

5. Eagle has a tight budget with many competing priorities. What would your budget priorities be and how would you go about raising revenue to provide more services and support a growing town?

ELLEN BODENHEMIER: I am in alignment with the Town of Eagle's 2020 budget and initiatives - 2020 Town of Eagle Budget

'The Town continues to execute the Strategic Plan and make investments in economic development. The Town is growing and will continue to be the beneficiaries of development. The 2020 budget reflects new economic investments that will pay off over time. It is our goal to become a standard driven organization and operate with professionalism. Progress made towards proactive policies and initiatives will serve the Town well. The budget builds on these efforts.' -Brandy Reitter, Eagle Town Manager

Sales tax in the town of Eagle continues to improve at a rate of about 10% yearly. Investing in our economic vitality will ensure sales tax collection continues on this trajectory. If Home Rule passes moving the marijuana and lodging flat fees to a percentage based collection will exponentially increase those revenues and early tax collection projections for Broadband are exceeding projections.

MAREN CERIMELE: Varied employment options are essential to the long-term vitality and sustainability of Eagle businesses and residents. A variety of living-wage paying employment opportunities are essential to the long-term prosperity and sustainability of Eagle. This includes attracting some light industrial and manufacturing opportunities. This will require the town to consider what type of land uses will create more living-wage job opportunities. I believe that Grand Avenue is a great opportunity to consider mixed use zoning.

I will support the efforts of the Economic Vitality Committee and Downtown Development Authority to develop unique, creative ways to activate the Central Business District on Broadway ultimately attracting more customers, businesses, and visitors to Broadway.

DAVID GABOURY: The Town's current needs and priorities that should to be reflected in the town's budget include growing our tax base, improved environmental sustainability, enhanced broadband service, and expanded recreational tourism – all while promoting workforce housing and making sure we are taking care of wildlife.

The most fundamental need is to continue to grow our tax base by supporting business and residential vitality. More revenue from an expanding economic base allows financial flexibility to tackle the other areas noted, as well as addressing our ever-present infrastructure needs.

We need to grow our business community and make our economic base more resilient. Currently we are heavily dependent on tourism and the up-valley resorts. The COVID19 pandemic has underscored this vulnerability. We have real potential to expand opportunities to work and live in Eagle. For example, there are a number of great businesses based in Eagle that sell their products and services

regional, statewide, and beyond. How do we attract and encourage more of these types of companies and their employees to make Eagle their home.

As a practical matter, sales tax receipts are a critical component of the Town's financial health. Sales taxes makes up about 85% of the Town's budgeted 2020 tax receipts. There is currently a trend of double-digit annual growth in sales taxes receipts, with a very positive trend in internet retail sales receipts in particular. We need to support actions that continue and enhance this trend.

I am excited to continue serving our community and hope you will vote for me as a member of the Town of Eagle Board of Trustees. You will have my full dedication and commitment to carry out the duties of this position.

CHARLIE GUNDLACH: First and foremost my budget priorities will be prudent and always in the best interests of the Town and our residents. Secondly my priorities will fall towards supporting projects which increase the economic vitality of the town and the health and well being of our residents. Raising revenue should be done by growing our community demographically, but also by supporting creative projects that bring more visitors to our town, all while protecting our natural resources and inherent beauty. Building an attractive place to live, work and play will only bring more tourism to our town, which will in turn grow our revenue. This is the strategy I will employ.

KYLE HOILAND: My top budget priority will be reallocating the Town budget to get people back to work & putting money back into the hands of our working class. We may need to subsidize our small businesses and help facilitate any funding from the state & federal level to get these small business owners back on their feet.

I understand we need increased revenues to sustain our economy and I hate to burden the local citizens with more taxes. Therefore, I strongly believe we need to cast our nets outside of town and bring in dollars from people traveling on I-70 & Hwy 6 and make Eagle a destination so spending money on communications & marketing is paramount. I would invest in 3 LED screens, strategically placed on the East & West ends of Town on Hwy 6 and one at the north end of Broadway, to inform citizens & visitors of local events and happenings around Eagle. This will spur on business by drawing people to our downtown, attending events, putting heads in beds and people in our restaurants.

My other priority would be working towards a fleet of electric vehicles for the police and staff. There would be a slight increase in upfront purchase costs, but the long term savings on fuel would make this more sustainable, as well as reduce our carbon footprint and keep our air cleaner.

Another priority would be the consideration of a housing authority that could work with other government entities, private developers and non-profits to facilitate affordable housing projects. While this isn't at the top of my list, I believe housing is a top priority, I would like to see the Town work with what we have for staff & current resources. But down the road, I believe there will be a need for a dedicated person to request grants and coordinate these efforts with development partners.

W MIKEL "PAPPY" KERST: I feel that our current Board has taken some positive steps and I would like to follow-through on efforts that have not yet been completed. In the next four years, I would like to continue developing policy that will support our existing businesses and infrastructure; I would like to see our Strategic Plan and Land Use Code re-development come to full fruition – both of these will help attract new businesses to Eagle and can set the stage for better attainable housing solutions; I have been and will continue to be a facilitator between our surrounding government entities and the Town.

ADAM PALMER: I think the current board has done an excellent job in what they've been able to accomplish with a limited budget. Some priorities I'd like to focus on from a budgetary standpoint include more support for our parks, trails, and open space amenities, pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure, west Eagle and Highway 6 redevelopment, and public private partnerships to support affordable housing and in-fill development.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is going to have a profound impact on our economy, however, and as a top near-term priority, we'll need to be focusing on all-of-the-above aggressive strategies to retain our current small businesses and workforce to support a robust and swift recovery.

YVONNE SCHWARTZ: Considering the current COVID-19 crisis, I think the budget is going to need to be completely re-evaluated to see where we can support our town in this crisis first. Then we need to look at our roads, sidewalks, infrastructure so that everything doesn't literally crumble. From there I think we can assess what's next based on need. I am aware that our town budget is tight. I am in full support of our town helping educate businesses and investors about grants and looking at how we can provide more financial resources to stimulate our economy.