



MEMO

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Joseph A. Fivas

DATE: Oct 7, 2010

SUBJECT: County Request for Urban Forestry Agreement

Union County has requested that the Town of Indian Trail consider a contract to assist in the financing of the position of Urban Forester. This position was formerly paid for by a grant, and the grant has lapsed. My understanding was that all but two Union County communities (Fairview and Hemby Bridge) have signed this agreement for this service. The Town of Indian Trail has used this Urban Forestry position extensively in the past, and has received very good service. The Union County municipal share is a total of \$30,000, and Union County has indicated that the Indian Trail portion is \$6,454.84. Union County will have an expense of \$30,671. I have attached the Agreement for your review. On page 3, you will find the allocation of each community in Union County.

Options:

- 1) Approve the proposed Agreement to partner with Union County as written;
- 2) Take no action on the Agreement;
- 3) Negotiate with Union County to pay a per hour cost for these services provided to Indian Trail. The County would essentially bill the Town for the utilization of these services.

Recommendation:

The Town of Indian Trail has received very good service from the Urban Forestry position. We have often utilized this service and found it to be helpful in delivering services to community residents and businesses. The Urban Forestry position does have an active role in our Parks,

Tree, and Greenway Committee, and spends a great deal of time with Indian Trail educational projects. Since, we have utilize this position as essentially a contracted employee I find merit in negotiating with Union County to find a per hour rate to pay the County for these services. This would allow the Town to utilize the services on an 'as requested basis'. However, after discussing with staff, we may spend the same amount of funds on a per hour basis, as opposed to a fixed fee, but at least we will know the cost of this service. A fixed fee would guarantee the overall price for service, and give residents an accounting of the service provided. We would use some of our Tree City USA grant to be able to fund this position.

jaf