

Jim Palenick

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ent: Friday, December 13, 2013 2:06 PM
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Subject: Town Manager's Weekly Report (#56)

Mayor & Board of Aldermen(Women):

Please accept the following as the **Town Manager's Report for the Week-ended Friday, December 13, 2013.**

- With the Vouchers for the complimentary CFL Bulbs having been mailed out to conclude last week, we began to see residents showing up at Town hall beginning yesterday (Thursday) to redeem the vouchers. In just a few hours yesterday and this morning, approximately 200 vouchers have already been redeemed , so we are seeing a very positive early response.
- In last week's report I had indicated that it looked likely that we might refill the vacant position of equipment operator within the Water/Sewer department this week, and that has in fact occurred. Our new hire begins his duties on Monday. So, at this point, the only remaining Town opening is that of police patrol officer, which is actively under recruitment.
- Since we are approaching the conclusion of one calendar year and the commencement of the next, it is once again time for our required, yearly civil fine payment of \$10,000 to the State Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) in fulfillment of the settlement agreement signed by the Town following the Town's significant violation of State discharge permit requirements associated with the Town's wastewater treatment plant, processes, and personnel going back to 2008. The total fine was originally \$101,289.07, with \$80,000 still to be paid in 8, yearly installments of \$10,000. After this payment. We will still owe \$70,000, with final payment scheduled for 2021. The NCDENR has indicated it would forgive the remaining fines at such time that the Town were to contract with Gastonia for Wastewater treatment and permanently surrender its discharge permit. We have had ongoing negotiations in this regard over the past several years, but the economics have not worked out. In the meantime, we continue to move forward with the design of the emergency interconnect linking our collection and treatment system to the Gastonia Long Creek Wastewater treatment plant.
- Please note that the annual Dallas Christmas Parade is today beginning at 4:00 p.m. There was a story on the front page of today's Gaston Gazette stating that a Dallas celebration was cancelled due to expected rain (but this was referring to a celebration the County holds in the Dallas/Biggerstaff Park). Unfortunately, many have been confused and believe that the Town cancelled its Christmas parade – it did not.
- Please remember also that next week is the annual employee Christmas luncheon on Thursday, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Fire hall. All elected official are encouraged to attend.

Thank You,

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