

STREETS/PARKS:

By the time of this meeting the 36" bore under S. Pinalto for storm water drainage, should be completed. K2 Construction began the project on December 14 and hoped to have it completed by the end of day Friday the 16th. It appears that the length of the bore may be more than originally thought. The quote provided by the two contractors was based on 60' length. It now appears that the actual length is closer to 70'. I may need to bring this additional cost to you at the next council meeting. The project will be wrapped up by then and we will know exact numbers.

You may not have noticed, but our street crew is still repairing stormwater damage from the Spring rains. Recently, an area on N. Barrington where the road edge washed away, was repaired by excavating and installing "shot rock" to stabilize the area and prevent future damage from occurring. On S. Barrington, a drainage ditch was constructed to help carry away flood waters and protect private property from washing away. Garver is still working on our Stormwater Master Plan, but in the meantime, we must continue to address the issues we are aware of from previous events. Sometimes simply cleaning out drainage culverts can have a positive impact in future flooding. However, cleaning out culverts is one of the hardest and most time-consuming jobs to do. Specialized equipment exists that would make this task much quicker and easier. I am sure that we will be talking about acquiring this type of equipment in the near future.

Speaking of new equipment, our new Caterpillar skid-steer was delivered last week. The crew is excited to have an awesome new tool to utilize in their daily adventures, and I am happy that we will be able to pay for it in this year's budget.

WATER/SEWER:

As I mentioned last month, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission held a meeting on December 2nd to inform cities and counties of the distribution of \$280 million in ARPA funds. Unfortunately, Tontitown did not receive any of those dollars. However, NACA received \$5 million for the upgrade of the treatment plant. As I previously mentioned, the funds we applied for were going to be used to construct an additional water tower. Just because we did not receive ARPA funds, that need does not go away. I will be working for the next few months to find a way to pay for that project. The funding will not be in the form of a grant, because there are none available, but in the form of a low-interest loan. During the ARPA process ANRC made it clear that they have plenty of money to loan. The other option for funding would be through USDA. Our first water tank was funded with a loan from USDA. They are easier to work with, IMHO, than ANRC.