

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
MARCH 2017**

Forsyth is the county seat of Rosebud County and currently some of its major employers include Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), Range Telephone, Prince Construction, Rosebud Health Care Center, Talen Energy, Rosebud County, and the Forsyth School District.

Like many communities in eastern Montana and the rural West, Forsyth faces challenges including an aging population and the economic uncertainty of natural resource extraction and commodity markets. Recent events such as the loss of a number of BNSF jobs in Forsyth and the future closure of the Colstrip electrical generating plants 1 and 2 have highlighted the need for the City and Rosebud County to look for ways to diversify their economy. Nonetheless, the community is looking to leverage its historic strengths while also pursuing new opportunities in order to maintain itself economically and culturally. Forsyth's assets include an efficient transportation network, excellent services, many recreational amenities and dedicated residents who want to improve their community.

Capital Improvement Planning is meant to help the City to anticipate potential changes and be prepared to take the steps necessary to ensure that those changes result in long-term benefits for the City. Over the past years the City has accumulated capital improvement funds.

At the February 27, 2017 City council meeting the council took the first step in implementing Capital Improvements for 2017. Department heads are working on nailing down exact costs of top priority projects. There is no tax impact associated with the plans. The funds were already included as part of the 2016/2017 budget. The City will take steps to rebuild the Capital Improvement funds through the budget process.

The council approved the following:

- Upgrade computer & control panel at water plant
- Replace current meter reader system
- Renovate/rebuild the bathroom at Riverside Park
- Camera video of culverts associated with dike improvements
- Riverside Park playground equipment
- Roof repairs at the pool
- Roof repairs at City Hall
- New front doors at City Hall

The 2017-2018 budget process begins later this spring. The preliminary budget will be approved in June and final budget approval will be in August. All budget meetings will be appropriately posted and are always open to the public.

