



Mayor: Gary L. Heninger
Council: Donna S. Blevins
Billy L. Clear
Alan W. Counts
Emily B. Dungan
F. Brent Foster
Lewis Shortt

TOWN OF CHILHOWIE
325 East Lee Highway
P.O. Box 5012
Chilhowie, Virginia 24319
Phone (276) 646-3232
Fax (276) 646-3012
www.chilhowie.org

Town Manager: John E. B. Clark, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer: Marlene L. Henderson
Police Chief: Stephen W. Price
Director-Public Works: Jay Keen
Fire Chief: C. David Haynes

Town Manager's Report to Mayor and Town Council
March 13, 2019

Substantial Completion of East Lee Highway Sidewalk Project

On February 26 we had a Substantial Completion meeting set up by Thompson and Litton (T+L) Project Engineer Tim Mullins. At the meeting were Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) program contacts Tabitha Crowder and Reggie Plummer, Angela Wolfe of Mt. Rogers Planning District Commission (PDC), Jay Keen, Randy Sturgill and I with the Town and Eddie Ramirez with Boring, Inc.

We walked the entire project and everyone including VDOT seemed well pleased. I believe there are 16 work days still left on the contract for substantial to be achieved. These can be used early in the Spring when final patching and tie-ins with streets are done.

The rip rap rock in the islands on the eastern end of the project was discussed. As I stated before, this was done by design as both a cost saving measure to match the anticipated budget. Drainage under these rocks flow to the eastern end of the project and thus prevents ponding. The bid for Boring came in about \$30,000 under budget and the next lowest bid was about \$130,000 more. There remains excess money in the budget. If possible T+L is going to design a system that would remove the top twelve to 18 inches of the rip rap rock, add a permeable liner underneath, then add top soil and see. A change order is being developed, if it can be done, with a price from Boring. The Town would be responsible for moving the rock. This would be Council decision to move forward. The Town would be responsible for 20% of this cost plus additional engineering. Also, we would have to ask if this liner would be permanent in nature and not fail and cause ponding in the near future.

A metal bar running the length of the Aker Avenue apron was also discussed as a possible way to lessen the bump there. As we have discussed this apron is by design 2.5 inches deeper to eliminate ponding in that location by directing storm water out. VDOT personnel were not encouraging with that remedy nor any other. Concern was also voiced about a snow plow hitting the edge of the bar and the damages that could result. T+L was going to look into other possibilities as was VDOT but known were known then.

Meeting on Rankings of Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Brownfields Projects

I was invited to a meeting at the Mt. Rogers PDC on January 24 to participate in a ranking system for eligible building in Smyth County, set up by state wide coordinator Vincent Maiden out of the Richmond office. As you may recall Vince was instrumental in getting the Town a \$50,000 grant for the environmental assessment on the Old Superior Mills building when it was torn down as part of our Downtown Revitalization Project. An earlier meeting was held in November.

According to information \$300,000 was allocated to the five counties and two cities in the PDC. Criteria was put against the submitted buildings including blight conditions, illicit surrounding / accompanying conditions, access to rail and major highways, supporting economic planning, etc. Along with others in specific localities in the PDC, Smyth County was represented by Saltville Town Manager Brian Martin and Smyth County Chamber Director Sara Gillespie. Using the criteria mentioned above we gave top rankings in Smyth County to the old Natalie knitting Mills in Seven Mile Ford and the former Texas Gulf Building in Saltville. Eleven buildings were deemed eligible in Smyth County.

American Electric Power (AEP) Moving Transformers From Seven Mile Ford to Broadford

You have in your agenda packet, and I had forwarded to you earlier, emails regarding AEP moving the transformers at the rail siding at Super Grow to Broadford. They are scheduled to begin the transport on Saturday, March 9 and reach its destination the afternoon of March 9.

We initially met with AEP in November of 2017. At the time AEP said they were going to receive the transformers and begin the transit in April or May of 2018. I don't know why the delay is to now. There are four of the transformers on the side track and as I read the email each of them will be moved on the following Saturdays. From our meeting in 2017, each transformer weighs around 375,000 pounds and will be moved on a trailer with 80 tires. Those tires each work independently and the trailer will tilt side to side, back and forth with the elevation of the pavement in order to keep it from falling off the trailer. We were told because of this trailer and weight distribution, this trailer will put less pressure on the road way per square foot than a normal tractor trailer.

Jay Keen had expressed concern about a water line at the site. AEP has responded that they will place steel plate over the area the trailer passes above the water line in order to insure the weight is further distributed.

All departments of the Town have been informed of the transit. We are also posting on our Facebook page and Nextel account

Bids on Town Hall Roof

You have in your agenda packet an invitation to bid for the Town Hall roof. Bidders must have at least a Class B Virginia Contractor's License and a 1,000,000 liability insurance policy. The invitation to bid was published in both the Smyth County News and Saltville Progress. Bids are due on March 7, 2019 at 4:00. Bids will be presented to the Town Council at the March 13 meeting.

Possible Consolidation of three Strands of Overhead Utilities in Downtown

You have in your agenda packet a number of emails regarding the possible consolidation of some overhead utilities in conjunction with the Downtown Revitalization Project. We were initially

given a price of around \$104,000 to do all eleven lines into an encasement of three. At the time I was told that we had about \$111,000 remaining in the Community Block Grant money (CDBG) money but that total has since been cut down to \$24,630, as you can see by the attached breakdown by Angela Wolfe of the PDC. With that being the case I asked Dennis to contact Century link again and ask what we could accomplish in the \$50,000 range.

As you can see Century Link's response in one of the emails, as I understand it, they said they could bundle all the lines together into three strands for a cost of \$74,798.50. Dennis Amos of Hurt and Proffitt (H and P) has asked for a diagram showing the deliverable. At this writing I am still waiting on that drawing.

If Council wants to move forward on doing this the additional \$50,000 funding could be made up by using funding designated in the existing capital budget. As you can see in the sheet entitled "2018-19 Capital Budget Request" money could be taken out of the Water Line Replacements line item and the Sewer Line Replacement Fund at \$25,000 and \$15,000, respectively, totaling \$40,000. We have no plans on using that money this fiscal year. The additional funding could be made up from the Sewer UV Light Replacements budgeted at \$20,000 that we actually did for about a third of that cost.

Another option would be for the needed \$50,000 be budgeted for fiscal year 2019-20. That would necessitate having to get another grant extension, but that shouldn't be a problem since the facades will in all likelihood not be done by the end of April anyway.

I will look forward to seeing from Century Link on how this consolidation will look. As soon as I get more information I will present it to you.

Rural Development Approval of Farmer's Market Plans

You have a couple of emails in your agenda concerning the Farmer's Market. As you can see in one of those emails that the plans have been approved and I will be given authorization to bid the project by a letter that is forthcoming. That is excellent news and thanks to B.J. Fulcher and Craig Barbrow of the Department of Agriculture / Rural Development for the quick turnaround. The plans were submitted on February 19 by H and P to Rural Development.

In my attached March 7 email to Dennis Amos I asked him to go ahead and begin scheduling the bidding on the project and not wait until we have completed the work we are supposed to do. As you recall with the Town forces doing grading, installing storm water piping and structures, finished stone and erosion and sedimentation control and bathroom work that will save about \$25,000 from grant funds. Those funds can go against the construction of the building.

Unofficially, I would think the schedule would go something like this: advertisements in mid / late March; bid opening in mid-April; bonding, assurances, other administrative requirements met by mid-May; Notice to Proceed in late May / early June; construction beginning in early June and Substantial Completion 60 – 90 days later in August or September. This will allow some use of the market for the 2019 harvest season. Again, these figures are mine and have not been run past Dennis Amos, our project engineer / architect.

Respectfully Submitted,

John E. B. Clark, Jr.
Town Manager