



## TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD 2017: A YEAR IN REVIEW

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina, 27306

### The Big Picture:

- Overall the Town is in good financial condition. Conservative use of our tax dollars has continued to grow our general fund balance – often referred to our town’s savings account. However, aging infrastructure continues to be a challenge for the enterprise fund. Some difficult decisions were made this year that should help make progress on our water/sewer finances.
- Infrastructure improvements have been on the forefront for the past year. Several projects have been initiated to help prepare for the future.
- The Board remains committed to economic development. Our Historic Downtown, large park facilities, and close proximity to outdoor recreational resources are key to economic redevelopment in our region. We recognize that both residents and visitors rely on these amenities, and they give Mount Gilead a unique sense of place.

### Highlights of the year:

- Committed to immense rehabilitation project for wastewater treatment systems. Secured funding for \$2.9 million of improvements to wastewater treatment plant and several essential pump stations.
- Improved information technology in all town facilities including faster wireless internet speeds, wider range for downtown wi-fi, modern VoIP phones, and secure backup servers.
- Invested in updating equipment for our Police Officers including replacing all duty sidearms, body cameras, and tactical response equipment.
- Physical improvements were also made to the Police Department such as security cameras, new interview room, and magnetic door locks.
- Updated purchasing policies to address financial reporting issues and maximize functionality of our existing software.
- Revised town ordinances to help address common nuisance violations.
- Applied for “Asset Inventory Assessment” grant that would provide funding to assess physical water/sewer infrastructure and help prioritize needs.
- Resurfaced many town streets and repaired sidewalks using Powell Bill funds.
- Replaced all street signs with logos through entire town.
- Created substantial savings to operating budget by restructuring employee benefits.

### Goals of 2018:

- Continue focus on infrastructure and economic redevelopment.
- Improve dilapidated and abandoned properties to enhance aesthetics.
- Create a vision for the future of Mount Gilead and incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan.
- Maximize regional partnerships and utilize abundant recreational resources.