

To: City Council
From: Matt Muckler, City Administrator
Date: June 22, 2014
Weekly Council Update

- **COPS Grant:** The West Branch Police Department completed their grant application for the 2014 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program through the U.S. Department of Justice. Special thanks to Police Chief Mike Horihan and Administrative Assistant Shanelle Peden who worked through the weekend to ensure that our application was properly submitted. If awarded, the grant would provide \$125,000, which could be used towards the hire of a fourth full-time police officer. As part of the application, the City's grant submittal commits to the hire of a post-September 11, 2001 military veteran. Now the waiting begins. Last year, the award notifications were not made public until the end of September.
- **Strategic Park Plan Update:** At their June 19th meeting, the Park & Recreation Commission voted to recommend approval to the City Council of the phasing plan and funding options contained within the Strategic Park Plan. Brian Boelk, with HBK Engineering, will be on-hand at the Monday June 23rd Council Meeting to present the plan to the City Council.

The estimate for Phase I improvements totaled \$3,548,363.50. The Commission proposed paying for Phase I with a combination of a ten-year local option sales tax (LOST) extension and tax increment financing (TIF). A ten-year LOST extension, which would have to be approved by the voters on November 4, 2014, is conservatively estimated to bring in \$1,807,558.87. That would leave \$1,740,804.63 to be paid from TIF funds. Only infrastructure and utility work would be completed through TIF, while the park amenities (i.e. ball fields, concession stand, restrooms, etc.) would be paid with LOST funds. Specific detail is included in the June 23rd Council Packet as part of the capital improvement plan (pages 128-135 of the Council Packet).

- **Other Park & Rec Planning News:** Denny Sharp, with FEH Associates, made a presentation to the Park & Rec Commission at their June 19th Commission Meeting concerning the Community Center Building Plan Project. The Commission decided to hold the kick-off meeting for this planning process on Wednesday July 9th at 7:00 p.m. An all-day open house charrette will be held in August to gather additional community feedback.

The information provided is one-way communication and should not be discussed among you as this would be a violation of the open meeting law.