



Town Manager's Report

December 7, 2023

League of Municipalities Grant Funded Services – Several staff members and I met with Witt O’Brien’s to discuss future grant opportunities for the Town. Witt O’Brien’s is a contracted firm that is working through the League of Municipalities to help local governments identify, apply, and administer grants. This work is being done at no cost to the Town through our agreement with the League of Municipalities. We are hopeful this will lead to potential grant opportunities for the Town. Additionally, we are exploring the possibility for the League to fund an engineering and planning study to evaluate and prioritize sites for potential multipurpose/soccer fields. This could occur at little to no cost to the Town. The need for additional fields and recreational facilities continues to be a priority. More on this in the future. *For Your Information.*

Sidewalk (A to B Street along Central) – NCDOT is moving forward with plans to install a sidewalk along Central Avenue from A to B Street at no cost to the Town. DOT is using remaining funds from the signal upgrade project at the intersection of B Street and Central Avenue and Town staff requested this be repurposed into a sidewalk extension. DOT is finalizing plans with a possibility of work beginning in February 2024. This project would assist in providing better pedestrian access to the Depot District. *For Your Information.*

Tour of Ontic – This month I met with the COO and CEO at Ontic and had the opportunity to tour their facility here in Butner. Ontic is an international company that supports and supplies established aircraft parts to the world’s leading aerospace manufacturers. They are located on Telecom Drive and have been in Butner since purchasing Firstmark Corporation in 2018. They recently finished a major renovation of their 100,000 square foot building and are in a growth mode with significant hiring in process. Over the last three months they have added 20-30 employees and currently have 265 employees. Their goal is to get to 330 employees over the next year. Much of their current hiring is for well-paid aeronautical engineers with a portion of the positions being labor roles. They spoke well of the aeronautical engineering program at NC State and available workforce but recognized the need for additional complimentary industries in this part of the state. *For Your Information.*

Tax Revaluation – Granville County conducts revaluation every six years and is finishing up their revaluation which will update tax assessed property values effective January 1, 2024. The County anticipates mailing new values to property owners in January with appeals beginning as early as February. The final values have not yet been established, but it is well publicized that Granville County’s Sales Assessment Ratio (ratio of tax value to actual sales values) is very low. This indicates current tax values based on 2018 values are significantly lower than actual sales values. We anticipate values going up and would not be surprised with an average increase of 70% or more in Butner. Increases in value alone do not translate into residents paying higher taxes. The Town will adopt a new tax rate with the upcoming budget and is required to prepare a statement of the revenue-neutral property tax rate. This is the rate that is estimated to produce revenue for the next fiscal year equal to the revenue that would have been produced if no reappraisal had occurred. More to come on this as we get into the new year and begin budget preparations. *For Your Information.*