



## Gate City Town Workshop Meeting

156 E Jackson St.

4-Mar-10

### PRESENT:

Mayor Mark Jenkins

Vice Mayor, Rita Tipton

Council Member, Cindy Coates

Council Member, Frances Perry

Jan Jenkins

Cathy McConnell

Jim Craft

Richard Hubbard

Joe Coates

Bob Blackstock

Rob Jones

Town Attorney, Mike Carrico

Marvin Egan

Sandra Jenkins

Mayor Mark Jenkins opened the Joint Workshop meeting at 6:05 PM.

Engineer, Andy Miles introduced himself and stated that he assisted the Town on various projects. This workshop is to present an overview of what funding projects are out there. In order to apply for some projects you have to do certain things to submit. One goal is to try to convey information on what programs is out there. Andy states that he also wants to update the Town on current projects. With the information that is presented, the Town needs to generate ideas of what things they want to apply for.

### Power Point Presentation on Funding Programs and Projects.

Documents were handed out pertaining to the Power Point slides that were being presented. From the documents and slide show, the following points were discussed:

#### 1) Water and Sewer Utilities

A) Health Department program - Drinking Water State Revolving Fund - This is a grant/loan combination, loan 0% to 3% up to prime. 21 million dollars is handed out this year to water systems. This year the deadline is April 2nd, if the Town wishes to apply for this money they need to apply now. Prior to the application, a local government resolution has to be done. This pays for anything pertaining to water system improvements.

B) DWSRF/Planning and Design - pays for planning and design, grant up to \$30,000, application due August 27, 2010.

#### C) Water Supply System grants

a) Drinking water Supply Assistant Grant

b) Planning and Design

WSAG is close to 100% state funded.

D) Rural Utilities Service - cornerstone for any improvement you want to do. Loan rates 3.25% to 4%, term 40 years.

## 2) Parks, Recreation, and Transportation

A) Virginia Outdoors Fund - 50/50 grant/loan split, Minimum project cost is \$100,000 - Maximum is \$250,000. He says its really to late this year to apply, but suggests something for next year at the max amount of award. He states and idea to get multiple organizations to go together to do something, i.e.. indoor swimming facility.

B) Recreational Trails Fund Program - The Town turned in an application for Burnt Cabin Branch Trail, it did not make the cut in 2009, but can resubmit it this year. Its an 80/20% grant, max project cost is \$125,000. Andy states that the Town can apply for grants for Burnt Cabin Branch and Grogan Park at the same time.

C) Land Conservation Program - 50/50 grant/match, this is to secure perpetual easements to restrict development on that land in perpetuity. The downside of the program is it is funded erratically, it is not funded not every year.

D) VDOT - enhancement program, 80/20 split, no minimum or maximum amount to apply for, pays for transportation goals, historic museums, land or sea transportation not aircraft. This is a non construction program and has to be a willing land owner and dedicated perpetuity.

## 3) Multi-Discipline

A) Housing and Community Facilities USDA-RDEV. Example: Police Cruisers/Townhall/Fire Departments. This will cover a wide range of improvements. The downside is you don't get as much funding as the utilities; however last year and this year will get more because of the stimulus fund. Any eligible examples that the Town may be contemplating, need to check with Rural Development in Lebanon to see whats available. Rural Development is first come first serve.

B) Appalachian Regional Community - grant is up to half a million dollars, application deadline varies in the spring and the fall. They will pay for water, sewer, and do business at industrial sites. ARC funds are administered by another agency.

C) Economic Development Grant Program - grants for anything that will help the Economic Development in Southwest Virginia. No min. or max amount to apply. Applicant must be Government organization, the funds are reimbursed to applicant.

D) Block Grant Program - grant covers things such as facades and downtown Revitalization. Until the current program is done you can't apply for anymore. Applications are done once a year.

## 4) Water Projects

A) Water Plant - Clearwell upgrades - currently addressing notice of violation that has been there for some time. They eliminated a cross connection between Clearwell and the recycle basin, which means that the drain in drinking water was connected to the bad water. There was not a potential threat to the water intermingling, there was a pipe connected in some way which put it in violation. This is now eliminated.

B) Master Plan Phase 1 - Mapped the GPS for the Towns water meters, hydrants, valves, tanks and it tied to the Towns/Countys GIS system. This also looks at water quality. This is paid for by Health Department.

C) Master Plan Phase 2 - To address disinfection by product levels in the Towns system. There are

chemicals that are formed in certain conditions. This is to keep those chemicals from forming in the system. This is paid by Health Department Plan and Design Grant.

D) Master Plan Phase 3 - (this did not make the cut last year) Moccasin Hills Area - replacing current setup of the pressure station where the pressure is supplied by the pump head. They want to put a ground storage reservoir near the top of the ridge and do away with pressure station. To have the storage tank it will also position water service to be extended out to the County. This would help supply residents of Scott County with water.

E) Regional Water Main Phase 1 - replace main water line from the water plant, down Harry Fry Drive to Kane St. This will be replacing an 8 inch line with a 12 inch line. The reason was for a number of leaks and this was critical conduit. Plans have basically been approved by VDOT / Health Department.

F) Regional Water Main Phase II - This has been awarded last year and should be receiving award letter anytime. The Town will have a new 12 inch main line from the Plant to Jackson St.

G) WTP OCC Operation Efficiency Enhancements - This involves various improvements at the Towns Water Plant to reduce the Towns energy consumption, to try to get green project reserve money through the Environmental Protection Agency. Involves i.e.: replacing pumps, windows, doors.

## 5) Sewer Projects

A) Interceptor Improvements - The Town submitted the application to see if we get anything. This program usually does not fund line replacements; however if you can show 50% savings in energy reductions then you qualify.

## 6) Public Works Projects

A) East Jackson St. Sidewalk - We are in the environmental clearance process with VDOT right now. This goes from the Baptist Church to about 500 ft. East to replace existing sidewalks and put in a retaining wall. Andy states that VDOT says we have to replace the number of steps are there now unless the property owners agree to locate.

B) Business District Revitalization

Rob Jones - He states that eighteen Façade applications have been returned and are in the process right now. The goal is 34 with a set deadline for the end of March. He states that it takes a while to go through all the steps and they want to give everyone a chance to get their applications in that are interested in the program. Two rounds of bids have been gone through, they are good competitive bids and the property owners are ready to go. Rob states that on the Water Street side, Andy has been working on getting the plans approved and getting the permits, and we are negotiating the easement agreements. We have money in the grant for the repair and renewal for the housing program. Helen Smith, the owner of the Ivy Cottage, has existing apartments they are going to redo. The Housing Rehab Specialist is putting together a set of plans. We had an offer from a downtown property owner to sell property back to town that is in the district. There is money in the grant for property acquisitions. There would be no cost to the Town, the grant would pay for this acquisition.

## 7) Parks and Recreation Projects

A) Grogan Park Expansion

B) Burnt Cabin Branch Trail - Had applied for this and was not successful the first time but can reapply.

**8) Project status**

A summary of the current Project status improvements is just under \$7,000,000. Andy would like for everyone to think about the improvements/potential projects they would like to see done.

**9) Discussion**

- a) Rob Jones states that a property owner suggested to him if the Town had any intentions to look at the Dougherty Chevrolet Building property for the Town offices, or had any other potential buyers. He knows that there was talk of rebuilding the Police Station and he knows that building would be big enough to consolidate the offices. They are interested in talking with the Town about this.
- b) Mark Jenkins states that the Town needs to pursue the park extension and Burnt Cabin Branch
- c) Frances Perry asks about putting the Grogan Park and Burnt Cabin Branch under the title of Gate City Recreation Enhancement project. Rita Tipton suggests putting the Music Shelter for the park in as part of the grant. Andy states that an outdoor amphitheater is considered recreational. Andy states that you can group projects with each other.
- d) Mark Jenkins asks if we find out that Moccasin Hills has 6 inch lines through out, it would be a smaller project to put a tank at the Golf Course. Andy stated that an option is a pump station upgrade and leave the lines the way they are. Mark states that it would be good to get fire protection and be able to go on to the other side to provide water to the park and residents. Andy says that 20% of the Health Departments money has to be used in energy efficiency. You have to see a 20% energy saving reduction in energy cost.
- e) Kathy McConnell - No sidewalk changes in town from the sidewalk ordinance that was passed. The letter that was given to business owners did not state any consequences or deadlines.

Meeting closed at 7: 25 PM

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**Mayor Mark Jenkins**

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**Town Clerk Angel Parker**