

Jim Palenick

From: Jim Palenick <jpalenick@dallasnc.net>
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2014 11:39 AM
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Cc: 'Maria Stroupe'; 'gbuckner@dallasnc.net'; 'Steve Lambert'; 'dhuffman@dallasnc.net'; 'Bill Trudnak'; 'J Kiser'; 'A Martin'; 'J. Thomas Hunn'
Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Report (#99)

Mayor & Board of Aldermen(Women):

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Weekly Report for the Week-ended, Friday, November 21, 2014.**

- Bill Trudnak, Jack Kiser, and I attended a meeting this week with NCDOT Regional engineers in Shelby to discuss the status of the current CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality) Grant project for constructing the sidewalk extension on Dallas-High Shoals Road from Dallas-Cherryville Highway to Park Road and East on Park Road to Sam Rhyne Court. This is a \$190,000 Federal Grant which we are required to match with \$47,000 in local expenditures. Unfortunately, what we have found out is that Mr. Kahler had been responsible for the project and while he was still with us we had been led to believe that the project was being administered by NCDOT; that all of the necessary Right-of-way had been acquired or was in place; and it was moving forward at NCDOT's pace and direction. None of those circumstances are correct. In fact, we are entirely responsible for administration, right-of-way-acquisition, and direction, and our failure to have been moving any efforts forward has caused us to not meet the original grant deadline. This is not a major problem, however. We have arranged to get a grant agreement amendment prepared which will allow us a three-year extension, and we have immediately begun on the items of effort which must be accomplished to promptly move the project forward. We will be completing design drawings; working to acquire some minimal remaining required rights-of-way parcels; procuring a consulting firm to complete environmental reviews, and to provide required construction inspection. We now, as a result, are shooting for a Summer, 2015 construction of the project.
- We are still awaiting final approval from the Gaston County Building Department for issuance of our Building permit so that we can commence erection/construction on the new Public/Utilities/Electric Warehouse building. We hope that might be issued next week and we will be strongly prompting our contractor to commence promptly thereafter so that we can wrap this project up and be able to consolidate a lot of the storage we have in multiple locations as well as providing a better home for our meter functions.
- We will have a final bid award for substation construction at the December 9th Board Meeting, representing much of the physical structures and fencing yet to be completed on our new electric substation project. This week we actually received delivery of the large transformers and the hope is that the entire project can get wrapped up by late Spring and within this fiscal year. Based on this last award, and given our expected remaining expenditures on small remaining equipment items; circuit tie-ins, and engineering, we are projecting we will finish approximately \$40,000 under budget on our expected overall \$2,006,400.00 installed cost.
- As we have been finishing up this last week with our new Auditing firm, it has been brought to my attention, quite unexpectedly, that a dedicated capital trust account Has been holding some \$167,000 in what appears to be unspent "Powell Bill" (designated for Streets) funding that predates 2006 and any documentation that Maria or I can corroborate as to its origin. But, in any event, besides now having to amend a Powell Bill report to acknowledge the existence of such funding, it is a positive occurrence in that we need to promptly and completely spend it on Street-eligible work as soon as possible to clear this matter up. As such, I will be bringing an Agenda-Item Request to the December 9th Board meeting asking for a Budget Amendment to acknowledge these Funds as revenues within the General Fund Streets Budget and, in turn, increasing FY2014-15 expenditures for street improvements in a like amount.

- We also authorized the contract for the new website this week –issuing a purchase order and signing the one-year contract for web-hosting, content migration, and creative development. These efforts will begin soon and we will. In turn be transitioning to the new site over the next several months.

Thank You,

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