

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. C(3)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: March 18, 2008

**TITLE: A Request to Authorize the Town Manager to Execute a Contract for Fiber Cabling and to Approve a Project Ordinance Amending the Fire Substation Capital Budget**

<b>DEPARTMENT: Management Services</b>	<b>PUBLIC HEARING: YES ___ NO <u>x</u></b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS: A: Capital Project Ordinance</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Andy Vogel, IT Manager, 918-7305 Travis Crabtree, Fire Chief, 918-7349 L. Bingham Roenigk, 918-7439

### PURPOSE

The Board of Aldermen is requested to authorize the Town Manager to execute a design agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and a construction agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to install additional fiber optic cabling for town use as it is upgrading the traffic light signaling system. This effort will enable the town to connect the fire substation to Town Hall ultimately replacing the need for leased lines and their ongoing monthly costs that provide needed telecom and data services between these two facilities. Prior to executing a contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and NCDOT, a project ordinance appropriating additional funds of \$243,000 will be required to finance this effort, bringing the total project budget for the fire substation to \$2,992,703. All costs appropriated for the fire substation will be financed with installment financing proceeds.

### INFORMATION

The NCDOT is upgrading the traffic light system that encompasses the Towns of Carrboro and Chapel Hill. As part of this upgrade, the NCDOT is replacing the copper cabling that currently connects the traffic light signals with fiber optic cabling. They have extended an offer to the two towns to place an additional cable alongside the cable needed for the traffic lights. This additional fiber cable would become the property of the Town and could be used as the Town sees fit for future telecom and data communications needs. NCDOT has offered this one time only opportunity to other municipalities within North Carolina, and it is viewed as a win-win opportunity. The primary benefit of this offer is that when additional fiber optic cable follows the exact route of the DOT planned traffic light fiber cable the only cost that the Town would be responsible for is the cost of the additional fiber cable itself (which is being purchased in bulk for this entire project). Since the NCDOT has planned traffic light fiber routes that go near (or in directions toward) existing Town facilities, this has the net effect of providing the ability to construct a fiber optic infrastructure connecting various Town facilities at a *greatly* reduced cost.

The Town of Carrboro would first go through a process with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the design of this additional fiber. Design is needed to plan where the additional fiber will deviate from the route of the DOT traffic light fiber, for example, when it enters the Town's facilities, goes to ground or pole mounted splice boxes for future connectivity or goes along a path that is not occupied by the traffic light fiber. When the Town deviates from the traffic light fiber path, then the Town is responsible for the cost of design and construction work. The majority of the fiber cabling will be constructed to connect

Town Hall to the fire substation. The design phase will also determine the exact construction costs the Town will need to pay for constructing the additional fiber optic cabling. At this point, the Town will then enter into the construction phase with the NCDOT and the cabling plant will be constructed. This cable route has the benefit of passing by the Century Center (Recreation and Parks, Police Department) and will provide a redundant path for existing fiber that currently connects Town Hall to the Century Center. This cable route also passes through Calvander (Homestead Rd./Old NC 86) creating the future potential for connectivity to the Town's future/planned Public Works facility. This connectivity also supports data and telecom communications between our emergency services. There will also be a fairly inexpensive spur from this route that will take a fiber cable through Carrboro's downtown to the border of Chapel Hill.

The proposed routes are as follows:

**Core Route: Town Hall** - Weaver St./N. Greensboro St.- **Century Center** - Main St./Greensboro St. – Jones Ferry Rd./NC 54 – NC 54/Old Fayetteville Rd. - Old Fayetteville Rd./ Homestead Rd. – **Fire Substation**

**Spur through Downtown:** Uses above route to Main St./Greensboro St. then E. Main St to border of Chapel Hill.

#### FISCAL AND STAFFING IMPACT

The true fiscal impact of the project budget for Fire Station #2 is indicated in debt service costs. At this time, projected debt service is: \$379,076 beginning in FY09-10, based on a fifteen-year loan schedule at 6%. Please note that debt service costs will not be incurred until FY09-10 (previous estimates were for FY08-09) due to timing of construction. The fiber cabling project by itself contributes approximately \$30,780 to the debt service cost in the first year of payment (FY09-10).

#### STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve budget amendment as requested and authorize the Town Manager to execute the fiber cabling contract with NCDOT.