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TOWN OF CHILHOWIE

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Town Manger's Report to Mayor and Town Council October 10, 2019

Fishing Pier Situation at the Town Park

Earlier last month I contact Corey Kanuckel of the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife (Fish and Wildlife) and asked him the status of the planned handicap fishing pier that had been promised as part of Habitat Restoration Project at the Town Park. As you know the project that was finished in early Spring entailed bank stabilization, planting of indigenous trees on the bank, placement of round rocks for improving the habitat for various fish species and flat rocks to improve the same for hellbenders. The Fish and Wildlife partnered with the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable (Roundtable) to provide all the materials. The Town provided in-kind services including equipment, staffing and administrative work that the two agencies estimated to be \$28,430 from the Fall of 2018 to this Spring.

Corey responded that the promised handicap fishing pier and a pollinator field had been lumped into a final project by some administrative venture through the Roundtable and put out for a Request-for-Proposal. Upon calling the Executive Director of the Roundtable and inquiring about the status around the middle of September, she told me that Fish and Wildlife's proposal had been accepted. So, as the expression goes, I guess all is well that ends well. I have contacted Mr. Kanuckel and will find the status of the construction of the pier.

Farmer's Market

As you can see the Farmer's Market is nearing completion. The pay request in your agenda packet is for \$28,619.34. That leaves a retainage of \$11,650. Mt. Rogers PDC has yet to bill for the Administration of the project, which will be in the \$5,000 range.

Our monthly Progress Meeting the end of September was moved to October 15 due to the project being almost completed. The October 15 meeting will be a Substantial Completion meeting. At that meeting a punch list of remaining items will be compiled and when completed the aforementioned retainage

amount will be released as the final pay request at Council's November meeting. The Town will formerly take over the building when the certificate of Substantial Completion is issued by our engineer, Hurt and Proffitt.

The remaining work will be the Town's responsibility. That work will include final grading, completion of sanitary and storm water structures, and installation of four handicap parking spaces. That work will be done this fall, Winter and early Spring of 2020. Then the Will Walker Farmer's Market and Community Pavilion will be ready for business!

2019 Apple Festival

It appears that the 2019 Apple Festival was another great success due to the efforts of the Committee, volunteers and Town Staff. The Town was happy to assist in a variety of ways including providing about five public works employees for Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday to assist, the Police Department providing the necessary staffing to police the event, the Fire and EMS providing services and other administrative support and assistance.

One potential glitch that did come up the week before was street sweeping. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) had been doing that before the event. When I contacted them the week before, they said that service was not available this year. I expressed my great concern over this, citing the number of visitors we would have, etc. I believe most of the glitch came because of a recent transition of District Administrators (but as you know I have voiced my displeasure of VDOT maintenance practices with the Town before and will not get into that in this writing).

Nonetheless, we contacted the Town of Marion and asked their assistance. As you know by the letter I copied you, Bill Rush sent a sweeper and operator down Monday, September 23 and swept East Lee Highway and Main Street, plus other streets at no charge to the Town. In the letter I thanked Bill and we are very appreciative.

Finance Committee Meeting on Sewer Flusher Truck

On September 23 the Finance Committee met on the sewer flusher Truck. The truck is an essential piece of equipment that is needed to unstop main sewer lines. It does this service by a hose running through a manhole into a pipe in the stopped up section and applying several hundred pounds of pressure from the tank on the truck to stop up this line. If not for this piece of equipment the Town would have to dig up the stopped up line after identifying where it is, or call on another municipality for assistance, which is very costly. The Town has had this piece of equipment since about 1988.

Knowing we had a problem with the truck, Director of Public Works Jay Keen included \$18,500 in the 2019-20 budget, as you can see by the attachment. However, with hauling the truck to and from Richmond to Virginia Public Works Equipment Company, and the repairs done there, the cost was going to be \$33,354 (including \$3,354 for transit).

Other options were presented were a new truck at \$279,625 and various lease options for a new truck. Since none of those items were budgeted, and since the Works Director feels this repair will enable the equipment to work sufficiently through the foreseeable future, the Committee chose the repair option.

Since we are over the estimated repair cost as listed in the 2019-20 Budget, we will have to make up the difference of approximately \$14,854. I have also included in the packet a listing of the approved capital expenditures in the budget that the difference can be made up from.

Because of the need to get the flusher truck fixed as quickly as possible, the committee agreed to go ahead and schedule the repair, after the rest of the Council had been notified, which was done. The repair will be formally presented to Council at this meeting.

Façade Work on as Part of Downtown Revitalization Project

On October 3 we had a meeting on the Facades part of the Downtown Project. At the meeting was Nathan Berg of Wallberg Construction, LLC the contractor on the project, Angela Wolfe of Mt. Rogers PDC, Dennis Amos of Hurt and Proffitt, Jay Keen and me with the Town.

The project will begin on the north side of Main Street. The grant funds will pay up to a maximum \$15,000 per façade, but that amount could go down based on the facades needs from the architectural study. The maximum total in the project is \$140,000 from the grant. In order to get the maximum amount of grant funds, the property owner has to match each dollar with either new work or work done in a two year period previously.

I think it very important that we begin work on the project to further illustrate to Downtown property owners that the money is there and available. To that end work will begin on a building in the middle of the block on the north side around October 21. The owner has produced receipts for work that has been done on the building for a two year period and he plans on doing additional work with Wallberg on his dollar. Then the previous work and the new work will be used to determine how much money from the grant will be applied towards the building. Several other buildings on the north side are also ready for construction.

I am very excited that the facades project appears to be starting shortly. My hope is that we can complete all the buildings on the north side in a couple months and then get quotes for buildings on the southern side early next year.

Respectfully Submitted,

John E. B. Clark, Jr.
Town Manager