

# BASIN MASTER PLAN SURVEY

November 2011

## Written Comments from Survey Respondents

.....  
*Out of 279 surveys that we received, 82 (or 29%) contained written comments. These 82 comments appear below.*

*Each survey we received was numbered. This survey number appears at the start of each comment.*

*Because these results will be published online and in print, we have omitted any personal references, like names, address, and phone numbers. Indecent comments are also omitted. Any such omissions are noted with italic print in brackets [ ].*

*The original surveys are public documents. They have been retained and will be available for viewing.*  
.....

#2: Constant increase in services worries me. Look into a new natural gas supply. This has never been considered.

#3: Quit spending! Only government salaries seem to be going up! If this is anonymous, how can you send me my prize?

#6: Make sure that all personnel are qualified to perform the job they are on for. Make the police patrol the streets and get out of the coffee shops and office. Enforce the ordinances that are on the books. Don't hide information from the public. I rate all performances low in Basin.

#9: We need more speed control on 4th Street.

#10: I think the mayor needs to do a reality check! There are some things that aren't necessary for our town.

#17: Clean up that mess on 4th Street--motor homes, junk cars and equipment. That jail is an eyesore--belongs out in the hills. Raw water system, sewage system are getting out of reason.

#29: Should of used our taxes on indoor (swim pool) -- not tennis courts -- only six people use tennis courts.

#30: Need growth but not California standards. Keep small town atmosphere. Who in the heck let the junky place on 4th Street get that way (Town Council). Need to redo sewer systems. Now some people's basements flood because of sewer system. Town parks need improvement. What is taking

electric upgrade so long to get up and running? Current mayor's ideas need to be kept in check and balance with what Basin wants and needs.

#37: If the Town annexes any additional land into the town it needs to supply all the services to them-- water, raw water, sewer and electrical. Before the town looks to improve anything they should take care of what is already here.

#38: Would really appreciate the Homeland Security sire not blowing for fires or accidents. Was our understanding was just to go off for tornados, cyclones, very strong thunder storms. It is very disturbing to have it wake you at 12:30 AM, 4:00 AM or even 5:00 AM. It should be made known why it blows. We are very thankful for our good drinking water and appreciate the raw water too.

#39: Put siren in someone else's front door. Place it by cemetery.

#40: All the schools in the area should have consolidated years ago, keeping only the elementary schools local. We waste a lot of money on all of their buildings which serve so few students when that money could and should be used on the students to improve their education. The property owners in Basin should be required to keep their property clean and free from trash, cars, etc., at all times; front and back of their properties. Thank you.

#41: Basin citizens need televised town meetings and have a vote on what projects are to take place. And no large metropolitan influence.

#45: Clean up areas on Main Street.

#46: Basin needs a fulltime Animal Control Officer. An ordinance is needed for control of cats running loose. Owners should be made responsible for their cats. There should be a law and it enforces as to how many cats and dogs each homeowner or renter has (in town).

#52: Need affordable housing for singles with lower income. The new housing apartments are nice but not affordable to a single income household with lower wages and other bills to pay. Bike path needs to be extended to other end of town. Decent hardware store, poor grocery store and not place to buy and any clothes.

#53: I think we worry too much about other things when we should be worried about sewer and electrical. I for one am tired of the sewer backing up into my house. I don't feel that if I want to make improvements to my house I have to ask you for permission. Why do I have to pay a fee if there is no town inspector. I also thing the fees are way too high for this area.

#56: Basin in past decades, 30 some years has lost sight of future jobs for young adults, and things to do for young and old. Night life, food, as in steaks and cocktails has been lost. No one want to move to an inactive and shrinking way of life, which is different for all. Locals and long term people don't want to pay for past mistakes made by not allowing industry to come here many years ago, future was never considered. Act for the future, the presence is lost. Grandparents in most part have to drive out of state or county for holidays to see kids who have been force to move as soon as out of high school to

have jobs and activities for family! Think future. Was here in late 70s. Town needs to go back. Age 58, 13 year resident. *[Respondent provided his name]*.

#57: Elected officials in Basin should do more talking to town people before doing anything. Times are hard and getting harder. Raising prices on utilities and water and other services should be held to a very minimum. Police force is already too big. Would be far better with video cameras on main exits, revenue would help keep services costs low, would catch more speeders from out of town. Too many unnecessary rules, with every new rule a little more freedom is lost. Get out of electric and garage business (sale to private company), unfair water assessment on county property tax. Should only be taxed for water if you use it.

#59: We don't need outside influence. No big city influence. We need televised town meetings.

#64: The main roads through town are adequate. Having five lanes for the highway north and south is great. And C street is nice and wide, a real plus. Please focus monies on other items and services in need of improvement.

#68: No 3 lanes on the main street (4th). Five lanes is the best. This highway was recently resurfaced and sidewalks were upgraded to ADA standards. Doesn't make any sense to "fix it is it ain't broke." Also it would be a big waste of the town's and WYDOT's limited funds that could better be used elsewhere. How about a recreation center/swimming pool, etc.

#70: The Town government will do more for economic growth by keeping taxes low, providing affordable utilities, keeping regulations and red tape to a minimum, and maintaining a solid town infrastructure that by passing more ordinances, trying to control the lives of residents, and generally trying to do too much. As a business owner, some of the ideas and attitudes of our current town government, especially our mayor, scare me. Town government should be there to help the doers in our town, not make them jump through more hoops. Instead of government saying, "This is what we need to do." They need to have an attitude of asking town residents what they want and saying, "How can we help you grow and develop?" An atmosphere of freedom will do more for economic development than any plan, group, ordinance, or organization.

#72: Downtown businesses (building owners) should be encouraged to put new fronts on similar to Cowley's renovation.

#75: We don't need anything at this time (\$ too tight!). The way our money -- isn't! For all of us -- not only here in Basin, but all across our state and nation. Money is scares and not to be squandered! So at this time I say leave town as a laid back place where most of use enjoy what time we have left in the world. Haven't you noticed all of the empty houses? Most of us haven't any extra monies that it would cost to change things.

#79: Overall, Basin is a good place to live. I would like to see the mayor change her attitude. She seems to think only her ideas are good ones. She needs to think more of use citizens and less of her personal agenda.

#81: If you want this town to grow, get your nose out of people's business. Liberty promotes prosperity. You should privatize electrical service. It would produce better service and lower rates. Government is not as efficient as private business. It is stupid to raise fees and taxes and expect growth, no matter what you may have been taught. Remember, liberty, capitalism, and low taxes produced the most prosperous society in history, and now we are doing all the right things to destroy it. (You won't learn that in college--only from history and common sense.)

#82: I moved to Basin about 20 years ago. At first I couldn't wait to leave. But I have grown to appreciate it. I think it is a great place to live. I am getting closer to my "golden years" and this survey addresses some of my concerns about aging here--the main being transportation, another is mail delivery, and activities. I would like to make a suggestion and it seems minor, but would be an inexpensive project to improve some seniors lives--a community garden. Thanks for offering me the opportunity to participate in this survey.

#90: Why are we spending so much money on recycling? Should be a profit to the town.

#91: I noticed the tickets being used are printed in Atlanta, GA. If we don't support the businesses already in town, why would having more help? There is a printer in the town, located right across from the town office, in fact.

#92: All improvements sound great on paper. But how many can afford big changes. Young families cannot take care of their families. We are a small town and a retirement town. Some on fixed income, most elderly, or young families cannot afford big improvements. I do not know how Cowley improved their town and it is a great example. First clean up. I have watched several places being improved and that is great. It won't happen overnight. I hope you can come up with a feasible plan suitable for our town.

#94: My son is a contractor and very good. But there are other that have not ideas what they are doing. But it makes no sense to get a building inspector when no one is licensed to make sure it been done right. All improvements sound great! But too many of us do not have extra money for extra things.

#101: Every question on the survey is a loaded questions. Every option given would cost the residents more money. I hope you all understand that grant money is not free. It is a big part of our \$14.3 trillion debt that politicians are borrowing from our grandkids to buy our votes. Every time anyone does show an interest in investing some new money in this town the Town Council starts seeing dollar signs and starts changing the rules and upping the ante. Basin is an old town. Just as when a person reaches a certain age they give up the grandiose ideas of their youth and just try to maintain and be comfortable. That's where Basin is. Don't roll up the sidewalks but just maintain and be comfortable.

#103: If a person is working for the Town of Basin, the (he or she) should be living in the Town of Basin, not another town. We don't need trees growing on main street. This is not California. Or more bike paths.

#108: Town government does not need to get involved with peoples private property and their rights.  
*[Indecent comment omitted].*

#117: I think the first thing the town of Basin should work on is getting new business in town. We don't even have a good place to dine. I think once that is accomplished people will move in and we can start working on Basin's image. As gas prices continue to increase more people will have to shop their local stores. The economy is in trouble right now and the town should be careful not to put too much financial burden on the citizens of Basin. Make Basin a place where people want to live.

#124: We do not need to make our town into a mini-suburban area. It is a small town with many types of people who have many difference incomes. Some people have "stuff". So what?! Let them have it! If someone wants to drive a block instead of walk/ride a bike, so what?! That's the choice they made! Quit trying to brainwash un into being a yuppy! We want to be us, not like a greenie town! P.S. Who paid for the raffle ticket prizes.

#127: Need to quit raising utilities and raw water. People already can't afford to pay. Get a new mayor that is our small town values instead of trying to bring in and do big city stuff.

#132: Please. Please take care of the stray cats around Martin apartments N. 18th Street. Thanks.

#148: I think all utilities should be available for all residences inside the town limits including raw water and the town should provide clean up for all roads owned by the town. E. Wyoming. But most of all raw water to all water rights holders.

#150: I like Basin the way it is! I do not want taxes and utilities to increase. I can't afford it. And I don't not want to have to pay for sidewalks that aren't needed--can't afford that either. Between Basin and Greybull we have a great little community. Keep out the "big city" ideas and expenses, please. If I wanted to have that I'd live in a big city!

#153: I truly love this small town in our community. I of course would like to see it stay as a small town but I also realize that growth is probably needed. I like the fact that our town does not see and abundance of crime or homeless situations. Basin, to me, is a perfect place to live.

#157: I think taxes should be lowered. I also think that water and electrical rates are way too high and they need adjusted. The economy is in poor condition that most people cannot afford a lot. I also feel that new business should be considered.

#158: Would like to see a walking/bike trail between communities.

#159: I believe the H.S. should become part of Greybull. The cost for such a small school district is not needed. Also better classes could be offered for H.S. students with money saved.

#160: Basin is a great little town. I would like to see more playground equipment in the parks, more street lights, and sidewalks.

#163: The town should purchase some of the vacant buildings and construct a community center with a pool. Cody is a good example of Basin to follow. In the past many people in Basin have opposed progress in the form of economic development, business growth, improved housing. It is apparent to me that until the negative people move, die, or have less influence, there will be no change in Basin, Wyoming. In my opinion, Basin is on the road to becoming a ghost town if it isn't already. The only business that keeps it on the map is the county building. Most of the people that work there are from out of town. I guess this survey has awakened my negative feelings about Basin. I think I should move.

#165: We have too many police in town.

#173: Town meetings would have better attendance if better prior notice were given.

#178: Can we just keep Basin a small town and live within our means. We do not need beautification we need to spend our monies on necessities. This does not mean to increase taxes and fees to pay for something that is not needed. We have many people on fixed incomes and the slightest increase is a problem. I wish that the mayor was as friendly and supportive to the community as she was prior to the election. It is sad.

#182: Some areas need more dumpsters. I share one dumpster with six other homes. We need a place to put tree limbs, grass and leaves.

#183: Please purchase the three lots across from the Allred's and make it into a community center.

#188: Like it or not (I don't) the town must grow or it will die. Police duties should include town maintenance. We have almost no crime but lots of weeds and trash. Wyoming H.P. should take care of the highway through town. Town electrical and sewer is a mess.

#189: Ambulatory and fire service - fire services from my perspective are running good and quick to their job... so kudos! As for ambulatory services go, I have witnessed a call come through for assistance for some other emergency and the response time was, well I was upset that they stood around for 5-15 minutes before getting in the P.O.V. and going to the call. While griping about it. What also gets to me and others is that rumors that if an accident happens in Basin, that they will take you to Lovell and if in Greybull area, they will take you to Worland. This more miles, better pay? Does not make me feel warm inside. I think better supervision and not optional classes and refresher training could be beneficial to our community. Better youth and sports facilities would also be great. City streets, curbs and drainage systems would also make our community look and feel great. Not to mention not standing pools of water and flooding. Thanks.

#197: Actually, I think Basin is a pretty good town to live in.

#198: We don't need additional walk paths or bike paths. A few benches and trees on main street would be nice. Priority sewer and water needs. Acquire land for industrial park and business. Be business friendly for a change. Be behind new growth and housing. Be pro apartment, motel, hotel. Get a council that can agree to and work with Rea as principal operator for the peoples benefit. Do not

restrict business building, etc, form considering locating here. Be pro growth and get people to work again.

#199: Yes we need not to be talking to a mayor about town problems but to council members. Town is to be run by the people and council members. *[Indecent comment omitted]*. Before all town employees quit and the town is out of money. And in addition, why are half of the people on this board all don't own or operate a business. Maybe we should be asking people who have invested in the town.

#204: Water fountain at park by Courthouse - what happened?

#206: I would really like curb/gutter/sidewalks.

#208: The town is charging the people enough now. Where is all the money coming from to do all these improvements.

#211: Electricity is too expensive. It costs too much to live in Basin.

#214: We need to look at different suppliers for the electricity. Our rates for electricity are way too high.

#220: Quit putting chlorine in the drinking water. This water is chlorinated at the well head in Manderson. Police department is lazy. All of them. There is no reason why they can't spend more time working rather than sitting at a friend's house wasting my tax dollars. *[Provided individuals names.]* Want proof, ask me. There is more to the PD. I would lie to visit with the government officials about this. If we want growth in Basin, don't control it. We need a free market, not a communist country or town. *[Respondent provided a phone #]*.

#222: If you want to beautify the town simply clean it up. Condemn and tear down junk buildings/homes and enforce weed control. This includes town property (lead by example!). Get control of "crappy" cats. Make an ordinance on junk vehicles on private property, these are a big eyesore, make them purchase a permit to keep un licensed vehicles in town limits.

#224: High priority should be to have property owners clean their lots. Old cars, trailers and odds and ends litter many very visible areas, even on the main thoroughfare. Why would anyone want to live in these areas. It's very unsightly to anyone traveling though here. Instead of spending money to put a lot of new things in town, clean up what we have first so that people want to live here or open a business here. What rentals that are available here are a disgrace! Basin needs decent, affordable places to rent.

#225: No jake brakes coming into town. Quiet zone for railroad (no whistles at night).

#231: Lower spending, lower taxes, lower utilities, pay off debt, build an emergency trust fund.

#234: The city services have been raised too high too often--garbage, electrical, sewer, raw water, etc.

#242: The reason that people living in Basin is that it is a friendly little town. Leave it that way! Don't let it be ruined and become a rich man's paradise like Pinedale and Boulder, Wyoming and be ruined

because of it. Why not benefit the people that live here and pay taxes and make their home here. How about doing some animal control, and I don't mean "voluntary licensing". Ha! What a joke. These animals stray or otherwise are allowed to cover their neighbors property with feces to the point of infringing on our rights. We don't own animals but are continually having to clean up after everyone else's. Our garden has become one big litter box for the neighborhood casts and my flower beds are too. When is it going to "be enough" so that our rights are not violated? We can no longer have a garden or yard or flowers because of the dog and cat feces that make me want to puke from the odor when I step out my door and we can no longer enjoy feeding the birds, that are afraid to come around because of all the cats. Why not take care of the issues at hand for your taxpaying citizens instead of trying to bring more people and their pets. Get real.

#245: Basin really needs to be open to change. It needs restaurants and major curb appeal! Basin needs recreation for our children and to encourage other young people to come to the community. Thank you for giving the citizens a chance to voice their opinions.

#248: A gym (like Bally's) would be a nice addition to the town.

#250: This town needs to do something about the weeds and junk vehicles, appliances, etc. It is out of control and lowers property values! Not to mention just looks terrible! The hardware store and pharmacy are good. Everything else is sad. The town needs to make sure curb and gutters are installed before sidewalks go in. Tourism? What are you promoting. How about getting decent shopping here so we don't have to leave town for a gallon of milk!

#253: Do recycling only if cost efficient. Better communication with town residents. Only town residents should be on planning boards for Town of Basin projects. Listen to what residents are saying and want for the Town of Basin. Mayor and Council should help find solutions to help residents, not fight with residents over petty things.

#255: The appearance of the downtown needs improvement. It looks poor and run down. Take a look at Cowley for inspiration. Owners need a plan. Streets, water, sewer, electrical systems have to be a priority. Why would anybody move here if systems don't work. A master plan for development is needed. Consider giving new people a handbook about city services -- shoveling your sidewalk, keeping weeds down in the alleys, trash collection days, how the raw water system works -- nobody can say they didn't know their responsibilities as owners/renters if you give it to them in writing. The snow shoveling -- or lack of it -- really ticks me off. Make any signs you put up about raw water, burning, etc., (at the post office) in big letters on bright paper -- nobody can read 14 point font on a sign.

#257: There should be some sort of completion dates on home remodels that are left undone or take years to complete outside of visible to passersby with no one grandfathered in, ex. Siding versus insulation. I think rates are within reason. People need to look around so they are aware of that.

#260: Homes for sale should be maintained especially the yards.

#261: We moved from Mississippi to Basin in June 2009. One of the first things are noticed was the absence of trash along the streets and roads. Where we come from the roads were littered with bottles, boxes, and various junky items. Cheers for Basin!

#265: Live close to Fair Grounds -- but no street light coming down one block. Night dangerous in seeing cars, people and deer. Also put stop sign on 3rd Street as no on slows down when going south on 3rd St. New businesses -- clothing, sports -- do not seem to have a chance to succeed. Why? To many restrictions from town, county, state, federal regulations coupled with all taxes -- impossible to succeed.

#271: Mahoney Park needs to be cleaned up. Brush and weeds have overgrown various areas -- drainage needs to be cleaned. It's a fire danger waiting to happen.

#272: The first plan was 30+ years ago. Basin is full of life. Bring it into the town and the town will feel the lift. This will be an example for the town and a goal for all citizens. We will only get out of life what we put in. Thank you Town.

#276: We need to quit raising everything as utilities and find other ways to come up with money. This town is mostly senior citizens and single mothers who cannot afford the high utilities. We need to find ways to keep people in Basin. It is obvious when you drive down the streets. How many houses are for sale. We are driving people out of town with all the new regulations and laws "the new mayor" is proposing. She needs to remember we are a small town, not a city. Between the town government and county commissioners we are losing a lot of money because of raising prices. Prices for use of fairgrounds have been raised so much most auctions and other sales are going to Worland. We can't make any money for improvements if we are losing all of the business.

#278: I think the town could use a public leaf, limb and garden dump like Greybull has. Thank you.

#279: Basin is a wonderful town. The Town should quit throwing up barriers for new businesses, such as TCT or the new housing development. We have too many employees, harassing our people trying to build or expand.