Auditor: Walhalla in 'great financial shape'

BY MIKAYLA KREUZBERGER
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WALHALLA — The City of Walhalla received good news at its council meeting Tuesday evening when a Seneca auditor reported that the city had a positive financial review.

"The city is in great financial shape," said Jason White, of Byerley, Payne and White CPA, PA.

Overall, White said, the city's general funds, which include operations, gained roughly $63,000.

The water account gained $860,000 in revenue ($450,000 in federal grant money) and the city's sewer account had a positive change of $16,000.

A highlight of the year's audit, according to White, was that the city only transferred $203,000 from its water fund to its general fund. Originally, the city budgeted $500,000 in transfer money to the general fund.

"That is a reflection of the administration's management," White said. "(City Administrator) Nancy (Goehle) is doing a great job."

Mayor Danny Edwards pointed out that although the sewer account had a positive change from the previous year, the statement cited that the sewer account's operating income had a loss of $157,000.

White said that negative number was what the sewer account netted before the water account transferred its funds to the general fund.

"(The sewer account) would have seen a substantial loss if money had not been transferred," White said.

White confirmed Edwards' statement that the loss is because sewer customers are not charged enough to cover the city's expenses.

"People's sewer bills would be going through the roof (if they were charged enough to cover expenses)," Edwards said. "Thank goodness water makes enough money to cover that loss."

Edwards commended Goehle and all city department heads "for doing a great job."

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