

Despite low temperatures in January and February the project has been moving along at a brisk pace. At the end of March, the buildings will be “dried in” with the roof, sides and concrete floors complete in both buildings. From the exterior there will be minimal additional work on the search and rescue building with doors being the major addition to that building soon. On the fire station exterior, a significant amount of the random pattern stonework is complete. The stone will serve as a wainscoting around the lower portion of the building as well as the highlight of the main entrance on the northwest corner of the building. A substantial amount of brick installation is underway with the majority of the brick being located on the south side by the garage bays. Not yet installed are the Resysta™ siding sections which is a low maintenance composite siding material made primarily of rice husks. Also underway on the exterior are the standing seam metal roof sections which will be located above the “fire tower” element on the north side and the gabled roof section above the garage bays. Windows are also mostly installed with only a few large windows remaining.

Interior framing is progressing well in both buildings with the rooms taking shape. Extensive activity is also underway on the rough-in of the mechanical and electrical systems. Once that work is completed and inspected, drywall is expected to begin sometime in April. A few major systems including the water well, fire pump, elevator and sewer lift station are expected to begin soon after final permits and preparations are completed. Much planning work is currently underway to ensure that low voltage and IT systems are dialed in and final selections of furniture and appliances are in the pipeline.

As we are in the throws mud season for a while, it is not anticipated that much final grading or landscaping work will occur until the summer months. Work is underway, however, to plan for the training building that will be a 3rd structure located on the north end of the site. A “dry hydrant” to be able to draw water from the Slate River in the event of a fire emergency is also in the final stages of permitting and design. Activity is also underway with the Town of Crested Butte to coordinate how the trails on the site will work. An information session on how the training building will look and function will be scheduled sometime in May before the foundation for that building is prepared.

As a reminder, the buildings are designed to the 2021 ICC Building Code including the 2021 Energy Code ensuring maximum energy efficiency and a low carbon footprint. Heating and cooling for interior spaces will be done with a variable-refrigerant flow (VRF) air-source electric heat pump system with supplemental natural gas heat for the garage spaces. Significant solar generation is also planned for both buildings. Meeting rooms available for use by the public will be included in both buildings and a public sidewalk will be built along CR-317 for eventual connectivity into Crested Butte.

Completion of the campus is currently anticipated sometime in September or October with a grand opening event for CBFPD and CBSAR members on October 18th. We anticipate scheduling a public open house a few weeks later, probably in early November. Look for our next update in May/June.