

October 2, 2015

Capital Projects Update

1. Broadband/Fiber Project

Staff is still working to identify grant funding and partners for the proposed middle-mile broadband/fiber project. Staff and Commissioner Lawhon attend a broadband connectivity conference earlier this week that provided an excellent opportunity for networking.

Staff is working with our consultants, ECC Technologies, to coordinate a meeting with MCNC and the Golden Leaf Foundation to discuss a possible strategy involving capital grant funding as well as on-going operations and maintenance of the infrastructure.

Staff has also reached out to the local power cooperative (Union Power) to ascertain if there are partnership opportunities. Staff will continue to keep the Board updated.

2. Emergency Radio System Project

The emergency radio system infrastructure and equipment has been fully installed. Coverage acceptance testing will begin on Monday, October 5.

The coverage acceptance testing process is scheduled to take two (2) weeks. The testing teams will all include County staff and Motorola representatives. Testing will be conducted in 1,164 ½ mile grids throughout the County. In each grid, the testing team will perform an audio quality assessment. Once all of the grids are tested, the data will be analyzed to ensure 95% coverage is achieved per the contract agreement.

If testing is successful, it is envisioned the radio system will go live in mid to late October. A gradual transition will occur from the legacy radio system to the new 700/800 MHz digital system over a three (3) to four (4) week period.

Utility Projects Update

1. US Army Corps of Engineers Project - In September 2015 Stanly County submitted a 2nd request to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The USACE will include the Stanly County proposal in its 2015 Report to Congress for fiscal year 2016-2017. Once federal funding is secured Stanly County Utilities will likely fund the required 25% local match (\$2.25 million) through a loan. A rate increase over the next couple of fiscal years will be required to address increasing debt in the Utilities Fund associated with this and other utility infrastructure projects.

2. Badin Water System Rehab Project – Phase A (west Badin area) of the project began construction in June 2015 and is scheduled for completion in February 2016. 40% of the construction activity has been accomplished. Phase B (east Badin area) of the project is due to receive construction bids in mid-November. Construction should begin in January 2016.

3. Airport Corridor Sewer Improvement – Stanly County submitted its engineering report in May 2015 and responded to NC DENR's follow-up comments. The County is currently waiting for NC DENR's final approval before it can proceed with project construction. Design and bid package submittals are due to NC DENR by April 2016 for final approval. Funding sources for the project are a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$500,000 NC Commerce Utility Fund grant.

4. Oakboro WWTP and McCoy's Creek Pump Station – The County recently submitted the required NC DENR engineering report for review and approval. The source of funding for the project is the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund.

5. Water & Sewer Authority (Phase 4 Project) – The project will include the Stony Gap, Valley Drive and NC 740 corridor area. The Authority will submit the required engineering report and USDA funding application in early 2016.