

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 139)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, October 16, 2015

- One of the changes put into effect as a result of the most recently-completed General Session of the NC General Assembly was a law affecting all municipalities which, effective July 1, 2016 (the commencement of next fiscal-year) will allow communities, by action of their governing body to increase the current locally-imposed motor vehicle registration fee, from the current \$5.00, to a new maximum of \$30.00. Now, for communities who do choose to impose the additional \$25.00, the law requires that all funds generated be used for street repairs. So, this does create another possible option for the creation of new revenues to assist with street repaving. This will certainly be a topic for us as we begin to develop the Budget for FY2016-17.
- Consistent with our approved budget, this week we let a contract for the interior repainting of the rescue squad-portion of the civic building, as well as all the exteriors of the Public works and Waste-water treatment plant buildings. Expect work on all these facilities to commence shortly.
- Also this week, we distributed the bidding spec' s for the new HVAC system at the Dennis Franklin Gym, which we hope to contract for as quickly as possible. The new, wood floor has been fully installed and we are awaiting installation of the HVAC system prior to completing the final wood finishing and striping and logo application.
- As the run-up to the local election nears, we see large numbers of temporary political signs throughout Town within the rights-of-way. These signs, of course, are all lawful. But, this time of year tends to engender some other people to try and take advantage and put out similar, temporary, off-premise private business advertising signs also in the right-of-way and at busy intersections. These signs are illegal and will be removed. Signs for things like weekend auto races in the region or similar events advertising businesses cannot exist off the premises where the activity or business exists and definitely not within the public right-of-way. Once removed we will keep the signs for a brief time if the sign interests want to retrieve them. After that they will be destroyed.
- Bill Trudnak and I sat down with representatives of the Black & Veatch engineering firm this week to go over their draft report on the operational and physical assessment of the Town's Water treatment plant. We heard their recommendations and reviewed, in detail, their findings from both an operational perspective as well as to discuss some of the long-term capital needs of the plant and some proper preventative maintenance strategies. As a result, they are now finalizing the report and accompanying "executive summary" and will be presenting same at the November 10th Board Meeting.

- Concurrent with, and, as you will learn, consistent with, the Black & Veatch Plant recommendations, we are completing the Water treatment plant filter re-build this week, which will immediately improve operational characteristics of the plant and likely assist with reducing chemical usage as well as treatment efficiencies. The plant should be back up and on-line Monday. In the interim, we have been purchasing water wholesale from Two Rivers/Gastonia through our ongoing arrangement with them.
- After many discussions with the regional transportation planning group staff regarding the CMAQ sidewalk Grant of \$190,000 that we were not able to take advantage of due to our project going way over budget, we think we may now have hit on a way to access, use and spend those same funds for an entirely different sidewalk project in Dallas that we can complete at or below the total amount budgeted. We are working to finalize those details now and if all things remain the same, we hope to bring an action to the November Board Meeting for Town approval to make this substitution and again accept the Grant monies.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager