

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 148)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, December 18, 2015

- Because I have scheduled much of Thursday and Friday of this week (Dec. 17th & 18th), I am completing the weekly report in advance – so it is somewhat briefer as a result.
- We finally received the requested “Letter of Commitment” from Gastonia, this week, regarding their portion of funding for the Waste-water collection and treatment interconnect line. As a result, I finalized the Grant packet materials submission for the County “Township Grant Application” (\$300,000) and forwarded it on to the County Manager’s Office. The County is now expected to make decisions on the awards late in January, 2016.
- Jack Kiser, who has been working on a part-time (19 hours a week) basis as the contracted, Development Services Director, has formally submitted his letter of resignation, indicating he will work through the end of January in his current capacity. He has further indicated a willingness to then offer a more limited number of hours over the next succeeding weeks to assist in any transition. With this in mind, I have prepared ads, and will begin placing them in professional publications, and web-sites, for the recruitment of a full-time, early-career professional to fill this position. We have clearly seen over the tenure of Mr. Kiser that, even with a highly-tenured, high-level professional, it is nearly impossible to fully fulfill the duties and requirements of this position on a part-time basis. Particularly, since this represents essentially a one-person office. As such, the movement back to the historic, full-time Director position is warranted.
- As you all know, the unfortunate, Officer-involved shooting incident which occurred on Tuesday is occupying much of our time this week and will continue to affect our operations over the next several days or weeks. We can assure you all that the investigation and follow-through will be conducted in a manner that assures it will be thorough, complete, and independent. No information or details will be released until the involved agencies have signed off on such releases, and all investigation of the actions of our officers (in this incident), and whether or not they followed proper policy, will be conducted either by the State Bureau of Investigation or the Gaston County’s Sheriff’s Department, to insure the transparency and independence of such investigation(s). We ask you all for your patience and understanding throughout this process. In the meantime, our Department, under the leadership of Chief Buckner, will continue to provide all the required and expected level of law enforcement services to our citizens without disruption.
- We received a formal written response to our “last-best offer” for purchase/like-kind trade of the Stroupe Property, in today’s mail (copy attached) from an attorney acting on Ms. Stroupe’s (property owner) behalf. As you will read, the offer has been rejected and all further discussions on the matter have “been terminated”. We will therefore move forward to promptly re-design

the parking lot project to remain fully contained within the properties already owned and controlled by the town of Dallas.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager