

UPDATED REPORTS FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 21, 2021

- 1. Update – Ball Placer:** We have had continuous work being done in the Ball Placer this summer. Mayor Wendy Koch was able to secure approximately 41,260 cubic yards of fill dirt for the Ball Placer as well as the labor and equipment to level and smooth it out. Mayor Koch was also able to procure topsoil to begin spreading over the top of the fill dirt. This puts us years closer to our ultimate goal of developing the Ball Placer. Mayor Koch has also helped with the coordination of additional dirt to fill several ponds along Bard Creek Road that are no longer able to be filled with water. In addition to the dirt, the Mayor was very fortunate to procure, at no cost, some of the road millings from the I-70 highway project, totaling approximately 163,800 tons, which has a value in excess of \$800,000.00. The work to “scarf” the top layer of asphalt off the road and the trucks that are hauling the millings are not allowed on I-70 during the day because it slows down traffic; this is mandated by CDOT. Therefore, any road construction project of this kind, in any town, is restricted in that way and must haul materials at night. We are genuinely sorry for the inconvenience. The road millings are being stockpiled in an open area lower down in the Ball Placer. Once the road repairs have been made, any remaining road millings will be taken to the lower area of the Ball Placer. It has been brought to the attention of the Town that there are concerns of the Ball Placer being turned into a dump, parking lot, storage units, or RV parking. This is not the case; the Town is not turning this area into any type of parking area or dump. We have only allowed fill dirt to be dumped in the main area of the Ball Placer, which is what we need to level the area for future development. We have designated a separate area to stockpile the millings.
- 2. Update – Welcome Park:** We have also had continuous work being done in the newly designated park on the east end of town this summer. It does not officially have a name, but it is the first opportunity the Town has to welcome people driving westbound on Hwy 40. We used some of the fill dirt for the park and had labor and equipment from the same contractor. We brought in enough road millings to cover the parking area of the park 6 inches deep. Anything we do on that parcel must be classified as recreation and public purpose, which is why it is designated as a park. The parcel is much larger than the section you can see with road millings at the moment. That area of the parcel was a deep ravine that could not be developed into anything until it was filled in. Once we filled it in with the fill dirt, we used road millings to put on top of the dirt work, so the dirt does not erode away. We moved quickly on this project to preserve the dirt and the work that was done before the snow falls. Any further development needs to be planned, budgeted, and approved before moving forward. We have several other capital improvement projects at the top of the list before we can develop that land, but we are eager to see it happen. It is important that we are all aware that Asphalt Paving Company did not dump or cause the spill in that area earlier this month. However, they did volunteer their time and equipment over several days to remove and clean up the spill at the park and did so during the work week so that the Town would look good on the weekend when visitors come through. So, many thanks to them for showing the Town that kindness and respect.

3. Update – Minton Park: The remaining road millings given to the Town are being stockpiled in an open area lower down in the Ball Placer. The millings that were dumped on the open field were put there by mistake, the contractor was supposed to stockpile the material in another area, not in the field, they made a mistake. We spoke to them immediately and instructed them to stockpile the materials in the parking area at the top of the Ball Placer, and also lower down. The contractors that made the mistake will come back and remove that material using their equipment. The Mayor, Board, and Staff are every bit as upset over this mistake as the residents are. We will make every effort to remove all the millings, including screening the dirt if needed, we will bring in topsoil and reseed the entire area with native grass seed. The area between the Cemetery and Pavilion will remain an open field. We do not, and never have had any plans to turn that field into parking of any kind. It was an unfortunate mistake, but everyone is pulling together to mitigate the damage that was done, and we have been working on mitigation plans since the first day. We will use road millings on the Cemetery Road which starts at South Main Street, travels past the ball fields and Pavilion, and circles in front of the Cemetery. Again, we understand that this has been an inconvenience to many of you as it is a slow process, but please know that the Town and Mayor Koch hear you and understand your concerns. This temporary inconvenience will result in a long-term benefit to the Town. We ask that you please continue to be patient with us through this process, and when we are done, we will have a much better road to the park, a significant improvement to all of our parking areas, along with a field that has been diligently restored. We are currently waiting on the equipment and volunteer support from Asphalt Paving Company as well as working on renting a large loader for the Town which will cost approximately \$2,500-\$3,000 per week as we do not own this type of equipment. Once we are done making the necessary repairs in town, we will then be able to sell the remaining millings at anywhere from \$4.00 - \$5.00 per ton. Again, the value of the road millings is in excess of \$800,000.00, and Mayor Koch was able to get this material for the Town at no cost. We have ample material to make all of our repairs and improvements, and still have a large amount left over that will bring revenue in for the Town. Mayor Koch has put in a tremendous amount of work making this happen. The position of Mayor is volunteer – Mayor Koch puts in 40 hours a week and does not get paid. She only receives a \$300.00 per month reimbursement for gas to attend meetings in her official capacity.