilda for wining the employee chili cook-off competition this week. I am told he will cherish his trophy for a long time to come. And congrats to Erin Young for winning the cornbread competition. Her (not so) secret ingredient... hot dogs. It tasted way better than it sounds.
- We received 6 proposals for the Mall Transit Station design project. Evaluations are underway.

CC: Department Directors

