

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 147)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, December 11, 2015

- On Tuesday of this week, we conducted a bid opening for the two (2), electric line circuit re-builds which were budgeted for in the approved, FY2015-16 Electric Fund Budget. Only a single bid was received and it came in at \$844,000, which is \$598,000 over our \$246,000 Budget. Needless to say, we have no intention of suggesting a bid award in this case. Based on this result, and with the aid of some additional information we received from contractors who refrained from bidding, it appears there is a lot of work currently for contractors; prices are going up dramatically; and, we need to look at alternative ways of re-bidding this project and/or getting it done with in-house personnel. To that end, we are likely to purchase the materials ourselves to avoid any contractor mark-up, and see if we can develop a plan for using in-house personnel on over-time, along with some contracted assistance for additional labor and equipment rental from some of our colleague municipal utilities, to get this job done at or near our approved budget. We will report further once we have developed a complete plan.
- Our Cloninger Park picnic shelter was delivered this week and we immediately moved to have our contracted erectors begin installation. In that regard, they poured the concrete footings and completed the installation of the structural skeleton of the structure. Next week we will pour the concrete slab and then finish installation of the roof as well.
- Duke Energy informed us this week that they would be pursuing a grant program in which they would be offering competitive grants, for the installation of electric car charging stations and infrastructure, of up to \$20,000 per site, and \$50,000 per entity, to local and state government entities within their service territories. The program will move forward soon and they asked for those interested to submit preliminary letters of interest for sites and projects, with nothing binding as to commitment at this point. On behalf of Dallas, I submitted a preliminary indication that we would look for funding to install up to four charging opportunities in the public parking area adjacent to Cloninger Park. One of the primary criteria for funding is that sites be close to things to do for motorists who would be walking to destinations while their car(s) were parked being charged. Also, that such parking be accessible from major transportation arteries. Hence, Cloninger Park should be a very competitive site.
- The Town Square gazebo will be moved to its proposed new home in the County's historic village at the Dallas Park on Saturday. A large crane will be driving on to the Town Square grounds to accomplish this so we expect some damages to the lawn areas which will have to be restored following removal.
- Laura Stroupe, owner of the properties along west Wilkins St. that the Town desires to purchase for the new, public parking lot, will have received the certified letter and resolution of purchase

offer today (Friday, December 11th), meaning that the 30 days we are providing for final offer acceptance or rejection shall run through Sunday, January 10th.

- We are working on completing the mailers and web-site materials to commence the Business Registration Program authorized by Ordinance at the November 10th Board Meeting. We expect to get information out to all known business entities by the first of the year, and will allow those affected until March 1st, 2016 to complete and submit their application and pay the \$35.00 registration fee. This will then be the recurring pattern for future years, with renewals going out the first of the year and renewal or new applications and fee payments due by March 1st. (I have attached a tentative mailing example herewith).
- Today at 4:00 p.m. is the Annual Town of Dallas Christmas Parade which will travel along its traditional route on Main Street.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager