



To: Mayor and Town Council  
From: Clint Kinney, Town Manager  
Date: February 12, 2021  
Re: Info Update

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#### TRANSIT FUNDING

Although ridership is down by about 50% ish this season, transit revenues are way up. One of our major sources of funding for our no-fare system is federal and state grant funds. We learned this week that Colorado (specifically CDOT) was a big winner in the latest distribution of relief funding for transit agencies from the Feds. No amounts or numbers are finalized yet, but it appears that Snowmass Village will receive about \$2.1million in CRRSAA (additional grant) funding. That is NOT chump change; it is about 50% of the Department’s annual budget, and it’s a big deal. These new grant funds will be used for operational assistance and covering expenditures for COVID mitigation. This \$2.1 million is in addition to the million bucks the Transit system received last year for COVID relief. The importance of this support from the Feds/CDOT can’t be overstated. It will help A LOT!

#### SPEAKING OF MONEY

Sales tax returns in December were down 14% compared to the previous December. For the year, overall sales tax revenue was down 11.8%. While not great news, these are numbers we can live with; they are not as bad as we projected earlier this year. We have not received the December County numbers yet, but we understand that sales tax is expected to end the year down only 1 or 2 percent. Not surprising to anyone, lodging tax was down further than sales tax returns. Lodging was down 27% in December and was down 19% for the year. The marijuana and tobacco tax combined to generate \$135K in their first full year of collection. We have started conversations with the County about ways to partner on a few mental health focused initiatives.

#### PARTY ON!

Fat Tuesday is February 16, so the 2021 Snowmass Mardi Gras celebration, *Mask-erade in the Mountains*, is underway for its 39th year. Obviously, the traditional bead toss and big concert are off the table, so Snowmass Village will carry on the Mardi Gras tradition with a tribute to the frontline workers and first responders of the Roaring Fork Valley by honoring Nell and Scott Arthur as the 2021 Mardi Gras King & Queen. While the King & Queen may not make appearances in the bars and restaurants around Snowmass, there will be other low key activities going on, including the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Mother of All Ascensions.

#### AIRPORT NUMBERS FOR JANUARY

Final Scheduled Flights in January were down 32% from last year and the passenger count was down 47%, but it was by far the busiest month since the onset of the pandemic last March. To offer some

perspective, a 47% drop in total January passenger traffic at ASE compares against a 61% drop in total U.S. January throughput reported by the TSA.

## TID BITS

- CRITICAL NEWS!! Town Ski Day will be both April 2 and April 9 this year. Details to follow, but suffice it say, you know where the cool kids will be.
- The Timberline Condos will be constructing a new enclosure for their trash dumpster this summer. The enclosure, actually to be built on Town land, will help keep wildlife out of the garbage beautify an eye sore.
- The next phase of the Snowmelt Road boiler replacement project is getting underway. This boiler is located in a buried vault below a Top of the Village parking lot.
- We are applying for additional reimbursement for direct COVID costs that the town incurred. While many expenses are not eligible, we will be applying for about \$300K of reimbursement funds.
- The next Tourism talk is scheduled for Feb 24. ATCKWBT.
- Unfortunately, the cool kids did not show up to the Village this January to ski. Data from Jan 31 shows that January hotel occupancy was down 58% and revenue per available room was down 60%. And while this weekend could be busy, February isn't looking much better than January; it is pacing down about 51% overall. Keep your fingers crossed for March!
- We were awarded a Colorado Tree Coalition grant of \$1,500.
- Visits to the Rec Center are down about 24% from last January. The reservations are full, but the capacity limits are keeping numbers down.
- This week's warm weather is making the outdoor ice rink suffer. Last year the ice lasted until March 2; unless Winter returns, we are going to have a hard time hitting that date again.
- There were 15 participants in this weeks Daly Townhome lottery. The demand and need for homes continues.
- As reported in the paper today, we will be going to yellow on the COVID Dial tomorrow. Getting a table at your favorite restaurant for Valentines Day just got easier.
- The Citizen Grant Review Board meets next week to review the grant requests.
- With the IGA approved with the Water and Sanitation District earlier this year, we have given Canyon-Hydro the green light to begin production of the micro hydro generator unit. Their lead time is 20-24 weeks, and we anticipate the unit to be delivered in Snowmass Village in June 2021. In the meantime, we have hired a small hydro engineer to prepare engineered drawings of the unit in the PRV vault. She sent us the first draft of the drawings earlier this week, and we have sent them to SWSD and SGM for their initial review. Once finalized, we will use the drawings to issue an invitation for bids (IFB) for the installation of the unit this summer. Overall, the project has proven to be more complex and difficult than we first imagined. However, things are finally falling (pun intended) into place.

CC: Department Directors