



Dessie Hoppes

From: Tom Boni <tomboni@townofeagle.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:08 PM
To: 'Dessie Hoppes'
Subject: FW: ERS TBOT article submittal

Tom Boni
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From: Paul Witt [<mailto:pwitt@wittcommunications.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 20, 2012 7:38 AM
To: tomboni@townofeagle.org
Cc: 'Jeff McMahon'; 'William Clinkenbeard'
Subject: ERS TBOT article submittal

To the Eagle Town Board of Trustees

I would like to submit the article below to the Town Board of Trustees. Once again, we're seeing strong evidence of a growing economy in the area, with national retailers ready and willing to open new stores. Plus this is a great indication of the number of jobs that can be created (100 positions) by a single store – obviously, a project the size of Eagle River Station has the potential to create a vastly greater numbers than that, which supports the jobs figures that have been submitted.

Thank you.

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Whole Foods gets permit for \$4.74M project

Grocer will finish the interior of its new store at Willits Town Center

FEBRUARY, 19 2012

[SCOTT CONDON](#)

THE ASPEN TIMES

ASPEN CO COLORADO

Whole Foods Market has obtained a building permit to finish the interior of its future 27,000-square-foot grocery store at Willits Town Center in Basalt.

The project is valued at \$4.74 million, according to Basalt building official Jim Wilson. The town government reaped \$67,760 in permit fees to cover review of the plan and the issuance of the building permit.

Mariner Real Estate Management, owner and developer of Willits Town Center, is constructing the shell of the building that will include Whole Foods. The building is 47,000 square feet with several smaller spaces for other shops and restaurants. Whole Foods Market typically has its own crews finish the interiors of its grocery stores.

Mariner's exterior project was valued at \$5.15 million. It paid building and development fees of \$177,813 for the project last fall.

Whole Foods officials previously said they want to finish the store in June or July. Basalt Town Manager Bill Kane told the Town Council this week that the grand opening might be pushed back to August.

The grocery store will create about 100 jobs. Of those, 60 to 65 will be full-time positions, Whole Foods Regional President Will Paradise told The Aspen Times in November.

In addition to the infusion from the building fees, the town coffers will benefit from additional sales tax once the store opens. Kane said the town staff intentionally kept sales tax projections flat for 2012, but they will grow by some amount thanks to the new grocery store and other shops that could be opening alongside Whole Foods.

The town's fiscal year started with a bang. Sales tax revenues from December were up 4.5 percent over the same month in 2010. The town collected \$385,442 in December compared with \$368,582 for the month in 2010.

Restaurants with bars had a particularly strong month, with sales nearly 79 percent over December 2010, the town's sales tax report showed. The general retail category, which includes the mom-and-pop shops, was up 17 percent, the report showed. Sporting retail shops managed to post a 2 percent gain.

The retail food category, which includes the existing two grocery stores in Basalt, saw sales increase by less than 1 percent in December. That category generates the most sales tax for the town.

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