



Staff Report

Agenda Item: **PRESENTATION BY THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT** - Discussion with Council regarding future plans for the Clark Memorial Library.

Staff Contact: Janet Perry, Assistant Town Manager

Meeting Date: May 26, 2009

Background: Council's January 30, 2009 Strategic Planning agenda focused primarily on preparing Clarkdale to meet serious and continuing economic challenges. Among the numerous ideas and strategies discussed during that session was a community outreach concept which included combining Parks & Recreation and Library services, along with an increased focus on volunteer services. A Community Services Department has since been formed to facilitate this vision. The organizational changes made in order to accommodate this new department were done by shifting existing employees and reassigning tasks, thereby not adding or increasing expenses.

Of the many benefits the community will experience from these efforts, we are proud to offer increased hours of operation at the Library. Beginning June 1, 2009 the Clark Memorial Library hours will change to:

Monday – Thursdays; 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Saturdays; 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At this time staff would like to present the Community Services Department to Council. Further, we would like to discuss future departmental plans in greater detail, including physical improvements proposed in the Library.

The extent and magnitude of physical changes proposed in the Library will be based on available funding. At this time staff has explored, and is pursuing, a variety of sources in that regard. At a minimum, we propose to move forward with a plan being referred to as "Phase I". This proposal is based on a remodel of the Library using existing grant funds remaining from the Library State Grant-in-Aids program. Other potential funding sources exist within the Library Board and from Prop 202 funds received, both being appropriate considerations for this project given the broad community-wide benefits that it offers.

Since Phase I involves a considerable reorganization of the existing Library space, the Library would need to close for approximately one month to accomplish the changes in an efficient and timely manner. With wanting to not interrupt services to patrons over the coming summer, if Phase I is implemented, it would not be until sometime this next fall.

The plan proposed as "Phase II" has been prepared based on the possibility of federal stimulus grant funds being awarded to the Town under the Greater Broadband Technology Operations Program. Phase II is a much more aggressive plan designed to broaden services to the community

on a large scale. This plan would be pursued only on the premise of the stimulus funding source coming available. The expectation is that any final determination of funds awarded under this stimulus program would be announced before the fall. Therefore, we would know before implementing Phase I whether Phase II is a viable option.

Should the Town be among the Greater Broadband Technology Operations Program grant recipients, staff will revisit plans for implementing Phase II with Council.

Recommendation: This is a presentation and discussion only and no action is required.