



Town Manager's Report

October 5, 2023

County Listening Session – The Granville County Manager and commissioners are holding listening sessions throughout the County. The planned session for this area is at Town Hall on October 30th at 6:30PM. This is an opportunity in an informal setting to learn more about county government and provide feedback to the County. *For Your Information*

Finance Position – The current year budget includes a new position in the finance department and a new position in the planning department. With the new Planning Director on board, I intend to hold off filling the newly created position until we can determine the need. In the meantime, we have begun advertising and intend to follow through by filling the finance position. Space at Town Hall is limited – we are converting a conference room into an office to accommodate the new position when hired. *For Your Information*

Zip Code Change Request – We have submitted a letter to the US Postal Service (USPS) requesting a review of the zip codes. The intent of the request is to include the area east of I-85 that is within the Town of Butner limits, but currently in Creedmoor's 27522 zip code within the 27509 zip code for Butner. Previous efforts have been unsuccessful in seeking this change. We have received a few follow up calls from USPS as they review the request. We have also reached out to our congressional delegation to advocate for this change. *For Your Information*

Butner Public Safety Parking Lot – Significant progress has been made in a short time to complete the parking lot replacement at Public Safety. The main portion of the parking lot has been excavated out, graded, and paved. Work is shifting to the front portion to regrade and adjust the handicapped parking spot for ADA compliance. Crews are well ahead of the 60-day timeline for the project. *For Your Information*

FEMA BRIC Resiliency Grant – We worked with the Kerr-Tar COG this week to submit a letter of intent and preliminary application for the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant through the NC Department of Public Safety (NCDPS). The grants are for shovel-ready projects or planning studies for projects that mitigate the risk of a natural hazard to public infrastructure. Initial thoughts were this funding could assist with burying utility lines along Central Avenue (project area #1) and Hwy 56 (project area #2) which would create a more resilient electric grid for the multiple state and federal facilities and major employers in Butner. We met with Duke Energy and learned of the many challenges and costs for burying utilities – the Town would be responsible for the design cost with no guarantee of project completion, additional right-of-way outside of NCDOT right-of-way would need acquired and the overall cost can be significant (as much or more than \$1,000 per foot). As a result, our focus for the grant has shifted to seeking funds for a

feasibility and engineering study for burying the utilities to improve resiliency and creating landscaped medians as stormwater devices to mitigate flooding. The grant is highly competitive. More to come if the project will qualify for grant submittal. *For Your Information*

Pickleball Fees – The Town recently purchased a temporary Pickleball set-up for the Sports Arena and is offering the ability to rent the facility on an hourly basis. We are evaluating the existing fees and anticipate proposing a new lower hourly rate for residents to use the facility for Pickleball. The Town is not in position to offer annual memberships or provide open play periods as done in surrounding municipalities as we do not have dedicated recreation staff or staff at the facility. More to come on a proposed fee soon. *For Your Information*

Sidewalk Engineering – Next week is the deadline for submittal of statement of qualifications for designing the next section of sidewalks. We are hopeful of being in position to recommend a firm at your November meeting. *For Your Information*