

Dear Friends

We are beginning the budget season for the town and the fiscal year 2012-13 is going to be an interesting one. For the past four years, in order to maintain personnel and programs within the town, we have dipped in to the fund balance to make sure that things such as public safety, recreation, senior programs and even water and sewer were fully funded without having an increase in taxes. The water and sewer funds are enterprise funds, which mean the expenses incurred by these, are matched with rates that will cover these expenses. We have diligently tried to keep expenses in these areas as low as possible so that rates will remain as low as possible. The town is faced with \$160,000 in installment debt each year, primarily as a result of sewer improvements that were required by the state during the 1990's. We will be installing radio read meters in the town as a result of a Rural Center grant. This will mean that we will not have to replace meters in the town for at least 10 years. This is a real cost savings to the town even though we will have a 10 percent match. On a \$500,000 grant we could be responsible for up to \$50,000 of installment debt over 10 years, or approximately \$5000 plus interest each year. Please be assured that the Council is serious about keeping rates as low as possible.

The street sweeper is in need of some major repairs and maintenance and will be out of service for two to three weeks. Please be patient until we get it back from the shop.

The North Carolina Strawberry Festival will be here before you know it and now is the time to start cleaning up your areas in town and making your neighborhood look as good as possible. Remember that it takes everyone working together to make the community a better place.

Remember the troops since there seems to be more and more unrest in the world. We cannot pray enough for their missions and safe return.