

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

### **1. What changes would you like to see in Basin?**

- Changes are different to me than growth and development. Changes are not always what is best for the town and usually don't include planning. So, with that thought, my answers to the rest of the questions are my wishes for the town.
- I would like to see redevelopment of our commercial corridor and downtown area to make it attractive to residents, visitors, existing businesses, and for future businesses. I would also like to see more alternative transportation options and recreational opportunities for all ages year round.
- Lower taxes, lower expenses.
- A nicer looking main street (U.S.16/20 and WY 30), more curb and gutter and sidewalk, solid infrastructure to accommodate business, walking and biking trails, skateboard park or other outdoor activity, more housing lots for sale, and a community center open later in the evenings, more eating establishments and a quality motel with meeting room.
- More restaurants / hotels / activity center. Curb and gutter.
- I would like to see more business or industry with more employment opportunities. I believe having those opportunities drives the population which of course determines school population. The schools cannot support the town; the town must have enough business/employment to keep their people. Bringing business opportunities to Basin is critical to that process. They need some type of industry such making farm products, building trailers, farm machinery, farm products, etc. -- that would generate jobs and boost the economy of Basin.
- A motel/café complex; assisted living facility; bus or van service for kids to/from Greybull for sports or activities (not school related activities).
- I would like us to keep continue updating the electrical, improve our sewer and water for the Town of Basin.
- Improved Park/Bike-Pedestrian Trail System, maybe incorporating River Corridor and extend to Greybull.
- Improved Appearance of Downtown, more trees/benches/ friendly, welcoming environment.
- More activities for kids/families with facilities to use (e.g. skateboard park, community center, etc.).
- Improved cooperation between nearby communities to share resources in order to provide all citizens more opportunities.
- Develop clean industries with contemporary career opportunities to encourage more of our young to remain or return to the area.
- Modernize the infrastructure: streets, sidewalks, sewer, water, and lighting.
- More coordination among groups for events and community functions.
- More biking/hiking trails, possibly following the canal to Greybull. Or: a 5 mile loop from the canal to and along the Big Horn River for as much access as can be procured.
- Improved -- better infrastructure including curb and gutter and storm system; I believe some type of building code and inspections are desperately needed; improved economic development

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

and Basin needs to find it's "niche" other than being the county seat; improved recreation year-round. Currently the recreation district only gets things started in late May early June through mid-August. Other towns have recreation activities year round; this prompts need for community center or similar venue.

- Infrastructure update; Economic development; Recreation development for the younger people; and town upkeep – a new look on main.
- More infrastructure; fiber optics; and teen center.
- Changes—new commercial businesses, the town promote its assets (vacant lands, good roads, good commercial place to start, etc.), the walk path continued to the river and along the river, expand and encourage the recreation area around the town, encouraged growth inside the vacant subdivisions that have been recently platted, affordable growth so we don't tax ourselves out into non-existence.

### **2. What would you like to see remain the same in Basin?**

- Relatively crime free town. I feel safe and secure in this town.
- The people. As a whole, the town people take care of its friends and neighbors and are willing to help anyone that needs help.
- A government that is willing to listen to the citizens and make decisions that are the best for the majority of the people, not for personal goals and ideas.
- The small town feel and atmosphere.
- Preservation of privacy and personal property rights.
- Small town atmosphere, good schools, county and state government offices remaining here, safe and secure town, tree lined streets.
- Small town feel.
- Improvements to sewer systems, sidewalks, etc. However, change and upgrades come at a cost, with unemployment and poverty so high caution needs to be taken not to drive up the cost of living to high.
- Our approximate population size and our mix-of-age demographics.
- I would like to keep the small town attitude and atmosphere.
- Small town atmosphere
- Very "green" neighborhoods with mixed housing. Provides for open mixing of all income types and cultures.
- Improving attitude and participation for recycling efforts
- Keep the small town atmosphere.
- The feeling of safety and belonging to the community.
- Keep WYDOT and county functions here.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- Small town friendly atmosphere. Do not try to model us after much larger towns. Many people in this town are on fixed incomes so try to keep all utilities and fees as low as possible.
- Small town atmosphere; four-lane highways (rather than reduced to two); schools (rather than consolidation).
- The way of life and people with great attitudes.
- Same environment, strengthen what we have.
- Unsure. Businesses want to move to Wyoming and Basin has an opportunity to become more than a small community; we don't have the land mass to become a metropolitan place but look at the medium population age over the last 50-60 years compared to the total population of the Town of Basin. Do we want to be a community made up of high taxes and fees with expensive houses or do we want to have a live flourishing community? How much does Lilac Day do for Basin? Why are the fairgrounds underutilized? What happened to Pioneer Day?

### **3. What are the most important needs in Basin?**

- Recreation opportunities for youth. Rec center, etc.
- Gathering place for senior citizens. A senior center or at least a meeting place. Our seniors have to drive 7 miles to be able to socialize and get a senior meal and in the winter that is not safe.
- More housing – rentals.
- A restaurant.
- More shopping opportunities.
- Recreation and infrastructure upgrades.
- Preparing for growth so that growth is defined by Basin and doesn't necessarily redefine our community.
- Maintenance and repair.
- We need more rental homes available and building lots -- Infrastructure needs continued improvement (sanitary sewer, storm drains, electrical) -- Main Street enhancement (roadway, sidewalk, and storefronts).
- Eating/sleeping establishments.
- New school buildings and more business/industry, motels, restaurants, housing.
- Ensure that the town remains and is a safe environment for children to play and walk to and from school. Controls on sexual offenders to reduce the worry parents currently have for their children's safety walking back and forth.
- Good education system locally.
- Up-to-date infrastructure.
- Updating all existing public services Example: electrical, sewer and water.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- Sewage infrastructure.
- Community Center.
- Enforceable, reasonable zoning and codes.
- Improved diversity in business district.
- Designed, structured green space.
- Infrastructure upgrades.
- More interaction between old, working, young through functions.
- Motel/hotel and restaurant.
- Better relationships between business, government, and public.
- Identify where we want to develop.
- More jobs.
- Building codes and inspections; economic development; improved infrastructure.
- Economic development – more things to bring in the younger couples and more jobs for the young couples.
- Total input from people.
- Good Water, Sewer, and other infrastructure and or services the Town has. Also, these need to be affordable-this town seems to becoming a retirement community and must plan for that or look to improve.

### **4. With regard to the growth and development of Basin, what changes do you expect will happen over the next 10 to 20 years?**

- The new gas wells may impact our community. Other than that, I don't know of any development aimed for Basin.
- Possible oil field development just outside of Basin could create more demand for houses and building and well as new businesses. This is all good as long as we are prepared for the process so that the growth can be planned and is smart.
- Continued increase in benefits from oil and gas in the immediate area.
- Would like to see a main street project. The subdivision on the north end of town should be finished. The sewer lagoon and lines should be completed. Longer and enhanced walking/biking trails with more sidewalks in town. More main street businesses and eateries.
- Expect significant growth IF the oil and gas boom hits like it looks like it might.
- I hope to see businesses come in because it is a nice, clean, well-kept town.
- If we have an energy boom we'll see an increase in population and extreme pressure to accommodate that with housing, utilities, schools.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- The town will expand.
- New sewage lagoon.
- Subdivision growth to northwest along Golf Course Road.
- Some new homes will be built and another housing unit will be started.
- Currently we've seen increased in oil and gas exploration activity. People will be looking for housing and I would hope that developers would see Basin as an area to invest in so people could move here rather than Worland or Greybull. But, honestly, without an increase in job opportunity and housing opportunity in Basin I see more people living and working elsewhere and Basin declining.
- Infrastructure updates and reasons for more business to become part of the community.
- If gas becomes a reality, more school improvement, more businesses.
- I expect to see an increase in the number of people living in Basin that are older and or retired and a smaller school population. Ultimately, this will affect the businesses located in Basin at present. Sure there are other communities around Basin and why do we need a new Plan things are fine the way they are—this attitude will not address the future. Certain infrastructure needs replaced (things don't last forever); the town must plan on improvements, replacements, and new systems in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### **5. What goals should Basin have with regard to future growth?**

- To be prepared. Have infrastructure ready for growth.
- Be flexible and willing to accept the growth and development.
- Preparedness in building, subdivision and zoning regulations and process.
- Less taxes, lower utility and service costs will be the only attraction unless we can get permits to develop our own electricity and natural gas in the immediate area.
- A commitment to: maintain and improve the town's infrastructure, add sidewalks, encourage development and business enterprises, and keep the town clean and progressive.
- Improved curb and gutter / storm water drainage. Sewer lagoon
- Bring business and industrial opportunities that provide employment.
- By updating infrastructure keeping the community attractive and safe, with sufficient retail, medical and other services to appeal to prospective citizens, natural growth will follow.
- Updating all existing public services. Example: electrical, sewer and water.
- Controlled growth in a manageable fashion with designed, well thought out design and prepared infrastructure.
- Wide spread citizen involvement.
- Fix existing infrastructure and design for growth.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- Follow the rules, ordinances need updated and then followed. No good old boy system.
- Develop working relationships with business, public, government.
- We should have a plan to proceed with in the case of fast and unexpected growth.
- Clean industry; encourage motels and restaurants. Basin helps host a basketball tournament every winter; track meets; teams come to the area but stay in Worland or Greybull because there is no place to stay. So these events don't help us.
- Utilize BCAC more with the remodel to bring in groups – at least for day meetings to help show people it's a good place for meetings and perhaps that will entice entrepreneurs to bring a motel or restaurant to town.
- If we do grow, we need to sustain growth and that means making sure the infrastructure can handle growth.
- Business and recreation development for the younger people. We need to bring people into town.
- Welcoming site to passers through and visitors.
- Sensible growth can be achieved. Basin should plan to grow, look to growth in areas where services exist or can easily be accessed and expanded. Basin should take pride in what we have in Wyoming. Basin should clean up. Basin should set examples. Basin should encourage instead of discourage. We have a grocery store, hardware store, post office, bank, bar, club, gas station, businesses. We have a very wide diversity of people living in Basin and doing work in Basin. Determine how to tap in the traffic migrating through the town during the tourism season. We should make the town attractive. What happened to Yard of the Week?

### **6. What are the most significant obstacles to growth and development in Basin?**

- Funding -- not much of a tax base to draw from.
- Getting the citizens to accept new ideas, growth and development.
- Fear of change.
- Lack of preparedness when change is occurring (Tail wagging the dog).
- Generating revenue without becoming a burden and causing exodus.
- Completion from nearby, larger communities.
- Money always seems to be the biggest obstacle -- Basin seems to have a large segment of older residents who are more interested in low utility rates and taxes than improving infrastructure and amenities for a lasting strong community for future generations. Probably the most significant obstacle is apathy among the residents happy the way things are and unaware of aging infrastructure.
- Tax/business revenue.
- Lack of employment opportunities, lack of skilled workforce available, lack of shopping capability or availability.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- The cost of upgrading and expanding infrastructure to accommodate growth.
- Money (grants).
- Lack of visionary thinking and fear of altering status quo.
- Funding sources
- General Wyoming attitude towards the ability of government (all sizes) to help improve life styles and general well-being.
- No Master plan.
- The community needs to follow the plan and not go everywhere on their own. Help business to grow and develop with new ideas and outside development. Gas and oil, minerals.
- Same as in the whole country, but Wyoming is much better off. There should be more help from the state to encourage development and what would be good.
- Money primarily – from the town coffers, businesses and individuals; but also attitude of some that want growth without restriction; want growth without any change and neither can or should happen.
- Town residents!!!
- Business opportunity.
- Inconsistency in regulation, lack of infrastructure or improvements, attitudes, property attitudes. Presenting an idea that change is can be scary, but not planning can be devastating. Lack of Businesses associated with any travel or tourism. There is only the Lilac Motel and 1 campground and 1 restaurant for a family dinner (that is now limited on hours due to local attitudes). Questionable schooling. If the school age population decreases there will be an effect on Basin.

### **7. What are Basin's greatest assets for fostering growth and development?**

- An excellent planning and zoning committee that has done a fantastic job.
- Open land in and near town that is available for growth.
- Community.
- Location, diversity, low cost of living.
- Basin for a small town has great employment opportunities: County court house, County jail, County road crew, WYDOT district office for northwest fifth of the state, WYDOT road maintenance crew, Wyoming Retirement Center, a great bank, grocery store, and the headquarters for one of the finest phone companies and broadband provider in the state, computer drafting businesses, farming and ranching supply businesses, great library.....unfortunately many working at the above places live in other communities and commute to work.
- Quiet / peaceful / safe town.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- Good hospital, clinics, retirement center, TCT, county seat, schools.
- It is attractive and well kept (thanks in part to raw water).
- Remarkable features of a small town (walking path, theatre, parks, stores, etc.).
- We need to update our existing electrical, sewer and water to expand growth.
- Attractive streets and neighborhoods.
- Friendly neighbors.
- Good schools.
- Attractive golf course.
- Walking path.
- Reasonable cost of living.
- Friendships.
- Ability to respond to needs.
- Keep school system at highest level.
- Location: High and dry.
- Good schools, lower cost housing, raw water, clean air, no state income tax, low property taxes, and sunshine.
- The BCAC, TCT and technology available, health care available in the area.
- Schools, church, hospital, etc.
- Lots of room for new things.
- Adjacent to major river allowing for recreation, good telecommunication company located in the town, Irrigation Water, BNSF has sidings within the Town of Basin, Basin has a boat ramp, basin has a Golf Course close, stores, several businesses, a school, and the County Seat. Basin also has a POOL. Basin has many potential hidden amenities that are not offered or spoke about.

### **8. To what extent should Basin citizens be involved in creating the town plan?**

- The citizens of Basin should be 100% involved in the town plan. I would hope to have citizen input in all stages of the plan.
- Fully.
- 100%.
- To a great extent -- from young people, business owners, public officials, school board members, retirees, agricultural people as many as will contribute to the plan.
- 100% - but that probably is not realistic.

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

- Survey input, information and input on the changes in costs for making those improvements. Opportunities for public to comment and suggestions such as at public meetings.
- As much as possible and especially a mix of ages, from teens up.
- The master plan affects everybody in the town so everybody should have the opportunity to be involved.
- We should encourage all citizens to be involved with all aspects. Good ideas need to be encouraged and shared.
- Need to find out what they really want; many different needs and wants.
- To whatever they want and are willing. The offer has been made for volunteers.
- I believe town input is valuable. That said I think a couple of meetings or survey to gain their views and perspectives but people can have their own agendas and don't necessarily look at the bigger picture or look at things objectively; thus their input should only be used as just one piece in making decisions to form the master plan.
- 100%, but: Invite to all meetings and presentations (most won't show) and invite all to answer survey (won't happen).
- All citizens should be involved to the best of the town's interest. Basin is a small community and will only get out of it what is put into it.

### **9. Additional comments:**

- I wish there were a low interest loan program to encourage contractors to rehab (or remove) some of the unsightly, dilapidated houses scattered around town. They lower the value of neighbors' properties.
- Additions of facilities and services to attract more businesses, residents and revenue will not be possible due to duplication in nearby communities. Leave Basin the way it is, the way we love it.
- I can envision a town with an attractive main corridor (need) and downtown where tourists stop to check out a little shop (need more) and residents get their morning coffee (need). Complete with bike racks (need) and outdoor seating areas (need). A trail system to the river and up along the canal (need) all linked together through parks (need to develop more fully) and residential neighborhoods with interesting architecture and beautiful yards (have).
- Leave Basin the way it is, the way we love it.
- The most important part of this plan is to lessen the impact of cost to the people of the Town of Basin. I realize the town needs to grow and continue to improve but the town has a lot of retired people that are set up on a fixed income and cannot keep getting their services raised.
- Money always has been and always will be an issue. Need to look at creative ways to improve the town and foster business opportunities. Improvement on 4<sup>th</sup> Street Curb appeal is a must.
- I'm excited about a Master Plan update if it is something that will be used by the town government and businesses. My main concern is that suggestions and recommendations in the

## **BASIN TOWN OFFICIALS SURVEY RESULTS**

plan will never happen due to strapped finances in the area. I hope I'm wrong. I like Basin and would like to see it grow and improve and think a Master Plan is the first step to making that happen.

- We need to look at moving forward without a whole new economic burden on the fixed income older households. Bring in new jobs and young couples with kids for school – must have recreation for these people 5 to 15 years and your couples 18 to 30 years not just bars – restaurants, movies, date nights, etc. Weekend projects (four wheeler trails, walk paths, etc.).
- There was an interesting editorial in the Basin Paper about the top ten ways to become a ghost town. **Some growth would be nice.** If you ask natives, a lot has changed for Basin in the past 100 years. Business has come and gone as well as residents. The high school graduates have decreased over the past 30 years. Many main streets in Wyoming are drying up and the rural areas are getting the development (residential, Business and Commercial/Industrial). What is the medium age of the Town of Basin? Towns should be more proactive in growth being located in or near their town. Wyoming is growing and it is in Basin. I would like to see more proactive approach to growth and not this aspect of we don't want to change. Subdivisions are very expensive and take careful planning-subdivision development should be consistent with what the atmosphere allows in Basin. It should be encouraged to see Basin grow and change and not be resistant because we don't want change.