

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 153)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, January 29, 2016

- As many probably already know, the Gaston County Board of Commissioners formally approved and awarded \$300,000 of the Township Grant Program funds to the Town of Dallas at their Tuesday, January 26th Board Meeting. These funds will go toward the Town's estimated \$500,000 proportionate share of the Waste-water sewer line interconnect project linking the Town system to the Long Creek treatment plant. The Town can now allocate the \$90,915 in unreserved Capital Project Fund monies to the remaining required match –leaving just under \$110,000 to come from Water/Sewer Fund Balance. This will have to be budgeted in the upcoming FY2016-17 Town Budget and the project should then move forward in the late Summer/early Autumn.
- We continue to work on the re-structuring and re-bidding of the Circuit re-build project that was budgeted in the Electric Fund following the earlier attempt at bidding which came in so much over budget. Specifically, we have broken out the materials separately and are reviewing the results of that bid opening currently. In addition, we are creatively looking at doing certain portions of the work with in-house staff as well as evaluating contractual arrangements with other, larger regional municipal electric colleague utilities. We hope to have a complete plan and associated costs for discussion and possible action at the March Board meeting.
- On Tuesday of this week, the new electric sub-station was fully energized for the first time. Some minor tweaks are being made and full on-line utilization will be phased in over a number of days. So far, nothing too problematic or unexpected – all is proceeding as anticipated.
- We received a formal letter today from the NC Department of Commerce officially informing us that our \$750,000 CDBG Grant is now "closed". Meaning that we have fully satisfied all requirements for both spending the funds and for documenting and reporting on the project's compliance with all Federal guidelines.
- In keeping with the budgeted increase for employee recognition we have now instituted a new program of recognition rewards and activity which will better acknowledge the contributions and longevity milestones of employees. There will be established rewards for certain threshold milestones and recognition of same will happen at new employee events to be scheduled. As such, we will no longer have employees actually come to the Board Meeting and receive paper certificates. We will still have their names and years of services listed on the Agenda when those milestones pass, but their recognition will be of greater prominence and occur at these new, to-be-scheduled, "dinner/gathering" events.

- I will be attending the North Carolina City/County Manager's Winter Institute in Durham next week on Wednesday through Friday, so I will be getting the Board packet out in advance of my departure. Also, there will not be a Weekly Manager's Report next week as a result.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager