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TOWN OF CHILHOWIE

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Manger's Report to Mayor and Town Council

August 8, 2019

Update on Farmer's Market Project

You have in your agenda packet a July 24 letter from Ms. Elizabeth Green, State Director of Rural Development, formally notifying the Town that the extra \$33,500 has been formally awarded. The letter was hand delivered by Craig Barbrow, Area Director, to me in late July. This is the money that was orally promised by Craig and B.J. Fulcher in Richmond earlier this year. As you may recall I had formally asked for this money in my April 19 letter after the bid opening on April 18. I stated the Town's case in that letter asking for additional construction money to meet the low bid, and referenced the in-kind cost for the Town putting in the sanitary sewer pump and line, the drainage structures and lines, and the four handicap parking spots.

Included in your agenda packet for presentation is the first construction pay request. The construction pay request is \$88,218.55 net (10% of the total request is being held out as you can see in the document) and \$483 for engineering. These two elements make up Pay Request #5 in the amount of \$88,701.55.

Construction is moving at good pace on the project. Taylor construction is staffing the project with needed personnel. At this writing it appears all the masonry material is on the site. At the Progress meeting on July 25 (minutes attached) everything appeared to be going smoothly with no major problems encountered. Robert Taylor stated that based on the present schedule and work outlook almost all the construction would be completed in August.

Mt. Rogers PDC (Mt. Rogers) Southwest Virginia Water / Wastewater Application Resolution

You have in your agenda packet a resolution I will ask Council to adopt in support of a \$30,000 grant for motor and pump replacements at the Widener Spring Pump House. The application deadline is August 26.

This money had been available the last couple of years for Southwest Virginia's Planning Districts 1, 2 and 3 (Leenowisco, Cumberland Plateau and Mt. Rogers) but somehow in 2018 or earlier it got caught up in the Governor's office and was held back for emergencies for distribution to the three planning districts.

The Town has benefited for this money in the past. Three or four years ago we received a grant for \$70,000 to reline about 1500 feet of various size sewer lines at the recreation park and under the railroad, on White Top Road near Hardees and near the sewer treatment plant. These areas had been identified as sources of major infiltration and inflow. We were able to utilize a local company in Saltville, Reline America, and support local jobs. In 2017 we received \$100,000 from the grant fund in support of an approximately \$186,000 project that sandblasted and painted the one million gallon tank north of and overlooking the Town.

As you can see by the application, it states the Widener Pump Station is an integral part of the Town's system. It serves, or helps support, all of the Town's customers both in Town and in Smyth and Washington County, customers on the Smyth County System, and customers on the eastern side of the Washington County Service Authority.

We are also working on an application for a waterline replacement in the Lyons Gap Road area. The existing line is only two inches which does not allow does not allow for a hydrant. The new line would be approximately 1700 linear feet and would cost approximately \$71,500 with one hydrant.

Facades Project as Part of Downtown Revitalization Project

You have in your agenda packet notices to qualified contractors (contractors who filed papers with Mt. Rogers PDC) on the Downtown Facades Project. The solicitation is asking for quotes on facades on five buildings on the north side of Main Street by 2:00 August 27. When completed this will be the last "leg" of the Downtown project.

As you recall we have formally bid this project out one time and set up a system for soliciting bids a second time. Unfortunately we never received any bids. Several contractors told us that they were too busy this spring and summer but would hopefully be available this fall or winter. Also at a Downtown meeting in June, we had an Abingdon Contractor who had expressed interest. In addition to the existing pool of money laid aside in the project, which the owner matches or shows receipts within the last two years, approximately another \$24,000 can be transferred over from left over streetscape money. Also in your packet, are email notices from project Manager Angela Wolfe of the PDC to a local supplier, who also has with ties to contractors, and to our contractor working on the Farmer's Market Project. Neither of these have submitted the necessary paperwork to Angela in order for them to be qualified to submit quotes on the project.

The Town will work with the selected contractor to the greatest extent possible on deadlines, timelines, etc. in getting the project successfully completed.

Recreation Park Lights and Scoreboard Repair

Sometimes after the contractor on the Downtown Revitalization Streetscape Portion of the Project laid the drain line from Main Street, through Berry's, under the railroad track and down to the river for an outlet, we discovered the scoreboard and outfield lights in right field were not working. We checked with the contractor and the inspector and there was no sighting or evidence of an underground broken line.

Special Events / Recreation Coordinator Ron Cahill employed a local contractor to investigate and he found a break in the electric line serving the two. The contractor is going to fix the line to the tune of a couple of thousand dollars. Within football season just around the corner it is imperative that the lights and scoreboard be in working order. After future investigation we will send the bill to the contractor, if warranted.

Old High School Roof Issues

We were notified by Heather Carter, Branch Library Director, that there were some leak issues at the Old High School. One area was in the back at the stage, one in the front room on the east side in a room commonly called the museum, and one across gym at the west side of the building. We were able to get ahold of a local contractor quickly and he assessed the roof on July 29 and did necessary repairs. According to the assessments on the roof we will most likely have to budget for a replacement the next fiscal year.

Respectfully Submitted,

John E. B. Clark, Jr.
Town Manager