

# MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Board of Aldermen

From: Barry Webb, Interim Town Manager

Re: Weekly Report

Date: May 20, 2016

## **BUDGET WORKSHOP: FOLLOW-UP**

Following is a summary of the major discussion points from yesterday's budget workshop. We will review all of these issues again at next Tuesday's workshop (May 24<sup>th</sup>) along with a review of the proposed Electric and Stormwater Fund budgets.

### General Fund

- Look at 2¢ increase to property tax rate (from 38¢ to 40¢) instead of increasing monthly residential solid waste fee from \$13 to \$15.
- Difference in revenues generated by the tax increase instead of the solid waste fee increase could purchase the additional radar speed signs (\$6,530).
- Increase fee for Code Enforcement Grass Cutting to \$100 (from \$50) to avoid it being used as lower cost yard maintenance.
- The expense shown for Furnishings (\$3,250) in the Administration may have to be changed to purchase security cameras for the front counter area at Town Hall.
- Look at cleaning the carpet in the Board Room at the Fire Department instead of replacing it (\$6,180). The remaining funds could then be used to pay for a structure (\$5,000) to house the old fire truck that Chief Lambert discussed at the workshop that is to be donated to the Town.
- Get cost figures to install a shelter and two picnic tables beside the Franklin Gym and two additional picnic tables at Cloninger Park. Look at eliminating the proposed fencing at the Franklin Gym playground area (\$5,119) and put those funds toward the picnic tables/shelter.

### Water & Sewer Fund

- Continue with proposed 3% increase to water/sewer rates and fees to cover debt service costs related to water line replacement project.
- Change fee for ¾" irrigation taps to match the fee for a regular ¾" water tap (\$824) since these are essentially identical services.
- Look at getting a new dump truck for Water & Sewer through a 3-year lease purchase agreement rather than buying a used truck.
- Hold off on purchasing screw press system (\$160,000) for the Waste Water Plant and continue to explore the option of having all wastewater treated by the City of Gastonia.

We will begin Tuesday's workshop at 5:00 p.m. with food to be provided.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

Town Hall Parking Lot Project: Earlier this week, Doug Huffman met with representatives of AT&T and Charter Communications to begin discussions about the relocation of their lines currently running over the parking lot area. The AT&T representative, who is a different individual than the one the Town has worked with on these issues in the past, indicated that he would first need to review the previously approved “Agreement for the Joint Use of Poles” between the Town and AT&T. We believe that this agreement clearly spells out the Town’s rights in this area, but the AT&T representative was not familiar with the document. In regards to Charter Communications, there was mutual agreement between the Town and that firm on the work to be performed related to this project.

Trade Street Intersection Improvements Project: In last week’s report, it was noted that BERCO was having a “break test” performed on concrete test cylinders. This week, they indicated that the test results showed that they had far exceeded the minimum design specifications and that, based on those results, they would proceed with the installation of the metal pole mast arm units.

CMAQ Sidewalk Project: As also mentioned in last week’s report, we are now looking at combining our two CMAQ sidewalk projects into one as suggested by the Program Consultant with NCDOT’s Local Programs Project Management Unit. This would require resubmitting a CMAQ application to accomplish this, and I am working to schedule a meeting with the Senior Transportation Planner for the Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln MPO to get the application process underway. The revised application will be brought back to the Board for adoption once it is prepared.

Gastonia Sewer Interconnect: As discussed at yesterday’s budget workshop, we will continue to examine the option of having Gastonia treat all of our wastewater once we receive the updated cost estimate for the original emergency sewer interconnect project.