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Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 7/14/2020 10-11AM

**Short Term:** Many states are moving backwards with COVID we need to stay vigilant.

1. Kim, only one family has reached out for assistance at this time, 30k left to use later as needed.
2. Deanne said businesses are doing well, with limited hours or days without proper staffing. Working to keep businesses in compliance this week. Durango is pulling back marketing efforts, other communities too. We’ve been gentle marketing.
3. Becky said all mountain towns are seeing record high crowds, maybe because of the long quarantine. They need to do more research to see if this is something to expect or if its short term when it comes to future planning.
4. Lisa updates: The outdoor recreation community also says the numbers are way up for outdoor rec usage. P&W said their numbers are up over 1000%. Overall expecting an increase into the future.

**Long Term:**

1. Fiber: Kim explains that strong fiber is here in town, but not dispersed through the community and feels like more effort needs to be put here. It was difficult with online learning when the kids had to continue schooling from home.
   1. Satellite on school roof could broadcast a signal out for families and students to have internet. Need to consider the same idea for the whole town.
   2. Town updates that they don’t have other ideas going right now, Kim’s idea is new and they’re on board with the idea. John R, Kim, & Willy will try to work together about these ideas and making more short-term plans like strategic broadcasting and redundancy on the one fiber line that runs from the south up to CL building. They’ll get started meeting some time on this next month.
   3. Shane explained that SMPA had a timeline of about 3 years for our redundancy at the Stakeholders meeting. Willy added that it should be constructed next summer but getting it from Ophir into town is the missing piece.
2. Workforce/Workforce Housing: John R had a conversation within the construction industry who’s looking for opportunity zones for investors. He wants to start working with realtors and identify inventory of parcels, other than Anvil. The question was posed considering Anvil, would those homes sell if we had a number of 200k priced homes? Deanne adds that the land south of Anvil is in high demand.
   1. Silverton builders are a problem, they wouldn’t bid on the last affordable income projects.
   2. Two homes are in building at Anvil, with buyers set up. Market rate lots all have buyers lined up and another chunk is still set aside for another apartment type structure.
   3. Could consider a dormitory style unit for workforce housing as well.
   4. Shane - 100perfoot water/sewer lines are hefty, if the Town ran the infrastructure then other lots would be available, and homes would be being built. Willy agrees, the difficulty is to fund it up front and finding grants. John agreed, they extended down in Purgatory because the projected plus outweighed the cost of putting the infrastructure in.
      1. Upgrading our infrastructure means we have to look at our water and sewer capacity too. John explains, sewer is not an immediate concern, but water yes, they could look at more storage. Also, they’re looking for additional sources. The current infrastructure needs help with the plant and filtering out the fresh water from wastewater, also needs to keep up with State requirements which makes the lagoon system difficult to keep up. Looking at 2027 permit they would need to get a plant replacement or booster, so any small projects on it are all temporary, as the whole system will need to be revamped by 2032. They do have grant funding in the works and upgrades planned over the next few years.
      2. Kim & John both agreed that federal monies are opening up, so we need to be ready to claim those grant funds as they are available. This is one positive side-effect of COVID.
   5. Lisa suggests trying to obtain more public purpose use to gain more land to build more housing. Willy agrees that is worth checking, BLM hasn’t been receptive in the past, but it would be worth checking into it again. It would have to be town or county land, as there’s always a clause that makes the land go back to the BLM in the end, couldn’t be used for public purpose. Willy expands that COVID impact on towns and counties are getting desperate, therefore there may be more stimulus for ready projects. John agrees, they are ready with the sewer collection system and would be ready to jump on this. Others to consider are Blair St infrastructure, Columbine Park, and library.

**Resiliency Plan:**

Willy & John met with the State Resiliency office and they’re ready to help us with the Resiliency Plan. Kim wanted to give homework, so everyone needs to fill out the attached doc to put together for next week’s meeting.

**Other:**

1. Darlene wanted to know if there was going to be a plan for Blair St. John says Casey (engine) would be difficult to get here but they are working to get some cars moved to Blair. They are trying to get together with the train and hope to get something underway. Deanne/John will try to get in touch with the General Manager/D&SNG today.
2. Shane, trend in CA (Data Dividends Project) where data farmed would turn into dividends back to us per piece of data. This would be an interesting idea to support to gain additional revenues.