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July / August 2017
 Vol. Eleven
 Issue Four
Beginning our 11th year

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Fisher Cemetery related issues
 Ronald Gentry 910-850-4672
 Jess Hall 910-483-1902

Stedman Community Development Club NEWS

STEDMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

By: Andrew Maykovich, Board of Directors President

The Stedman Community is exceptionally fortunate to be served by a selfless group of men and women who provide fire, rescue, and emergency medical services to our community and the surrounding areas 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. They also volunteer their time to provide safety and medical support to annual community events such as Party in the Park, Farmers Day, and the Fourth of July fireworks celebration, as well as charity events for a variety of causes that are known by few outside the Department, as well as quietly supporting many local community causes that impact us all.

It is instructive for the community to understand how SVFD resources are most commonly exercised in support of the community. Almost 70% of the calls the department responds to are for emergency medical aid to local citizens. It is important to note that the SVFD receives no funding to support these calls, but does so because there is simply no other option to ensure our citizens have access to emergency medical care. Many of these responses are responsible for saving the lives of people in our community, possibly including your friends, neighbors and family members. Approximately 20% of the responses are to good intent calls, which are a response to a citizen concern, such as unattended fire or unknown source of smoke, which most often does not represent an imminent threat to the community. The remaining 10% of calls are a combination of things such as service calls, false alarms and dwelling fires.

Operating a Fire Department, even one composed mostly of volunteers is very expensive. With a single fire truck costing upwards of \$450,000, and a complete set of firefighting turnout gear costing more than \$5,000 per fireman, maintaining the SVFD is a very expensive proposition. Chief Justin Nobles operates the department on a very tight budget that often requires significant fiscal restraint in order for the SVFD to maintain services to the community, the current vehicle fleet, and make some modest investments to modernize the department equipment inventory as he plans for future growth of the community and responds to an increase in the number of emergency calls as a result of the HWY 24 bypass around Stedman.

The SFVD operating budget is derived from a combination of funding from Cumberland County, the town of Stedman and a county special fire tax. Our current funding levels are sufficient to provide basic services to the town, but are far short of what is required to keep pace with the modernization requirements of a modern fire department. The fiscal difficulties this year will be amplified, as we are expecting an almost \$11,000 shortfall in funding from the County as a result of the most recent property reevaluation. The SVFD has been very proactive in identifying savings, including reducing the department energy consumption, altering how fuel purchases are made and reorganizing firefighter shifts.

Chief Nobles and his team have made many noteworthy gains towards modernization at little or no expense to the SVFD, to include the addition of a water rescue craft that was used extensively throughout Hurricane Matthew, purchasing a used emergency response vehicle, and most recently acquiring a six wheel drive truck from the forestry service that will greatly enhance the department's ability to respond to emergency situations. Despite these efforts, the SVFD has many additional modernization needs that will severely restrict what little discretionary spending the department has for the foreseeable future. Most of these items such as fire hoses must be replaced as a result of normal wear and tear, while some must be replaced due to mandatory wear out dates, such as the firefighters turn out gear and air bottles. Other items are needed by the department to ensure that we remain capable of providing the level of service the community has come to expect, such as vehicle extraction tools and thermal imaging devices to help locate victims during a structure fire.

The most pressing and expensive modernization need of the SVFD is the replacement of the existing SVFD building. The original building has been expanded several times as former Chief Bill Bullard attempted to keep up with the growing demands of the community. However, a permanent fix is needed within the next 10 to 15 years as the current building lacks adequate parking bays for the existing vehicle fleet, safe access for responding emergency vehicles, and the equipment cleaning facilities and response rooms required to adequately support our firefighters. While this will be an expensive undertaking, it is absolutely necessary for the future of the department as it prepares for the anticipated growth of the community. The SVFD already owns the land to

build the new department on thanks to a generous donation of nine acres of land by Mayor Billy Horne. While we have, and will continue to pursue various state and federal grants to defray the cost of the new building, it will in all likelihood have to be funded by the SVFD. The cost of a replacement building is easily expected to exceed \$800,000 due in large part to a number of unique building requirements that a fire department incurs. That number is only going to grow as time passes and the costs of construction rise.

The SVFD is a model of fiscal responsibility, maximizing its limited budget to support the community under the most difficult circumstances with as many resources as possible. They have to be prepared for every possible contingency, ranging from a fully engulfed structure fire, horrific car accidents, and once in a generation floods. It requires an incredible commitment from the men and women who serve, and from the community to support their efforts. I encourage each and every citizen of Stedman to demonstrate their support for the men and women of our department through support to the various fundraisers hosted throughout the year by the ladies auxiliary and firemen's fund, and through direct donations to the department. Please take the time to tell a volunteer firefighter you appreciate what they do, and remember, the SVFD is only as strong as the community support it receives!

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

A new business has opened in the "Heart of Stedman". **Wildwood & Main Boutique** opened on May 19. Mrs. Ruby Loughman is the owner of this hometown boutique. Ruby and her family have been part of the Stedman Community for 25 years. Over the years Ruby has created a passion for fashion and opening her own shop has been a lifelong dream for her. Ruby is also a jewelry designer and sixty percent of the jewelry in her shop was designed by her. Her inventory will consist of ladies' apparel (size S thru 3XXX), jewelry, bags, wallets and more! Ruby will be working hard to stay current with the new styles for each season. Ruby has the joy and passion that it takes to be a business owner and she plans to be around for years to come! She extends a hardy welcome to all the husbands, fathers and boyfriends to come shop for their significant others (gift certificates are available). Her desire is to provide high quality clothing and merchandise at a reasonable cost. Make sure you stop by and check out Stedman's newest business, Wildwood & Main Boutique located in the "heart of Stedman"

Carolyn Moore reminds us that the **2017 Summer Blast** event is scheduled for Saturday August 5th at the Ernest Freeman Park on Front Street in Stedman. The event begins at 10:00 AM and continues to 3:00 PM. Some activities are also held at Emmanuel Empowerment Ministry across the street from the Park on Hillsboro Street. If you have questions, you may reach Ms. Moore at 910 527 2020.

Larry Jones reminds us that the Blackberries are still great as we go to press, and he has some for you ... you pick or he picks. **L A Jones Farms** is located north of the by-pass on Wade Stedman Road; telephone 910 818 5304.

Dianne H. Autry and Susie Adcox Phillips want all their **Cape Fear High School Class of 1971** Class Mates to know that a Class Reunion is being held at Salem United Methodist Church, 2165 Middle Rd. Eastover, NC 28312 on September 23rd, 2017. The cost is \$30.00 per person and the deadline to register is September 1st. Please contact Susie at 910-339-1972 or Dianne at 910-527-1876 for more information. Keep Stedman rolling.

Sports Equipment Drive During the month of July, the **Stedman Recreation Center** will be accepting various kinds of used or new sports equipment for donation. If you have any old cleats, baseball gloves, bats, soccer balls, bat bags, football equipment, etc. Please drop your donation by anytime during the month. The Rec Center is located on Circle Drive in Stedman. Your donation could help someone out who may

be in need of gear!

CHILI IN STEDMAN

The Stedman Community Development Club is planning to have a **Chili Event** on Saturday, November 4th, 2017 at the Stedman Community Building.

We call this an event, but it is more complicated than that ... we will be serving Chili prepared by (we hope) at least 10 different people and or local companies and corn bread baked by many different people, and November is a great time for a bowl of Chili.

The Event will also be a fund-raiser for the Community Building. We had one major expense in October of 2016 and another expensive repair and alteration is necessary now. We need to replace the nearly \$8,000.00 in funds spent on these two projects.

The Event will also be a friendly competition, as we will allow our guests to judge and to vote on which Chili and which cornbread they liked most. A modest award will be presented to those getting the most votes. Those buying tickets will be able to sample different Chili recipes and to decide which they like best.

So ... please note on your calendar Saturday, November 4th ... and plan to join us at the Community Building.

Now ... for those of you who enjoy cooking Chili, please know that you are welcome to sign-up to participate ... there will be a limited number of contestants but we believe we need at least 10.

We will also be reaching out to the excellent bakers in the community to donate corn bread and other baked goods for sale.

Please note that there are many meal fund-raisers in our Stedman Community, and all for great reasons. The SCDC did not hold a fund-raiser in 2016, but we need to do so this year. Your rental of the Community Building for your family and special occasions covers the operating expense of the building, but not enough for extraordinary expenses. This and all other meal fund-raisers in the Community are valid reasons to get out and to exchange your hard-earned money for a quality value and for a quality reason.

More details in the coming months ... Thanks in Advance!



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Calendar of Events

Stedman Masonic Lodge
meets the first Monday evening at 7:30 PM at the Lodge on Carol Street, August 7th & September 4th

Bethany Historical Society
meets the first Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM at the Bethany Community Building / August 1st & September 5th

Senior Citizens Club
meets the first Thursday at Stedman Recreation Center; 10:00 AM

Stedman Board of Commissioners Meeting
meets the first Thursday evening at the Stedman Town Hall on Front Street, 7:00 PM

Stedman Antique Tractor Club
meets the first Thursday evening at 7:00 PM
729 Hollow Bridge Road - August 3rd & September 7th

Stedman Community Development Club
meets the second Monday at 335 First Street, 7:00 PM
August 14th & September 11th

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9925
meets 2nd Tuesday at the Post in Bethany, 7:00 PM
August 8th & September 12th

Stedman Historical Promotions
meets the third Monday at 7:00 PM at the Stedman VFD Station
July 17th, August 21st & September 18th

Stedman Fire Department Board
meets the third Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM at the Fire Station
July 18th, August 21st & September 19th

Bethany Fire Department Board
meets the fourth Tuesday evening at the Fire Station, 7:00 PM
July 25th, August 22nd & September 26th

every Sunday afternoon Bethany VFD Station,
Cub Scout Pack 710 meets

every Monday evening at Cokesbury
Boy Scouts meet at 7:00 PM

every Tuesday evening at Cokesbury
Cub Scout Pack 701 meets at 7:00 PM

every Thursday afternoon at the Stedman Community Building
Brownies meet at 6:30 PM * during the school year

The Stedman Museum at the Old SCL Depot
is open by appointment
Call the Stedman Town Hall 910-323-1892 for information

Calendar of Special Events

- Declaration of Independence, In Congress, July 4th, 1776
- Summer Blast, Ernest Freeman Park, August 5th
- Endless Yard Sale, Maxwell Road, Bethany Crossroads, August 12th
- Labor Day, September 4th

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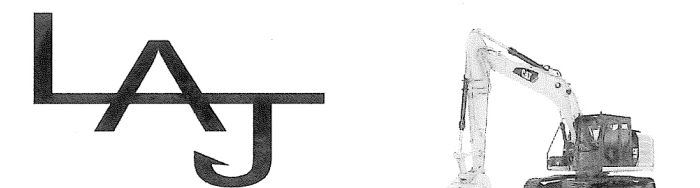
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Are we resolved?
It is our opportunity, perhaps responsibility as local customers to Be Resolved to support our local businesses, most especially those which are locally owned and operated. These people are our neighbors and possibly our relatives. Please consider that you are unlikely to deny yourself something you need because it is now inconvenient to get to the place you once purchased it. It is much more likely that you will just purchase it someplace else. How many such business "transfers" are required before an established local business can no longer survive? We do not know the answer, but we know there is such a lower business level that can (and perhaps, will) be reached if we allow it to happen.

Two questions for you: Have I reduced how much I am buying from local Stedman businesses? How much am I buying in Fayetteville (or another place) that I can transfer to a local Stedman business?

If all of us Resolve to consider these two questions, and Resolve to respond to them in a manner that is good for Stedman business, we can collectively grow the Stedman business volume. Remember also that the more business that is done in Stedman, the more businesses that will want to locate in Stedman.

We can make it happen!

STEDMAN RECREATION CENTER ACTIVITIES
By John Rea 910-433-1440

Friday Night Food, Fun & Fellowship
Looking for a night out with friends? Come to the Stedman Recreation Center for a grand ole' time! All participants must register and registration ends three days before the date of the program! Be sure to mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

July 14; Mexican Fiesta
55+; Fri.; 6:30 pm; \$5

Cheer & Tumble Class
Cheerleading promotes coordination, fitness and confidence. Learn all you need to know to prepare for middle school and high school cheerleading. This class will concentrate on cheer,

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motion technique, dance, jumps, tumbling and stunts.
4-12 yrs; Mon.; 6-7 pm; \$25/month

Senior Fitness
Are you above the age of 55 and looking to get healthy? The Stedman Recreation center will be offering a FREE workout class twice a week to help you achieve your fitness goals. We will be showing a variety of senior workout videos that you can follow along with!
55+; Tues. and Thurs.; 1 pm; Free

Tae Kwon Do
Self-defense offers a physical fitness, self-discipline, academic achievement, fun and excitement in a non-violent atmosphere.
5+; Tues. and Thurs.; Beginners 6-7 pm; Intermediate 7-8 pm; \$40/month

Kids Movie Night
Register your child for an exciting night including dinner and a movie. That's right...it's a night out for Mom and Dad! Pre-registration is required one week in advance and late registrations will not be accepted. (Early drop-offs/ late pickups are not accepted.)
5-12 yrs; Fri.; Aug. 11; 6:30-8:30 pm; \$5/child

Little Kickers Soccer
If your little one is interested in playing soccer, then this program is for you. Registration is June 1-Aug. 1. Season will start in Sept. League age is the age attained by a player prior to Dec. 1 of the current playing year.
3-4 yrs; \$20

Sports Equipment Drive
During the month of July, we will be accepting various kinds of used or new sports equipment for donation. If you have any old cleats, baseball gloves, bats, soccer balls, bat bags, football equipment, etc., please drop it by anytime during the month. This could help someone out who may be in need of gear!


Girls Night Out
Bring a friend or sister to enjoy some quality girl time! Bring your favorite nail polish or try one of ours! We will also be making homemade body scrub for each girl to take home.

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AUTRYVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT STATION AND EQUIPMENT

Tuesday, May 23rd was a tough day for the Autryville Community in general, and for the Volunteer Fire Department in particular. The tornado which "skipped" through the community left devastation every place it reached the ground. One of those places was the Fire Station. As current news, the event and the destruction were covered by multiple news agencies, but after all the media attention passed, it is the local people ... with assistance from many people and organizations ... who quietly go about the detail work of adjusting, compensating and replacing the damage. And, in this case, maintaining the service the Community needs.

"We" asked Andrew Maykovich, President of the Stedman VFD Board of Directors to inquire about the magnitude of the Autryville VFD physical damage. He sent us the following on Monday, June 19th:

"The AVFD suffered well over a million dollars in losses. They are very fortunate that they had good insurance, and have had terrific support from the surrounding communities. 2 of their trucks were total losses, 1 truck suffered \$40,000 in damages, 1 truck suffered about \$5,000 in damage.

They lost all the equipment that was located in the station. Hard to say exactly how much that is because they are still going over what they had. They do know they will have to spend \$46,000 to replace radios, and more than \$36,000 in turnout gear.

The station is a complete loss. They should be done with demolition tomorrow afternoon. They are expecting it to take at least \$500,000, and a year to complete the construction.

The department is currently working out of a temporary facility within the community, and are expecting some work trailers in the near future. They were effusive in their praise for the support from the surrounding communities."

The Autryville VFD is operating with some trucks and equipment on loan from other Departments. Their work, again, with quality assistance, is a testament to their dedication

to provide a quality and a responsive service to the Autryville Community and to maintain their role in support of other local Fire Departments. Great Job, Well Done, Much More to Do!

Hats Off to Terry Spell Mechanical Services for providing the Department a convenient and secure place to park their trucks while a new permanent facility is built!

STEDMAN TOWN HALL DAMAGE

Late in the afternoon Wednesday, June 14th, Flag Day, a thunderstorm approached Stedman from the west. The rain and winds were as one would expect from such a storm; intense, heavy and blustery. Sometime into the storm the wind intensity steadily increased, the rain fall direction began to stretch to a very easterly direction and it was obvious that the wind velocity was quite high and getting higher.

This intense wind blew over a very large tree situated on the west side of the Stedman Town Hall. The tree landed on the Town Hall, causing substantial damage to the roof and to the second floor storage space on the west end of the building, to the kitchen and to the Board of Commissioner's Meeting Room. The HVAC system for the west end of the building is not functional, but Rebecca Johnson (with floor fans circulating the air) is conducting business as usual from the office.

Rebecca was in the building at the time the tree fell and was not injured.

Repairs to the building will be contracted as soon as all the damage evaluations are complete and other required details are covered.

BETHANY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

By: Martha Tyler
The Bethany Historical Society will again be participating in the Maxwell Road "Endless" Yard Sale on Saturday, August 12, 2017. This will be the 3rd year for this famous event! This event takes place at our building located at formally known VFW Post 9925 (also Bethany Community Building) at 2105 Wade-Stedman Road.

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We will be renting vendor spaces again this year for \$20. We will be selling sausage dogs, soft drinks and coffee for breakfast and beginning at 11:00, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs with all the fixings along with soft drinks and water for lunch. Yes, we will be selling our "world famous" BBQ sauce and our wonderful, 300+ recipes cookbooks. Recipes are from all of the great cooks in our community. Yard Sale begins at 7:00 am and ends at 5:00 pm.

To rent yard sale spaces, please call: Martha Tyler at 910-391-2653 or Jo Autry at 910-624-2140. The ball field was almost full of vendors last year, so please don't delay. Hope to see you there!

STEDMAN HISTORICAL PROMOTIONS REPORT

By: Ronald Prater

Stedman Historical Promotions would like to take a brief moment and share about our organization and the success of Party in the Park. We are an official 501c3 organization whose mission is to help promote the history of Stedman, NC and showcase what a great place it is to be.

We are a small organization right now and typically have 10-12 people that attend our monthly planning meetings. This past year was the biggest that we've had and our organization raised over \$5000 which helped put a new roof on the Stedman History Museum which is on Euclid Street.

We put on three events a year right now:
 Party in the Park (third Friday and Saturday in May)
 Christmas in the Park (just before Thanksgiving)
 Annual plate sale with silent auction and bake sale (Typically in November, held at the Stedman Fire Dept.)

We meet on the 3rd Monday night at 7PM every month at the Stedman Fire Dept. We are always looking to grow so that we can make our events better every year and are always looking for dedicated people who want to be involved and volunteer to help us plan.

We would like to thank our sponsors that help make our events possible, especially Party in the Park.

Gold Sponsors: Horne Brothers Construction, Ronald Prater – State Farm Insurance, Town of Stedman.

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Bronze Sponsors: Adam Hall CPA, Carroll's Supermarket, Horne Farms.

Patron Sponsors: Cashwell Appliance Parts, First Citizens Bank, Mobley Enterprises, Nobles Security, Professional Opticians, Sandy Ridge Electric, Stedman Lodge & Village Family Dental.

As a final word, thank you to the volunteers and board of the Stedman Historical Promotions. There is a lot of time and energy spent behind the scenes to help make our little town a fun place to be. We hope to see everyone continue to come out and enjoy the events that we are putting on for this New Year and show how wonderful a place Stedman, NC is. Be sure to follow us on Facebook @ PartyintheParkStedmanNC

FISCAL YEAR 2018 BUDGET, TOWN OF STEDMAN

On June 16, the Town published the proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget. This proposal will be the subject of a Board review and approval meeting to be held Thursday, June 29th at a site that is not yet set as we write this (as a consequence of the damage to the Town Hall).

As mentioned in notes taken at the Board meetings, the budget is essentially the same as the one for Fiscal Year 2017 which ends June 30, 2017.

In summary:
 The Ad Valorem Tax base is estimated to be \$96.9 Million and the millage rate is \$0.32 per \$100 in value.

It is estimated that \$45,676 will be required to transfer from savings to cover expected General Fund expenses, but the savings balance is considered to be in a strong position.

General Fund Revenue is expected to be \$598,452, which matches the proposed expenses.

The Water and Sewer System is forecast to generate a total of \$546,453 in revenue (including a forecasted \$60,033 from Retained Earnings). This total equals the forecasted expenses.

Powell Fund (streets) is forecast to have revenue of \$37,198 (including \$5,658 from savings) which matches the forecasted expenses.

More details will be reported after the budget is approved.

STEDMAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD MEETINGS

The Stedman VFD Board of Directors met Tuesday evening May 16th and our notes are:

Department financial data states that total revenue for the Fiscal Year (to date, July, 2016 through April, 2017) is \$280,362 and total expenses are \$247,935.

Discussion of the finances noted that as a consequence of the 2016 Cumberland County property evaluations, and the general decline in values established, the SVFD revenue for Fiscal Year 2018 is likely to decline. This raised the question (unanswered in our notes) of response staffing requirements ... currently 4 firefighters are expected to respond to a call for assistance ... under what circumstances is a qualified

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response achieved by fewer firefighters?

The Department is bundling and scheduling truck service on site to save money.

The electricity bills are declining as a result of better insulation and more efficient lighting.

Constant pressure to save money is being applied to operations, and external sources for revenue are being sought.

It was noted that some fire calls have been to controlled fires, and in those cases the firefighters are to monitor after they arrive, not to participate.

Some existing hose is worn out and therefore new hose is needed. Party in the Park support plans were discussed.

It was noted that all fire hydrants have been painted and tested, and the capabilities of a Forestry Service truck were discussed.

A recent traffic accident required the use of the Hurst extraction tool, allowing the injured person to be removed from the vehicle before EMS personnel arrived.

A recent training burn was discussed at length; five local departments participated as did members of the SVFD Board. Citizens are invited to visit the SVFD Facebook Page to view videos of the training.

A Cool Draft misting fan has been purchased by the department, and is welcomed and appreciated by the Firefighters.

Additional discussion noted that the 50/50 Grant Application filed has been denied and reportedly all these funds are now committed; work continues on the FY2018 budget; and a grant application has been submitted to Wal-Mart.

It is understood that an auditor has been hired to assess Cumberland County fire department needs.

The Board then noted that raising money for many reasons is a priority and that a committee will be established to organize these efforts.

The Board met Tuesday evening, June 20th, and our notes are: First Bank managers Kevin Bunn and (Stedman Community resident) Cindy Robinson made a presentation of the bank's programs, capabilities, and interest in becoming the bank of the SVFD. The Board expressed its appreciation for their time and interest.

The Board spent a great deal of time discussing the Department's finances, income and budget for FY2018 which begins in July.

*FY2017 to-date (June 2017 through May 17) the Department has received \$283,412 in revenue and expenses are \$263,951. If you compare these two numbers to the April report, you will note that the last month's revenue is \$3,050 and the month's expenses are \$16,016 ... revenue at this time of the fiscal year is very slow, but the expenses continue.

*Chief Nobles has moved nearly \$75,000 that was considered savings from the checking account (into the regular savings account) in order to focus budget and spending level reviews attention on the operating funds.

*In order to produce a budget which is within expected FY2018 revenue, Chief Nobles has reduced the full-time day staff level from four firefighters to three.

*Cumberland County forecasts providing the SVFD with \$211,843 in revenue in FY2018, \$10,942 less than provided in FY2017. The Department forecasts Town of Stedman tax revenue to be \$89,000. Total revenue from all sources is expected to be \$304,322.00.

*Total expenses for FY2018 are presently calculated and therefore budgeted to be \$304,321.13.

*The Board discussed various strategies to prepare for the future fire, rescue and EMS response needs of the Community. When nearly every revenue dollar is needed for current operations, immediate needs and debt payments, how can the Board prepare to purchase new trucks, replace old trucks and build a larger station facility?

The Board discussed the Autryville VFD situation, the assistance offered to them, the assistance accepted, and the lessons learned by it. The Board is comfortable that should such a situation strike the Stedman VFD, the Department's insurance coverage is designed to provide the best available recovery funds.

In searching for used equipment to mount on the newly acquired 6 wheel drive truck acquired from the Forestry Service, the Department staff located a newer model and larger truck for sale and it is already fully equipped. In analyzing the cost of the items which are needed to buy, it was determined

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that purchasing the other truck (which is owned by another VFD and will be available in June of 2018) is a smarter decision. Authorization to negotiate for the purchase was made. The existing Forestry Service truck will be kept, maintained and used as is for the next year, but will then need to be returned to the Forestry Service.

Necessary and expensive electronic repairs to truck 2311 are being evaluated for an insurance claim.

The Family Fun Day was discussed and it sounds like it was a great success.

The Board adjourned into a closed session with senior Department staff.

STEDMAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETINGS

The Stedman Board of Commissioners (BoC) met Thursday evening, May 4th and our notes are:

The BoC reviewed the Town Clerk job description, approved it and discussed how to publicize it in search of qualified candidates for the position.

The BoC discussed the issue of repairs to water line issues on Clinton Road, essentially in front of the Cokesbury Methodist Church property on Clinton Road. Repair work on service for the north side of Clinton Road in December revealed the need for additional repairs. A 2 inch diameter water supply line needed to be excluded from access to the water system (abandoned) and a new 12 inch valve installed. Discussion addressed the risks and the expenses, and Commissioner George led the discussion, but declined to participate (as a PWC employee) in the decision. The conclusion was to authorize both tasks at a cost of \$8,173.15.

A third bid to replace the Depot / Museum roof had been received and was reviewed. The final decision was made to award the contract to Treadlite Roofing. The bid difference between the Treadlite bid and the next lowest was small although Treadlite was the lowest. Critical to the decision was an extra year of workmanship warranty and a promise that the work could be completed prior to Party in the Park. In rounded numbers, the roof replacement was accomplished with \$5,500 donated by the Stedman Historical Promotions and \$1,900 provided by the Town.

Additional discussion of the Zoning Case #17-011 is pending County Planning action. A sidewalk variance may be needed.

Chief Stocks reported that the cat population issue discussed last month at the east end of Jefferson Street is complicated. Ownership of the property which is the home for the expanding feline population is not clear and therefore permission to act on the property is in question. Additional ownership research is being conducted.

Video cameras are functional in the Town Park, and Chief Stocks can view them remotely.

Confusion continues to exist regarding the County inspecting Stedman properties for conformance to code for maintenance. Counsel Yarborough said he will follow-up with the County.

The Stedman Board of Commissioners met Thursday evening, June 1st and our notes are:

There was the appearance of miscommunications at the beginning of the meeting. Family members and many friends of John Pat McCall were in attendance but no presentation or honor for Mr. McCall was on the agenda. A discussion of Mr. McCall's service to the Town developed among the attendees,

as did a discussion of the details of a planned memorial which will be ready soon.

A discussion of converting existing street lights to new LED energy efficient lights was held and cost differences and annual savings values for the new lights were stated. The need for additional lights was noted as well. However, no decisions were made as the expense must be considered in the budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

A one year contract renewal for Attorney Yarborough's services was discussed and approved.

The illness and retirement of Jennifer Wilson-Kersh has resulted in the Fiscal Year 2017 financial results not being organized in the manner needed for Fiscal Year 2018 budget preparation. The Town asked David Maxwell to assist with this organization, and he came to the meeting to explain that as the Town auditor, he cannot do work he would then need to audit. In consultation with CPA Anthony Sessoms, a peer review auditor, Mr. Maxwell recommended that the Town consider contracting with CPA Scott Bridgers from Wilson to bring the books up to date and to organize the records for Fiscal Year 2018 budgeting work. The FY2018 budget must be approved by June 30th. The BoC accepted the recommendation and set a compensation value for Mr. Bridger's work at \$2,880.

The BoC continued FY2018 discussions by deciding that the FY2018 budget will mirror the FY2017 budget. Tax rates, expenses, fees and all related will remain unchanged for the next year. Comments noted that the BoC can change the budget once the year has begun.

The FY2018 budget proposal must be publicly posted 10 days before it is formally reviewed for approval. The decision was made to hold the formal review, modify if necessary and

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approve meeting Thursday evening, June 29th at 7:00 PM.

Chief Stocks Noted:

There were 144 calls for police service in Stedman in April; All the planned traffic lights on the new by-pass are installed and working;

All by-pass medians will be in place by the end of June;

The by-pass contractor is very concerned about citizens moving barricades ... it is a problem and a very serious danger for other drivers.

Commissioner Raymes noted concern about the number of privately owned basketball goals that are set up in such a way that they depend on children playing in the street to use them. Especially of concern is the number of small children which are attracted to them and therefore are at risk from traffic. Discussion noted that there is no Town Ordinance which regulates or prohibits the placement of these basketball goals. It was decided to request a draft ordinance be prepared for future consideration.

Tim Mitchell presented a report of the activities of the Stedman VFD. Please see the separate article covering the Department's Board Meetings.

HIGHWAY 24 UPDATE #24

By: Ronald Gentry

I plan on this being my last article on Hwy 24. All right, you can stop crying. It just doesn't seem like it's been that long. I have 24 numbered articles and several general articles over the past 4--5 years. In the time that I have been writing the articles the main project engineer retired and I just found out a couple of weeks ago that the Resident Engineer (project engineer's boss) has retired also. I may have worried them too much with getting information for these articles. I really don't have any more contacts at the Clinton office to worry with questions concerning the project. It is just as well, because the project should be over, complete, finito, done, and history by the next edition.

Traffic was switched to the east and west bound lanes after my last article and people should be pretty well used to the overall pattern by now. Things should actually improve when

they complete the paving and open all the turn lanes. I haven't seen any wrecks lately so I think the public has it figured out. There will be a lot of delineators and thermoplastic pavement markings to be installed when the paving is finished. Some new and improved signs installed and then no more traffic cones and barrels to look at. It will be lit up like a Christmas tree at night for a while. I am pretty sure that the speed limit will be 55 mph but just try that on hwy 24 from Food Lion to Fayetteville where it has been four lanes for years and you will get ran over.

I really like it now in Stedman and Autryville. I can pull up to old 24 at Crumplers at 7:15 am on a school day and not have to sit for several minutes to get headed to Fayetteville. In Autryville at 6:00 am I don't even need to look both ways to walk over to the pool room for breakfast. I like all of that but still hope people remember all of the local businesses that supplied them before the new highway was built and continue supporting them. I guess time will tell.

If any of you are still crying, you can stop. I'll still contribute articles occasionally. I have been real slack lately but hope to get back doing some work at Fisher Cemetery. I may even get bored enough to just write about something of interest and wish that some of our readers would volunteer to do the same. Anyhow it's been quite a ride and hope to see you on that New Hwy 24 soon.

FISHER CEMETERY RULES, REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

After discussions with several people, the below draft, Fisher Cemetery Rules, Regulations and Guidelines are presented to the Stedman Community for comment during the month of July, 2017. In August, any adjustments deemed necessary will be made and the resulting document will be posted in several locations at the Cemetery.

Draft:

These parcels are to be used only for the purpose of interment of human remains; one person per parcel. Two cremation remains may be interred in one parcel.

It is the responsibility of the parcel owner(s) and of his or her agents and service providers to:

- Acknowledge and agree that the cemetery hours are between sun up and sun down each day;
- Consult with a representative of the Fisher Cemetery Committee of the Stedman Community Development Club, Inc. if in question, to correctly locate their parcel before any parcel preparation work is initiated;
- Ensure that all the preparation work is done within the defined boundaries of the parcel, and is done during normal business hours;
- Ensure that within two weeks following the interment service, the surrounding parcels are returned to their proper maintenance condition and all flowers and interment related materials are removed from the service parcel;

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