

Town Manager's Weekly Report: (# 152)

For the Week-Ended: Friday, January 22, 2016

- The Gaston County Board of Commissioners have included on their Action Agenda for their Meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, an item to approve the "Dallas Township Grant Recommendations" which includes the appropriation of \$300,000 to the Town of Dallas to assist with the construction of the waste-water interconnect line linking the Dallas collection system to the Long Creek Treatment Plant owned and operated by Two Rivers (Gastonia) utility. By all indications, this item is expected to be approved and we should then be in position to move this important project forward. Of the expected and remaining \$200,000 of project costs that the Town will have to cover, we have \$90,900 in an unallocated "Capital Improvement Fund" which can be allocated to this project. Thereafter, we will have to budget the remaining \$109,100 in the upcoming FY2016-17 Water/Sewer Fund Budget from unreserved Fund Balance.
- Employees of CMC Homes, as contracted by the Town to complete the demolition of the 8 ft.-wide building immediately adjacent to 130 W. Trade St., began their activities this week – removing much of the roof structure. They will continue over the next several weeks as weather allows, preparing the site for the new walkway which will link the new Parking lot to the Trade Street sidewalk and new featured seat-wall/planter area of the re-located street clock.
- Electric utility support staff sent out the yearly invoices this week for pole-attachment fees owed by AT&T, Charter Communications, and Time Warner Cable. In combination, these invoices totaled \$17,860 in expected Revenues to the Electric Fund.
- The emergency storm-water project on West Robinson at Oakland has become a bigger, more-involved and unfortunately more-expensive fix than initial indications might have suggested. The old, under-sized corrugated steel pipe completely corroded through and collapsed causing a major sink-hole. The now-properly-engineered fix has required the installation of a significant section of very-large-diameter, reinforced concrete storm-sewer and associated appurtenances and with labor, equipment rental, restoration and re-paving, the cost could approach nearly \$50,000. This will be completely covered within the Storm-water enterprise fund earmarked for such work, but because it was unanticipated, it will mean we will do less of other prioritized projects as a result. This Fund produces approximately \$83,000 in yearly revenues. This project will be completed as quickly as contracted crews can, given the weather. The re-paving will also be prioritized, but weather-dependent. It will, however, be made "passable" as quickly as safety and weather will allow.
- The Agenda and packet for the Saturday, January 30th Morning Budget Retreat will go out by no later than Wednesday, January 27th. Remember, the morning session will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a catered breakfast at the Mayor's Room (first floor) of the Courthouse, with the Session beginning at 9:00 a.m. and continuing through noon. The Meeting is open to the public.

- All Town crews are fully on stand-by at this writing with all equipment fully prepared for responding to the storm that has begun. So far we have encountered no power outages or serious road conditions, but the forecast continues to cause significant concern so we are and will remain at a heightened level of readiness through at least Saturday noon, based on current projections. Please stay off roads and listen to forecasts as they are provided throughout the day and evening.

Respectfully Submitted,

James M. Palenick, Town Manager