

STREETS/PARKS:

The following timeline was provided by the contractor on the Fletcher Road project.

9.7.2021-9.10.2021: The dirt sub is working to get sub-grade fine graded in preparation for class 7.

9.13.2021- Class 7 installation will begin (I am placing the order today to ensure the trucking and material are ready)

9.20.2021- Curb work will begin; I estimate this may take up to 1 week.

9.27.2021- Fine Grading of the class 7 will begin after the curb placement.

9.30.2021- Asphalt will start, this should take 2-3 days.

Once asphalt is completed odds and ends will start; sod, fence work striping, etc.

If all goes according to plan, substantial completion of the project will be October 15th.

WATER/SEWER:

As I mentioned in last month's report, the American Rescue Plan Act or ARPA funds is all the buzz with cities and towns at this time. Arkansas Municipal League has been offering online presentations to answer questions and provide guidance to work through the application and administration process of the funding. Last month, I reported that we submitted nine projects to be considered for funding. During the latest ARML presentation, they reported that they received approximately Five billion dollars in requests for the 1.5 billion dollars that is available. Obviously, they will not be able to fund all the projects in the state. It is still unclear how they will determine which projects and to what extent they will fund each one.

Tuesday, September 14th, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission visited Northwest Arkansas to view some of the larger projects that have requested funding. The Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (NACA) wastewater treatment facility was one of those sites. As I have mentioned before, the NACA plant is in the process of upgrading its facility at a cost of almost 55 million dollars. This project cost will be passed on to the rate paying cities (Bentonville, Elm Springs, Tontitown, eventually Cave Springs). So, any money that NACA receives will benefit Tontitown indirectly. However, there is a cap on the amount of funds that will be awarded to any one project, that amount is ten million dollars.

At the September 16th meeting of the NACA board the members approved the surcharge rates for excessive strength wastewater. If you remember, we talked about this a few months back. At that time, there was discussion about changing from flow based to load-based billing. The board decided not to pursue the load-based billing, but to implement surcharges to the city that is producing excessive loading. As I have reported previously, the leachate from the landfill is the source of loading. Now that we have actual surcharge amounts, NACA will be adding that cost to Tontitown's sewer bill. We will in turn pass those costs on to Waste Management. Preliminary estimates indicate this amount will be approximately \$10,000 per month.