

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 140)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, October 23, 2015

- I am producing the week-end report on Thursday morning, because I will be leaving later this morning to attend the yearly Duke Energy Wholesale Purchase Power Customer Forum This Evening and Friday in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The Forum brings together representatives of the Wholesale municipal electric customers of Duke to hear the latest on Environmental regulations and possible financial impacts, as well as to go over the Formula Rate projections for the coming year and beyond. Electric Director Huffman will also be joining me in attendance.
- We have now awarded the contract for installation of the new HVAC system at the Gym to Morris Mechanical, who maintain a Dallas Office; and, the electric component of the work to Dallas Electric and Plumbing. In combination, the two component bids have come in well below Budget. The work should commence immediately and we have instructed the contractors that they must complete the work without causing any disruption to the basketball season. The floor installer contractor has now begun their final finishing work as well.
- Also this week, we let the contract for the budgeted fencing/back-stop replacement installation at both Cudd and Wooten Fields at Carr School. This work, which is being done by Gaston Fence, will all be completed well in advance of, and preparatory to, the next baseball season.
- Reports from our Police Department indicate that the portable electronic speed signs which have been placed in certain high-visibility corridors in Town (recently on Trade Street) are working well and producing a clearly-desired effect. We will continue to place them in various, priority locations for approximately two weeks at a time.
- Also reported by our Police Department this week -- News that the perpetrator of the recently attempted bank robbery at the BB&T Bank in Town has been arrested and is in the Gaston County jail awaiting trial and sentencing. Some very solid investigative work by our Department lead to this prompt arrest.
- Finally, our employee who by NCDENR requirement is the designated "ORC" (Operator in Responsible Charge) of the Town Water Treatment Plant, has abruptly resigned – leaving us without a State-certified ORC to operate the Plant. As such, we may have to take some interim or temporary measures to assure compliance with NCDENR Requirements, being that we may go on contract water purchase from Two Rivers Utility for a short period and/or we may be

contracting with Two Rivers to use one of their ORC-certified employees to act on our behalf for a period as well. In the meantime, our highest priority is identifying, recruiting, and hiring a new ORC- certified plant operator.

Thank You,

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager