

Jim Palenick

From: Jim Palenick [jpalenick@dallasnc.net]
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2013 12:28 PM
To: 'Rick Coleman'; 'ronniemorrow@att.net'; 'JOHN BEATY'; 'Martin, Scott'; 'huggybarber@att.net'; 'hoylewithers@yahoo.com'
Cc: 'J. Thomas Hunn'; 'mstroupe@dallasnc.net'; 'Bill Trudnak'; 'dhuffman@dallasnc.net'; 'dallasplanning@dallasnc.net'; 'gbuckner@dallasnc.net'; 'slambert@dallasnc.net'; 'A Martin'
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Report (#19)
Attachments: Gastonia response letter.pdf

Mayor & Board of Aldermen:

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Report for the Week-ended Friday, February 22, 2013.**

- As you will recall, I authored a letter to Gastonia City Manager Munn on January 10th, in which the Town of Dallas proposed the reconstruction of the sanitary sewer interconnect line between Dallas and the Long Creek WWTP, with each party paying for the portion within their respective jurisdiction, but that Gastonia would bid and administer the contract for construction and then re-bill Dallas for its portion in (4) equal yearly installments, without interest. This week we received a response back, Not from Mr. Munn but from Assistant City Manager Bombardier, (copy attached), in which Gastonia proposed that each party separately finance, design, bid and construct the portion in their jurisdiction (which would be absurdly inefficient and overly costly rather than as a single project) and then Dallas would have to pay the Standard "availability" charge once the line was connected of \$1,028.96 per-month (\$12,347.52/year) whether or not we ever sent so much as a single gallon of sewerage on for treatment. Their other "option" is the same deal they have been offering us forever....they will build and pay for the line if the Town of Dallas enters into a long-term wholesale treatment deal for effectively all effluent at their standard \$3.80 per-thousand gallon rate. (we have stated time and time again that this is economically prohibitive and not a "cost-plus-return-on-investment model"). At this point, in the absence of further movement on their part, my recommendation is to cease any further attempts at negotiation since no reasonable offer ever seems to be forthcoming in response to our efforts. Perhaps some where down the line, when other leadership is in place, we might have greater success.
- As brought to our attention by the recent snowstorm, and its immediate after-effects on Town Roads, we do not possess adequate salt/slag spreading equipment. As such, Public Works Director Trudnak has researched, located, and acquired a salt-spreader which fits into a standard pick-up bed and can be quickly and easily installed or removed as needed (and easily stored the remainder of the time). Total cost was \$3,200 with customer pick-up, so Mr. Trudnak has personally arranged to travel to the Kentucky supplier and bring it back to Dallas. This is within the existing Budget for equipment purchases and should better prepare and equip the Town for future snow or ice events.
- I have directed Electric Department Director Huffman to research the cost and logistics of acquiring and distributing cfl's (compact fluorescent lightbulbs) to our electric account-holders as an energy-efficiency promotion and in honor of the Town's sesquicentennial. We would likely give each utility customer two (2) bulbs free of charge and the bulbs would be in a special promotional sleeve advertising the Town's 150th Anniversary and the similarly-long tenure of providing efficient, cost-effective and reliable electric service.
- We received word this week from the NCDENR that our yearly-mailing of Water Quality Reports to each water utility account customer, as required by EPA mandate, will henceforth be allowed to be "delivered" via electronic means, namely by prominently displaying an electronic URL linking to the complete text of the report on our utility bills; or, by other acceptable alternative means. This is one of the very few pieces of "positive" information received from another level of government, in that it should save us real money in avoiding the printing, mailing and postage costs associated with distributing these reports to every single utility customer.
- Since the Budget Work session to be held on Tuesday, February 26th has also been posted as a Regular meeting of the Board, you all will have the ability, should you choose, to add action items to the Agenda and to formally act on same. This was contemplated because we had thought (and hoped) that we would have enough

information on Health Care proposals and bids to perhaps approve an employee health care coverage program for the upcoming coverage year at this meeting. However, that does not look likely at this point, but you still have the ability to act on other matters and one such item is a request for voluntary annexation for property along Lower Dallas Highway – which you will be informed about under a separate e-mail correspondence from David Kahler. The Action would be merely the first step of directing the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition as filed. But since the applicant wants to move as quickly as possible, this would advance the process rather than waiting until the March Board meeting. Also, if the Board wishes to address or take any action regarding Recreation fees at the Meeting it could address that matter as well.

- Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the Budget Work Session Tuesday evening because I need to fly out west Tuesday afternoon to personally attend to a pressing real estate concern associated with property my wife and I still own in New Mexico. I will be back in the Office Friday, but Maria Stroupe will be fully prepared to go through the Agenda presentation and all Department Directors will be available and prepared to answer any questions. Further, I will be getting with Mayor Coleman to go over any and all issues and concerns in advance as well. If you have any preliminary questions based on the agenda, or otherwise, please don't hesitate to contact me at your convenience.
- The Dallas Historic Courthouse Foundation will be holding their Monthly Board meeting on Monday evening (25th) at 6:00 in the Fire Hall.

Thank You.

Jim Palenick
Interim Town Manager