

A meeting of the Great Falls Town Council Public Works Committee was held on September 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Town Hall Community Center. Attending were Council Members Eagle, McManus and Council Member Gonzalez was late. Also attending was Public Works Supervisor Marlow, and Police Chief Martin who left early.

Currently have three full time employees (Buddy, Jimmy, and Thomas) and two part-time employees (Art and Sammy). Three have to be running the trash truck on Tuesdays and Thursdays, currently Buddy drives with Jimmy and Thomas on the back. Some employees are not able or willing to do certain jobs like driving the lawn mower. The current budget allows for five full-time workers including the supervisor and two part-time. Buddy is considering going back to part-time but will still drive the trash truck routes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hoping to train Thomas to also drive the trash truck.

There is not much to train on besides trash truck, lawn mowers, and backhoe. It's hard to train employees with so work. Possibly need a Saturday training day.

Safety equipment consists of helmets, face shields, gloves, ear and eye protectors. If workers need anything they let Supervisor Marlow know and he gets it. Need to look into getting better rainsuits for the trash truck guys.

The landfill behind the pole-building is DHEC certified. The road going to it needs work and it's not usable during/after rain. Yard debris can only be stored there for a period of time before the town gets fined, but if chipped/mulched it is considered a finished product and can remain. Because the chipper takes so much time, much of the yard debris is taken to the county landfill. A possible fix of road to landfill would be the material behind the basketball courts, but it would require lots of work. Even if the towns landfill is fixed, debris will still need to be removed unless it is ran through the chipper (which is time consuming) or it is tub-grinded. The chipper is time consuming, a front-end loader with a grapple bucket would be a better fit.

There is a county ordinance for no signs, the town needs to do the same, or require permits to put signs out. The signs are a nuisance and a safety hazard. Especially when the frame is left lying on the ground.

Forty-five tires and two mattresses were dumped on the rail trail that is currently being worked on. It is the towns responsibility not the hired contractor. They were dumped after work began. Have talked with Scott Brown, the contractor, and they will be installing a temporary cable fence to prevent more dumping. He will also be quoting a price for a permanent solution.

Council Member McManus will be attending a meeting with SCDOT about storm drains on September 11, 2024 at 8:30am. Hopefully after this meeting the town will know what our responsibility is concerning the storm drains. How can the town keep trash and yard debris away from the storm drains? There is an ordinance to not blow yard debris into roads, residents and businesses need to be educated on the impact to the storm drains. Without a street-sweeper, cleanup would need to be done by hand, which is unrealistic. Does the town need to hire outside contractors to street sweep or should we purchase the appropriate equipment.

The chipper is usable but very time consuming. Most of the current equipment is old or was bought used. Only new equipment is Supervisor Marlow's truck, one lawnmower, and the trash truck, which was purchase around the time Marlow started two years ago. Once all unused equipment is sold, needed equipment can be purchased. Marlow currently has a street-sweeper with hose, he purchased

from the Town of Tega Cay, for sale for \$4,000. A&R Sales has the necessary box to collect the vacuumed debris for \$500. It is a conflict of interest to purchase from a town employee.

Need to determine what are the towns responsibilities and the counties responsibilities with the recreation areas. Public Works cutting the parks and recreation fields will over burden the workers. The Mayor has been looking into taking over maintenance of the parks. A list is to be created of things that need to be done, then figure out whose responsibility those things are. Need to sit down with the county a create a new MOU.

Currently there is no maintenance being done around the pond, supervisor Marlow was told not to cut by previous council member. A meeting took place between Mayor Brantley and Council Member Craig about possibly hiring an outside contractor to come clean up around the pond, then Public Works maintaining. Council Members Eagle and Gonzalez believe they should have been informed of the meeting.

Supervisor Marlow will be taking the jetter to A&R Sales this week to see if it can be fixed and at what cost. A&R Sales is used because it is local. If jetter doesn't work out, need to get quotes on pressure washers. Would it not be better to hire an outside contractor to pressure wash once a year? There are other areas besides the sidewalks that could use a pressure washer.

The budgeted employee vacancies need to be filled. It's hard to find people to work for \$14-\$15. Supervisor Marlow believes it isn't fair to pay a new hire the same as current employees who have years working with the town. Research is to be done on the rate of pay for surrounding areas and how it can be worked into the budget.

An inventory of all equipment is to be done. Supervisor Marlow does not believe the lawn mower from Wastewater would be beneficial to Public Works due to the constant issues with it needing to be repaired. Currently Public Works does not have the staff for an extra lawn mower. Supervisor Marlow has not had time to train because he has constantly been needed to cut grass.

Supervisor Marlow thinks eight full-time employees is needed. But a crew for cutting grass and maintaining the trails may be more beneficial. He can not supervise due to cutting grass.

Invoicing extra garbage has been transferred to the new Code Enforcement division in the Police Department, but it is still a lot of work to get everything picked up. The Town is Court Ordered to clean up 42 Holly Street, which has been put on hold due to lack of equipment. It would help to make the part-time Code Enforcer full-time. A standing meeting of 30 minutes is held every Thursday at 9:00am to discuss what all is going on and what needs to be done.

Research will be conducted to figure out equipment needs, estimates and maintenance costs.

Almost \$90,000 was saved last year by Public Works, Supervisor Marlow had hoped some of the savings could be used to help with purchasing needed equipment. They currently have two dump trucks, one might not last much longer. Both were bought used years ago.

A list of needed equipment is needed, along with three estimates. Also needed is a list of locations that an outside contractor can be used.

The streetscape flower beds need an overhaul, with possible plastic put down to prevent weeds. Beds were installed 10-15 years ago.

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica Eubanks