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**Town Manager's Report to Mayor and Town Council
December 13, 2018**

Situation with Substantial Completion with Mill Creek Regional Water Treatment Plant (WTP)

You have in your agenda packet an October 3 letter from Mark Jackson of Frizzell Construction, sent via email on November 2, and a reply from Bobby Lane of the Lane Group on November 28. In that letter we list several reasons why we believe substantial has not been achieved. Also attached is a check list and work sheet to the contractor that we feel must be addressed to have the project achieve substantial completion.

In Bobby's above referenced letter he advises the contractor on these items and asks that they state any disagreement with the work items listed in writing. A letter was also sent to the bonding company in the interest of notifying them that the project is significantly overdue. A Progress Meeting with the contractor will be held on December 6 where I am sure a full conversation will take place on the subject.

As you can see by the letter the Notice to Proceed was issued on March 10, 2017 with time to Substantial 330 days. 118 days have been added to the contract which made the Substantial date change to June 1, 2018. According to our staff and the Washington County Service Authority's, they feel 30 days plus will be required to finish up the work listed in the Lane Group's November 28 letter before the owners will grant Substantial. Ligated damages are \$580 per day.

Habitat Improvement Project at the Chilhowie Recreation Park by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Others

Work continues on the \$93,532 habitat restoration Project at the Recreation Park despite the inclement weather at the Recreation Park. USFWS have placed most of the boulder clusters in the river to enhance fish and hellbender habitat. The round boulders will enhance the former's habitat and the flat ones the hellbender habitat. These were laid in about a dozen different locations in the river.

In one 200 foot section approximately eight tree trunks were driven into the bank about ten feet and secured with concrete moorings. These trees will help protect an area that is experiencing significant erosion up river and down of a 42 inch drain pipe coming from the Lee highway area. The roots of these trees extend into the river which will also serve for improved fishing habitat.

For its part of the match the Town is performing streambank restoration services taking about a foot to eighteen inches of soil off the top of the bank in about fifteen footspan. This will allow for the bank to carry more water in floods before the water goes out of its banks. We are also going to lay the landscaping mesh cover over the cut.

Money is in the grant to pay for a handicapped fishing pier this Spring. We hope the existing crew can build it but if not we will get bids and have it built.

Downtown Revitalization Project Update

The streetscape portion of the Downtown project is rapidly coming to a close. As I had indicated to you in a November 19 email about a portion of Main Street that had to be removed and replaced with base stone in order to allow the Contractor, Boring Inc., to put a rough patch down for the winter. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will do the final milling and paving this spring. We discussed this situation at the November 8 Council meeting that this contingency might arise. At the November 19 date we thought the asphalt plant would close any day. My aforementioned email and drawing of the affected area is included in the packet.

We are still hopeful to be able to do the overhead utility consolidation of the wires into three from the unsightly 13 wires from White Top Road to Walton with remaining grant money. We think we will have enough money to do this important task to finish out the streetscape portion of the project. Dennis Amos, of Hurt and Proffitt, has recommended that we wait until the streetscape portion of the project is completed, and the final unit costs tallied, before we contract with Century Link. Then we will know exactly how much money we will have remaining.

Next month we will advertise for contractors to submit their names to begin bidding on sections of the façade portion of the project. We hope to begin work on that segment in early Spring. Also, you have in your agenda packet a November 28 letter signed by me requesting an extension of the grant to June 30, 2019. If not for the façade portion of the project not being done, although it was bid out twice with no bidders submitted, we would have achieved the original deadline of April 19, 2009.

East Lee Highway Sidewalk Project

Work continues on the sidewalk project with manholes and accompanying pipping being installed. Concrete pouring will begin the middle of December. Boring, Inc. assured us at the Progress Meeting on November 27 that they will meet the Substantial Completion deadline of mid- January to complete the project. They indicated they will be taking their crews working on the Downtown Project and transferring them to the East Lee Project.

We will be getting a credit of \$2,500 for not having to move a fire hydrant at the corner of East Lee and Aker Avenue. Thompson and Litton will be subcontracting with Wood, Inc. of Abingdon to do the concrete testing. That \$7,500 line item is included in the budget as a separate line item.

Public Information Meeting on Route 11 and Route 107

VDOT held a public information meeting on December 4 at Chilhowie High School from 4:00 to 6:00. At the meeting were at least three divisions of VDOT including Civil Rights, Environmental and Right-of-Way and construction.

About 35 citizens of the Town and area attended and were briefed by VDOT officials. I have included a comment sheet in the agenda packet that was given to each attendee on December 4 that could have been filled out at the time, but if not is required to be submitted within ten days to December 14. As opposed to doing this on my own I thought I would give it to Council and let Council make comments collectively as a body and submit it on the 14th. Director of Public Works Jay Keen will summarize the project.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and family!
Respectfully Submitted,

John E. B. Clark, Jr.
Town Manager