

# Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 142)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, November 6, 2015

- We have been pursuing a very concerted and prioritized effort this week to both temporarily, and ultimately for the long-term, re-fill the position of Water Treatment plant Superintendent/ORC, given that in the absence of such individual, we are forced to continue purchasing treated water wholesale from Two Rivers/Gastonia. So, to that end, we have placed ads in the Charlotte Observer and Gaston Gazette, as well as the North Carolina League of Municipalities Weekly on-line newsletter—at least one application has already been received as a result. In the meantime, we have made direct contact with a likely short-term, contracted candidate (employed by the Charlotte Water System) who can serve as our temporary ORC and allow us to go back on-line with our Plant. We are speaking with NCDENR about this matter at this writing, and our hope is that we may get back on-line as early as Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- We continue to see more and more of the Town's utility customers taking advantage of the on-line bill pay option. For the month of October, we saw 509 on-line users, in comparison to September's 449.
- On Wednesday of this week, Electric Director Huffman and I participated in the latest Conference Call with the other, Regional Wholesale Purchase Power customers of Duke Energy to discuss ongoing strategy in our collective negotiations over Duke's requirements for Coal Ash remediation and its possible effect on Wholesale formula rates. As a group, we remain very cohesive in our approach and will continue to press for the very best possible outcome on behalf of our rate-payers. At this point it certainly doesn't appear that any likely agreements with Duke will be achieved within the next several months at least. We will continue with these Conference calls approximately every three weeks.
- We received an update this week from our engineers at Engineering Services, PC as to their efforts in completing the Sewer Collection System "Asset Management Plan/Capital Improvement Plan". Specifically, they are now 75% complete with all their field work and should fully finish following approximately one more week of field inventory and evaluation in Dallas. Thereafter, they should complete the entire analysis, evaluation, report and final plan by no later than the end of March. This will be in plenty of time to submit for the next round of CDBG Grant Funding in September, 2016.
- Also this week, I attended the Transportation Coordinating Committee of the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Agency where the Committee formally approved recommending to its full Governing Board, the Town of Dallas' Request to re-allocate our \$190,000 in CMAQ sidewalk grant funding to the project which the Board will take up at the November 10<sup>th</sup>

Meeting. With Town Board Approval, there should be no problem in keeping and re-allocating these funds to the new project.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**James M. Palenick, Interim Town Manager**