

Jim Palenick

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Sent: Friday, June 20, 2014 1:48 PM
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Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Report (#81)
Attachments: Press release AFG Grant.pdf

Mayor & Board of Aldermen(Women):

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Weekly Report for the Week-ended, Friday, June 20, 2014.**

- You will all recall that, back at the beginning of the year, the Town Board approved the awarding of an Amendment to the Phase I Waterline construction project, in the form of the addition of nearly a mile of new waterline replacement along Gaston Avenue by extending the existing contract with Clark Ledbetter Grading (Phase I Contract Holder) to add the additional work using the existing "unit prices" already agreed to for the original Phase I contract Award. At the time, Ledbetter agreed and plans were made to move forward. Since then, and culminating right at the point we expected the work to commence, Ledbetter has refused to honor the terms of the contract amendment agreement, and has instead demanded substantial increases in a number of areas. We made clear this was unacceptable and that he could either honor the agreement or we would re-bid the work. Ledbetter has chosen not to do the project for the amounts agreed upon, so we have begun the process to re-bid the work. We are working to time the bid opening so that the Board can approve a new Contract award to the determined low-bidder at the July 15th Board Meeting.
- As we are introducing the new automated-arm, driver-operated trash truck to Town routes, we are finding that some residents are not placing their wheeled curb-carts for convenient access at street-edge or, worse, that they are not placing the carts with the handles facing "inward" – which allows proper pick-up and dumping using the arm-device. To this end, we will be doing all we can to educate residents to the "handles-in" and unobstructed, "street-edge-placement" so as to assure quick, efficient pick-up.
- We received word this week that we should be receiving an actual check for the 2014 State Fire Grant Award in the amount of \$6,906.62 within the next two weeks. This Grant requires a 50% local match – which we have budgeted for. Funds will be used to purchase priority life-saving and fire-response equipment.
- This week we also received a so-called "Pre-final Engineer's estimate" on the Wastewater interconnect line that would connect the Town of Dallas collection system to the Gastonia/Two Rivers Long Creek Wastewater treatment Plant. The estimate was produced by Robinson Sawyer Engineers following their completion of the design for the project as approved by the Board of Aldermen for the Town of Dallas and the City Council for Gastonia. Unfortunately, this most-recent estimate now has the overall project cost set at \$710,000; with the Dallas portion at \$575,000; and the Gastonia portion at \$135,000. Quite frankly, this seems outlandishly high, based on all past estimates. However, this is coming from the engineering firm that has actually completed the design work. So, we will speak to some contractors and attempt to gauge what they believe the range for likely bids might be given the now-complete design.
- David Kahler, the Town's Director of Development Services, who has been struggling with serious health issues for much of this year, formally resigned his position this week due to his health situation. He will be receiving a severance payment to assist he and his family in what could be a transition to a "disability" declaration. Our continued thoughts and prayers go out to David and we will continue to do everything we can to assist him during this difficult time. As you know, in David's Absence I have been picking up the Duties of Development Services and have received assistance with Code Enforcement from Patrick McSwain. Now that we know that David will not be returning to work, I will focus on working toward an expedited answer to filling the role of Development Services Director.

- Attached to this Report is the Press release issued by Congressman McHenry's Office regarding the Town's \$102,600 Homeland Security "Assistance to Firefighters" Grant which will be used to purchase Fifteen (15) new self-contained breathing apparatus' for use by Dallas Firefighters. **The Congressman will personally appear in Dallas at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 1st at the Fire Hall to present the Check to Town and Fire Department Leaders and officials.** In addition, the Congressman plans to tour the Historic Courthouse building to witness first-hand the dramatic and comprehensive restoration project. **Aldermen are both invited and encouraged to attend the Congressman's visit and join for photos.**
- On Tuesday, Town Staff, along with Mayor Coleman, met with the senior staff of the NCDOT District Office to talk about how we move ahead with the Budgeted upgrades to the signalization and crosswalks at the intersections of Trade St. and Gaston, and Trade St. and Holland. The meeting proved highly productive and has now set a clear path for moving forward – which both sides are now committed to work toward.
- I will be on vacation and out of the office beginning Wednesday, June 25th and extending through Tuesday, July 8th. As such, there will be no Manager's Reports produced for the next two weekly periods. Also, since I will have to produce the Board Agenda and complete support packet of materials upon my return, the distribution of the July 15th Board Packet will not occur until Friday, July 11th. Hope you all enjoy the Fourth of July Holiday.

Thank You,

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U.S. REP. PATRICK McHENRY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 15, 2014

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**Congressman McHenry Announces \$102,600 Homeland Security Grant to
Dallas Volunteer Fire Department in Gaston County**

U.S. Department of Homeland Security awards Assistance to Firefighter Grant funds to local department

WASHINGTON – Today, Congressman Patrick McHenry (R-NC-10) announced \$102,600 in a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant to a local fire department in the Tenth Congressional District.

The grant will go to the Dallas Volunteer Fire Department in Gaston County, and comes in the third round of the 2013 fiscal year Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG), which aims to help firefighters and first responders throughout the country. Local departments applied for the grants, and the program is administered by the Grant Programs Directorate of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

According Dallas Town Manager Jim Palenick, the grant funds will be used to purchase new self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). Those air packs will replace several outdated ones that the department has in its inventory.

“It was a pleasure to visit both the Dallas Fire and Police Departments two years ago,” commented Congressman McHenry. “They have a team of professionals protecting a response area in the center of Gaston County and providing mutual aid to some very highly populated areas. This grant will help ensure they continue to have safe equipment to help them do their jobs of protecting our friends and neighbors.”

A panel of fire experts at DHS awards AFG grants through a competitive review process. Congressman McHenry hosts workshops for 10th District EMS and fire departments to help guide personnel through the process and give them an inside view of what the committee looks for. The workshops are taught by Cherryville Fire Chief Jeff Cash, a nationally recognized expert in his field and former member of DHS’s AFG review committee. Since Congressman McHenry and Chief Cash began the program, 10th District EMS and fire departments have consistently won more grants than departments in most of North Carolina’s other Congressional Districts.

Dallas is the first 10th District department to receive AFG funding during the 2013 cycle.

Grants will continue to be announced in rounds weekly through the coming months.

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