



Thank You Town Volunteers!

Mayor's Memo:

I wish everyone a very happy Thanksgiving!

The first thing I'd like to discuss is an update to what I had in my last Newsletter about the taxes on short-term rentals (STRs). Last month, I mentioned the potential of making it easier for STR owners to do the taxes by just taxing a percentage of the total bill. However, our Town Attorney has informed me that Statutory Towns such as ours cannot impose a lodging tax that is based upon a percentage, but we can impose a flat fee. That is why the current lodging tax/fee is the way it is now.

I'm sure many of you have observed that we have had some Executive Sessions regarding a new employment agreement for the Town Manager. Any binding decisions will be made in public sessions and as of this writing, there is nothing to report.

The other day, I was talking with Bo, our Clerk/Treasurer. Because of my involvement with legislative issues, I was curious about how much of his time is spent dealing with State statutory requirements. He estimated that 67% of his time is spent on meeting these requirements. He also sent me a list where he identified by month his annual duties. He highlighted all the duties that are not State mandates. In summary, Bo identified 75 specific tasks with 49 of those tasks being those that are statutory. So over 65% of the tasks themselves are things that the State requires of the Town. The impacts that these State-mandated are having is obviously to the point where it is impacting the Town's staffing resources (over 65% of the tasks and 67% of our Clerk's time).

With the current discussions going on about the Town Manager's Agreement, I want to state what my opinions and positions are. First, I strongly believe that any local governance structure should be one that is the most likely to provide fair and equitable government for all. With that being said, it is my opinion that the Town Manager/Board of Trustee model that we are currently under provides the best structure for achieving fairness, equality and good governance. The downside is that it appears to be more expensive. I say "appears" because if one is just looking at numbers (expenses), the numbers alone don't consider any indirect costs or benefits. For example, any function the Town does has an administrative element associated with it (things like payroll, insurance and workman's comp that the Town must pay for having employees). Things like these are for every employee the Town has. Our budget will show the direct costs, but what it won't show are indirect costs and the time that someone must spend to accomplish them. These indirect costs are almost always accomplished by someone in the Administrative Department.

One of the things that is a benefit for having our current structure is that most of the improvements in Town have been accomplished using grant monies. Someone must apply for, then administer and report on these grants. Right now, those duties are the responsibility of the Town Manager. In addition, sometimes the Town Manager assists the Clerk/Treasurer with their duties. As I previously reported in this Newsletter, our Clerk/Treasurer's time is largely consumed with duties that the State mandates and the position can occasionally get overwhelmed.

This brings me to my final topic of discussion, false stimulus. This Town has been surviving on either volunteer time or direct monetary gifts to the Town for some time (I have a picture of a check from Mr. Dick Bratton for \$10,000 that he wrote prior to his passing). In 2023, the total cost for in-kind hours that the Parks, Rec and Trails Committee captured was \$83,456 (this was all donated, volunteer time). While the volunteer time is greatly appreciated, the problem is what happens when we don't have volunteers or people gifting the Town money? If I add in the cost of my volunteer time, we're probably looking at roughly another \$50,000 of added costs. "False stimulus" can also take the form of salaries that are not competitive. If we have employees that are willing to work for less than competitive rates, when they leave we will be faced with a form of sticker shock to replace them.

So, in summary, it is my opinion that we should continue with our current form of Government. However, should we get to a point where we are consistently spending more than we are bringing in as revenues, we will need to go to the voters to see what direction the community as a whole will want to go.

Community Event:

On December 7th and 8th, Yule Days will be in Green Mountain Falls. On Saturday there will be a Holiday Craft show in CWW. On Sunday, there will be family activities, Yule log hunt, Santa, tree light and more!

Reminder:

Please cut down your dead/dying trees. Also, if you are doing any improvements to the outside of your house/property, please check with Town Hall to see if you need a permit.

Calendar:

- Nov 5th - Election Day! No Board of Trustees meeting.
- Nov 12th - Planning Commission
- Nov 13th - Parks, Recreation and Trails Committee
- Nov 19th - Board of Trustees
- Nov 25th - Fire Mitigation Committee



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Marshal's report October 2024

Call type	# of calls	Outcomes if any
Bar checks	1	
911 hang ups	6	
Assist outside agencies	4	
Traffic complaint	1	
Citizen Contacts	4	
Hold up alarm	1	Accidental
Follow ups	2	
Fraud	2	
Harassment	2	
Abandoned vehicle	0	
Traffic stops	7	
Parking complaints	2	
Fireworks	0	
Suicidal check the welfare	1	Departed our jurisdiction Teller County assisted
Noise complaints	0	
Traffic Accident	0	
Vin verification	0	
Theft	2	
Suspicious Incident	2	
Civil service	0	
Criminal Mischief	1	
Animal complaint	4	
Alarms	0	
Total calls for service	41	

Other agencies assisting us – 2

Us assisting other agencies – 4

NIBERS reports completed.

Citizen Contact upload completed.

Reserve hours worked - 30 hours.

Marshal Goings and Deputy Starks participated in training on the Americans with Disabilities Act and how it effects law enforcement and Case review and training on SB217.