

Rec'd
1/6/22
in person

TOWN OF ZEBULON
Application for Board of Commissioner's Vacancy

Please type or print legibly when filling out this form.

(May be submitted electronically to markland@townofzebulon.org or
in person to Lisa Markland, Town Clerk no later than 5:00pm Monday, January 31, 2022)

If you have questions about this form, please contact Lisa Markland at 919-823-1800

Title of Position Sought MEMBER OF OUR BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name BLUNT Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III) JR

First Name EUGENE Middle Initial W.

Phone Number (Day) 919 426 8192 (Cell) SAME

Email Address gen20cr2017@gmail.com

I am at least 21 years old ☒ Yes ☐ No (If "No" stop here -- you are not eligible for this position)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Physical Address 601 STAFFORD DR Unit #

City ZEBULON State N.C. Zip 27597 County WAKE

My primary residence is located within Zebulon's Corporate Limits. ☒ Yes ☐ No

MAILING ADDRESS

Mailing Address ☒ Same as Above

Address or PO Box Unit #

City State Zip County

I am a registered voter in Wake County and legally eligible to vote in Zebulon elections. ☒ Yes ☐ No

QUESTIONS

You may attach additional sheets of paper when answering questions.

- Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
ON PLANNING BOARD FOR OVER 20 YEARS.
- Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
FOR ME IT IS VERY SIMPLE. I LOVE ZEBULON AND I WANT TO SERVE.

01/2022

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

- Transportation *WE NEED TO PLAN, DEVELOP ROADS FOR THE HUGE INCREASE IN POPULATION.*
- Economic Development (business development and recruitment) *WE NEED TO DEVELOP DOWNTOWN, SHOPPING CENTERS, PARKS AND GREEN SPACES.*
- Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks) *WE NEED MORE AND GREEN SPACES.*
- Public Safety (police and fire) *WE NEED ANOTHER FIRE STATION, AND REFINISH POLICE STATION.*
- Land Use and Development *WE NEED TO BE WISE AND PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE.*
- Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater) *YES MORE AND CAREFUL PLANNING.*

4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less) *POLICE & FIRE, TRANSPORTATION, & INFRASTRUCTURE.*

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less) *OVER 15 YEARS ON THE PLANNING BOARD, AND I LISTEN TO OUR CITIZENS.*

Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

By my signature, I certify the above responses are true, accurate and my own.

Date *01/05/22*

Signature *Eugene W. B. [Signature]*

☒ I will attend the Board of Commissioner meeting February 7, 2022 @ 7 PM in Town Hall and be available to make a verbal presentation (no more than 5 minutes) and answer questions from Board members.

☒ I am interested in attending a "Government 101" seminar hosted by the Town Manager.

*Received
1/24/2022
JMM
in person*

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Title of Position Sought Town Commissioner

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name Moore Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III) _____

First Name Annie Middle Initial Jean

Phone Number (Day) 919-269-9772 (Cell) 919-414-6547

Email Address bassma04@att.net

I am at least 21 years old ☒ Yes ☐ No (If "No" stop here - you are not eligible for this position)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Physical Address 204 S. Arendell Avenue Unit # -

City Zebulon State NC Zip 27597 County Wake

My primary residence is located within Zebulon's Corporate Limits. ☐ Yes ☐ No

MAILING ADDRESS

Mailing Address ☒ Same as Above

Address or PO Box same as above Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

I am a registered voter in Wake County and legally eligible to vote in Zebulon elections. ☒ Yes ☐ No

QUESTIONS

You may attach additional sheets of paper when answering questions.

1. Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
2. Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

01/2022

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)
- Transportation
 - Economic Development (business development and recruitment)
 - Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)
 - Public Safety (police and fire)
 - Land Use and Development
 - Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)
4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

By my signature, I certify the above responses are true, accurate and my own.

Date 1-31-2022 Signature Annie Jean Moore

☒ I will attend the Board of Commissioner meeting February 7, 2022 @7 PM in Town Hall and be available to make a verbal presentation (no more than 5 minutes) and answer questions from Board members.

☒ I am interested in attending a "Government 101" seminar hosted by the Town Manager.

01/2022

Applicant Information

Moore, Annie Jean

1. Describe, in detail, your public service experience.

Town of Zebulon Commissioner 2018- 2021

Worked on the **Zebulon Planning Board** for 9 years, participating in discussions on how to help the town plan and grow, bringing forth the concerns of the community. One thing I truly fought for was bringing a one-stop-shop (like Walmart) to the community. We now have a 24 hour Walmart along with other businesses.

Member of the **Board of Adjustment** for 3 years, where I was a part of the decisions in hearings on variances, special use permits, and appeals.

Chairwoman of the **Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast** for 14 years. The event, held yearly until the pandemic, provided community members and leaders an opportunity to gather and reflect on the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

Business Owner of AJ's Beauty Unlimited for 29 years. My business serves Zebulon and surrounding areas with self-care and beauty.

Board Member of the **Boys and Girls Club of Zebulon**, where I have worked to address the needs of the community's youth, providing and positive life options.

Participant of **Zebulon's Citizens Police Academy**

2. Why do you want to serve as Town of Zebulon Commissioner?

I would like to once again serve as a commissioner because this is the community that I have lived in for over 70 years, and I am very passionate about its growth. I want to continue to work on my commitment to improve, promote, support, and help my community. Further, I want to continue to serve our citizens, especially our children.

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community?

Transportation- The most pressing need in transportation for our community is more service. We need to not only retain the Rural Ridership Program, we need to take it to the next level. In addition, we need more bus service throughout town. Our older citizens make up a larger portion of the population compared to more urban areas and they, along with people with disabilities, rely on public transit.

Traffic and Road Infrastructure- With the town growing, there will be lots of traffic jams. More lights and stop signs are needed to accommodate the high level of traffic that we have. Traffic lights will be the key to helping move some of the overrun intersections. Coordinating traffic lights on a town street grid can make sure more vehicles hit green lights, which will move traffic faster. I think we need to make our streets more attractive and create more lighting in the area so the streets are no longer dark.

Economic Development- As a business owner, I thrive on building neighborhood based shops to accommodate the flux of people moving to Zebulon. Our downtown is starting to look alive with small businesses and we need to encourage more to come to Zebulon.

Parks and Recreation- My work with the Boys and Girls Club has given me perspective into the needs of the children of our community. We need more programming for our youth. I would like to see more art opportunities that would allow our children to express themselves outside of the school arena.

Public Safety (Police and Fire)- When I participated in the Zebulon Citizen's Police Academy, it was to gain a knowledge and understanding of our police officers and how they work in our community. I still ride on occasion with the Zebulon Police Department.

Land Use and Development- Even though we need more amenities like stores and restaurants, we must keep some of our beautiful green open spaces.

4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why?

- 1. Traffic-** To decrease the negative impact to current and future residents, we need to eliminate congestion and decrease accidents.
- 2. Transportation-** As our town grows, we need to offer more ways for people to get to work, shop, and live. Adding more bus service is a way to decrease traffic while still giving people a way to get around.
- 3. Our Youth-** We need to offer them program options to help guide them and build a foundation of what they can accomplish in their life.

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners?

Graduate of NC State- I value education and the opportunities that a good education brings.

Teacher's Assistant- This gave me daily knowledge about the needs of children.

School Bus Driver- I gained a unique perspective, outside of school, of the needs that children have.

Zebulon Planning Board- The experience I gained during my 9 years on the board, has allowed me to understand the needs of Zebulon.

Zebulon Board of Adjustments- The time I spent serving on this board gave me knowledge about how the town handles development and growth.

Chairwoman of MLK Jr. Breakfast- My time as a chairwoman helped me in organizing an event that has served the community for 14 years, bringing people together in unity.

Business Owner- Running a small business since 1969 has given me an understanding of why we need to bring services to Zebulon. I also know the challenges that running a small business has and can offer advice as we work on our downtown.

Town of Zebulon Commissioner- My prior knowledge of what it takes to serve on the Board is important.

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Title of Position Sought Board member - Zebulon Board of Commissioners

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name Lowry Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III) _____

First Name Daniel Middle Initial J

Phone Number (Day) _____ (Cell) 614-419-3414

Email Address djlowry771@gmail.com

I am at least 21 years old ☒ Yes ☐ No (If "No" stop here - you are not eligible for this position)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Physical Address 4212 Vineyard Ridge Dr. Unit # _____

City Zebulon State NC Zip 27597 County Wake

My primary residence is located within Zebulon's Corporate Limits. ☒ Yes ☐ No

MAILING ADDRESS

Mailing Address ☒ Same as Above

Address or PO Box _____ Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

I am a registered voter in Wake County and legally eligible to vote in Zebulon elections. ☒ Yes ☐ No

QUESTIONS

You may attach additional sheets of paper when answering questions.

- Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
Current Chairperson of the Zebulon Planning Board having served the Planning Board & the Town of Zebulon for over a year. I was a persuing candidate for the N.C. House of Representatives.
- Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
Because I love my town & want a strong, vibrant, & safe place to raise my family. I also feel strongly about my sense of service to the community & the great citizens of Zebulon. I am a willing public servant and will look at the issues from all perspectives thoroughly.

01/2022

*Received
1/20/22
via email*

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

- Transportation This is vital to our community. While we have a lot of new homes and families in town, there a lot of others that don't have the same freedom or ease of travel.
 - Economic Development (business development and recruitment) we need to grow jobs. Good jobs in Zebulon. I fear we are becoming a "bedroom community" and I would like to see more people living & working in Zebulon.
 - Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks) I feel like we have a great plan in place with the master plan. We just need to make sure that we follow the plan that has been laid out.
 - Public Safety (police and fire) Although our score is high, I feel we need to closely monitor this as more homes & land is developed.
 - Land Use and Development we have a great plan in place which I held serve on the board to develop we need to stick to the plan
 - Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater) This is the most vital I feel. Road & Sidewalks & Networks are not to the capacity that is currently needed & I think we headed toward a real disaster that we can't get to address immediately.
4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
1. Infrastructure (see above)
 2. Public Safety (see above)
 3. Transportation (see above)

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

I have a love of public service. It's an honor & a privilege to serve others. My background is in Customer Service, Management, & engineering. I have served on other committees for planning & worked well with all of the groups. Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less). This is a dream of mine & I would be one of the greatest privileges of my life to be of service to this great town for my family & everyone else.

By my signature, I certify the above responses are true, accurate and my own.

Date 1/20/22

Signature



☒ I will attend the Board of Commissioner meeting February 7, 2022 @7 PM in Town Hall and be available to make a verbal presentation (no more than 5 minutes) and answer questions from Board members.

☒ I am interested in attending a "Government 101" seminar hosted by the Town Manager.

01/2022

Review:
1/20/22
10:45 AM

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Title of Position Sought Board of Commissioner

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name Germano Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III) _____

First Name Kacie Middle Initial E.

Phone Number (Day) 407-690-4227 (Cell) 407-690-4227

Email Address kacieb0212@gmail.com

I am at least 21 years old ☒ Yes ☐ No (If "No" stop here -- you are not eligible for this position)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Physical Address 616 Golden Plum Ln. Unit # _____

City Zebulon State NC Zip 27597 County Wake

My primary residence is located within Zebulon's Corporate Limits. ☒ Yes ☐ No

MAILING ADDRESS

Mailing Address ☒ Same as Above

Address or PO Box _____ Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

I am a registered voter in Wake County and legally eligible to vote in Zebulon elections. ☒ Yes ☐ No

QUESTIONS

You may attach additional sheets of paper when answering questions.

- Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
(Please see attached)
- Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

01/2022

- With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

- Transportation
- Economic Development (business development and recruitment)
- Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)
- Public Safety (police and fire)
- Land Use and Development
- Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)

- Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

- What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

By my signature, I certify the above responses are true, accurate and my own.

Date 01/20/2022 Signature Kacie Germano

☒ I will attend the Board of Commissioner meeting February 7, 2022 @ 7 PM in Town Hall and be available to make a verbal presentation (no more than 5 minutes) and answer questions from Board members.

☒ I am interested in attending a "Government 101" seminar hosted by the Town Manager.
(I previously attended, but I am willing to again.)

01/2022

1. Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Throughout my life I have been involved with public service, from a young child helping my mother with charity events for local organizations through college to now. During my college career, and beyond, I volunteer for construction of homes through Habitat for Humanity. Working to build a home, especially with its future homeowners is one of the most exciting places to be. Between nailing up walls to learning their stories and seeing how they have overcome difficulties in their lives, to finally getting to watch their joy at the keying ceremony is one of the most rewarding experiences out there. I truly love working with the local community for the betterment of my neighbor and the town. Other rewarding experiences have been volunteering at The Ronald McDonald House in Tallahassee, FL. This provided a chance for parents to stay at a warm and comfortable home away from home while their child is at the local children's hospital. In recent times, I was able to work with the Women's Center at North Carolina State University (NCSU) to provide personal health rooms across campus. This allowed safe, clean and comfortable spaces for nursing mothers, so they were not confined to their cars, or other unsanitary locations. Throughout the years, I have attended numerous Interior Design/Architectural programs at multiple schools and universities to work with students to evaluate their projects and portfolios. This provides hands on experience for students with professionals to help with future college applications and job interviews. I recently served as a member of the board for the on-going master plan effort at NCSU, allowing me the opportunity to study and help implement designs to create a more cohesive campus. From researching the existing infrastructure, transportation, land use, building use and overall general safety of our campus community, to having in depth conversations as to how the campus will evolve over the next decade, these discussions correlate with our town's current needs. Being a focus group member of the latest approved Zebulon Comprehensive Land Use and Transportation Plans allowed me the opportunity to voice my concerns and help be a voice of the community. As the current Chair of the Events Committee for ZDAC, I continue to have the opportunity to collaborate on many events for the town.

2. Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Since moving to Zebulon in December of 2018, I have worked to get as involved as I was able. From attending open public meetings, to being involved throughout the community, I strive to make this the hometown where my children will grow up. Our town is rapidly growing, and in looking at the latest census for our area, our median age is 36 years old. Being in that age range and communicating with other neighbors, a vast majority of them have never heard of the Board, have never been to our downtown, and only live here, forced to do everything else outside of our town limits. I decided to run in this last election as I saw a need for a new perspective. I am not from this town, but I want to help it to where it is going. Communication, while it has gotten better, still needs to be improved upon. I want to help in getting my generation more involved with not just downtown, but our entire area. Part of encouraging community engagement is providing things for our neighbors to do – that comes down to proper land use. Being a designer that works heavily on commercial projects, I understand how effective space can be if it is designed properly. Recently my husband and I purchased one of the buildings in downtown and revitalized it to once again be a functional space for our community. It now has a retail tenant on the bottom and leased out co-working spaces on the top. We saw a need and worked to develop a space that would encourage our community to come to downtown however, our downtown is not all that we are. I am hoping to serve as a Town Commissioner to continue to grow our community in multiple ways. There are undeveloped areas that should be looked at to encourage more economic

development for our area. There are infrastructure issues that must be alleviated for our town to grow properly. There are community parks that have amazing opportunities for development for larger events. The list really does go on. I will simply say, I have invested in this town, I will raise my children here, but we are still working and need to continue working to make our town better. I hope to be a voice for this ever-growing community.

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

• Transportation

As a community focus group member for the latest approved Transportation Plan, I had the opportunity to discuss the analysis reports and trends for our area and make comments from the user standpoint. As our town develops and more people move to the area – traffic mitigation will be required to keep our community safe. As someone who lives in a more recently developed area – we are, with the current community size, lacking in proper roads, sidewalks and lights to safely and efficiently move people from our neighborhood to the next. On the flip side, there are neighborhoods around town that were developed decades ago, but no longer meet the needs of the community. The latest plan proposed varies types of median, road widening, turn lanes and more to provide a properly functional road system. A large issue, and in talking with other members of the community, we need properly located sidewalks – particularly near our schools, and a true, safe connection from the North side of our town across the highway to our south side. As it stands you can only walk/bike from Wakelon Elementary to Weavers Pond and stay on a sidewalk. Similar issues occur at Zebulon Elementary where the students are forced to cross a busy street in order to get to the campus. This is unsafe and does not encourage walkability in our community. Updating developer standards to help in correcting this, even more than already required, will help reduce cost for the town.

• Economic Development (business development and recruitment)

As a local business and building owner, one of the things that drew us to the area was the chance to be part of revitalizing this community. We are members of our local Chamber of Commerce and have attended multiple events to help engage other local business owners as well. Downtown is still and will continue to be a work in progress, however, downtown is very limited on space and should be only a part of the focus when looking to recruit businesses. Even with the current economic development opportunities, more can be done outside of the downtown area to encourage growth while being selective as to how that growth happens. Part of the issues with recruitment stems back to infrastructure. It is hard to entice new developers when the financial implications to correct issues with utilities, technology, and transportation are a substantial cost in an already increasing market. Working to improve our infrastructure will only increase our economic development and be more attractive for new parties to join in our exciting growth.

• Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)

In recent years, our Parks & Recreation group has done a fantastic job further advocating and developing our community events and spaces. As the chair for ZDAC Events Committee, I have had the opportunity to work with the team to collaborate on multiple community events, local art displays and more to help engage our town. The latest approved Parks & Recreation Master Plan highlighted a few areas that can be improved upon that would help with other town concerns such as economic development. One of the larger issues for me is the lack of proper facilities. As a designer, and having been in some of these buildings, they are no longer functioning as once intended. With the continuing growth of our community, these spaces must grow to match capacities. In their master plan they highlighted grant opportunities the latest adopted Parks and Recreation Impact fee, and other sources to help alleviate cost. Their phasing approach looks strong, and with the new impact fees looks encouraging to accomplish within their timeline.

• Public Safety (police and fire)

The latest adopted budget highlights some major issues with our current force. As our community has and will continue to grow at a rapid rate, our public safety is being left behind. One of the many, but on the top of most people's list when looking for a new home is, "Is the area safe?" When looking at the rates for our public safety is regards to other neighboring towns, is disheartening to see we are so far behind with regards to compensation. When listening in on previous Board meetings to hear how we are losing public safety personnel, I wonder what can be done? More incentives, higher pay? With our fire department acquiring a Class 2 fire protection rating within our corporate limits and a Class 3 within 5 miles, we must find ways to applaud their efforts and dedication to our town, or we will continue to lose valuable members of our public safety team.

• Land Use and Development

Coming from a campus planning position with NCSU and seeing all the tools out there that helped me understand the campus land use, it was encouraging to see the town adopt a GIS program that gives some great insight for construction, along with utilizing zoning maps for current land classifications. From a development standpoint, it does highlight some key locations, some currently in proposals, that would be better utilized from an amenity's standpoint to further help with the lack of retail, grocery, hospitality. From a masterplan perspective, we need to look at current parcel classifications in order to reserve key areas for future development. One prime location is around Five County Stadium. When I was part of the focus group for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, I brought up this space. As we are looking to promote Mudcats stadium as an incentive for buyers and developers alike, we need to further invest in its surroundings. Currently we are lacking in an entertainment sector for our town. This area naturally lends itself to recruit restaurants, retail and other amenities. Comparatively, when looking at what has been approved for construction, there is a surge in housing, but how do

those neighbors reinvest in their town? Currently, there are a several parcels that should be reclassified and some that could potentially be purchased by the town to make this an economic destination area for our town and for Wake County.

• Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)

One of the most expensive investments are infrastructure improvements. Coming from working at a university that is roughly the same age as the town of Zebulon, I am all too familiar with the ever-continuing conversation of what needs improvement prior to the next project beginning. Working on the IPL (integrated priority list) team to help determine where funds should be allocated first, based off a point of decomposition, allowed me the opportunity to understand priorities when looking at future projects. Part of maintaining a proper working infrastructure is looking ahead to stay on top of potential issues. We know there is high probability of land beyond our downtown being developed, we need to have new studies done to properly indicate where our utilities should be updated. Currently seeing how some projects in downtown are having to deal with deteriorating utility lines that are left on the owner to fix is not the way to encourage growth. With the current adopted budget, there look to be several projects in the works to help with ongoing maintenance for our communities, however continual investment, improvements and modifications will be needed, especially as the demand on our infrastructure increases.

4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

The needs listed above are all priorities in the continuing growth of our town. When trying to discern which is more important than the next, I look to see what is more impactful to create a fully engaging community. It begins with our available land. When developing, we need to continue to work towards our comprehensive masterplan. As we work to grow smart and develop our neighborhoods, recreation areas and other ancillary spaces, we must also determine where we have insufficient infrastructure. By providing improvements to our roadways, internet, sewer and electrical systems, our downtown and outlying areas will begin to thrive. As our community grows, we can further invest and create a vibrant and lively downtown which only further supports our community. By appropriately expanding our fire and police force to ensure a safe community, we will only encourage more growth to the area. These priorities are all interconnect to create a beautiful, sustaining, vibrant town. Lose one, and the community begins to breakdown.

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Up until the end of last year, I worked at NC State University as a campus planner working to improve our overall campus masterplan down to specific room updates. During that time, I was able to be apart of many small projects where I worked specifically with the different colleges to determine

needs for their programs and how that translated to space requirements. Also working with our capital planning group to review budgets for projects and propose cost saving options for multiple projects across campus. Recently, I went back to work for an architectural and engineering firm I worked for years ago. Being a designer is what I am passionate about, and helping clients bring their visions to reality is very rewarding. I now work completely remote, and I am utilizing one of the offices in my building downtown. This allows me to be more apart of our community as I am walking it everyday and watching the growth happen. It also has given me a unique perspective in the downtown life and what is needed to further enhance our community. In my past experiences, I have worked on numerous teams, where everyone brought something unique to the table. I will be the first to say, that I do not know everything and will ask those who are subject matter expertise in their respective fields for more information to best inform my decisions. I believe I bring a unique perspective as a member of the design community. As this current seat will only be until the next election cycle, I feel I can jump in and start making informed decisions with the help of the currently appointed board members, town staff and have open conversations with the current Board of Commissioners.

Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

Received
1/13/22
via email

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Application for Board of Commissioner's Vacancy

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in person to Lisa Markland, Town Clerk no later than 5:00pm Monday, January 31, 2022)

If you have questions about this form, please contact Lisa Markland at 919-823-1800

Title of Position Sought Commissioner

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name Harrison Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III) _____

First Name Jessica Middle Initial _____

Phone Number (Day) 919.931.6346 (Cell) 919.931.6346

Email Address mrsjdharison@gmail.com

I am at least 21 years old ☒ Yes ☐ No (If "No" stop here – you are not eligible for this position)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Physical Address 512 Carissa Ln Unit # _____

City Zebulon State NC Zip 27597 County Wake

My primary residence is located within Zebulon's Corporate Limits. ☒ Yes ☐ No

MAILING ADDRESS

Mailing Address ☒ Same as Above

Address or PO Box _____ Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

I am a registered voter in Wake County and legally eligible to vote in Zebulon elections. ☒ Yes ☐ No

QUESTIONS

You may attach additional sheets of paper when answering questions.

1. Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
2. Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

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3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

- Transportation
- Economic Development (business development and recruitment)
- Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)
- Public Safety (police and fire)
- Land Use and Development
- Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)

4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

By my signature, I certify the above responses are true, accurate and my own.

Date 1/13/2022 Signature Jessica D. Harrison

☒ I will attend the Board of Commissioner meeting February 7, 2022 @7 PM in Town Hall and be available to make a verbal presentation (no more than 5 minutes) and answer questions from Board members.

☒ I am interested in attending a "Government 101" seminar hosted by the Town Manager.

01/2022

1. Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

- Committed three years of service as a PTA board member for Carver Elementary
- Committed a year of services as a Chambers ambassador for the Town of Zebulon Chamber of Commerce
- Mentoring and aiding women of all ages through She Is Me, LLC – A life coaching and personal development program.

2. Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

As a native of the Town of Zebulon, serving as Town Commissioner is an opportunity for me to give back to the community that has given so much to me. Within this role I seek to uphold the Zebulon mission of its commitment to “enhancing the quality of life of our residents by delivering excellent, friendly services”. In addition to upholding this mission, I want to aid in furthering the Town of Zebulon’s 2030 strategic plan. Through this role I desire to foster partnerships with current and future community leaders that will aid in the growth and development of the Town of Zebulon.

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

I believe that all topics listed are deemed pressing needs for the Zebulon community. I believe that each topic pushes the agenda of enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. With respect to that agenda, there is a pressing need within our community for economic development and community outreach programs. Since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic the state of the world has changed and completely shifted the way that we live our lives. Due to this shift, citizens are leaning on their communities and community leaders more than ever. I believe that this is an opportunity for the Town of Zebulon to believe and act on its core values of honesty/integrity, family, respect, dependability, and teamwork. I believe that with those core values at the forefront, the needs of our community and citizens can be met.

- Transportation
- Economic Development (business development and recruitment)
- Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)
- Public Safety (police and fire)
- Land Use and Development
- Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)

4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Of the needs mentioned, I consider economic development, parks & recreation, and infrastructure investment and maintenance as the top three priorities of the Town of Zebulon. I consider the three needs listed as key components to upholding the core values and mission of the Town of Zebulon. I believe that these three needs provide the citizens of the community the utmost support. I believe that these also embody the Town of Zebulon's 2030 focus areas such as growing smart, small town life, and a vibrant downtown.

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

I am experienced in policy and systems change, education, evidence-based/informed programs and support using innovative leadership skills in human service development, equity, human resource, strategic planning, and retention initiatives.

TOWN OF ZEBULON
Application for Board of Commissioner's Vacancy

Please type or print legibly when filling out this form.

(May be submitted electronically to lmarkland@townofzebulon.org or
in person to Lisa Markland, Town Clerk no later than 5:00pm Monday, January 31, 2022)

If you have questions about this form, please contact Lisa Markland at 919-823-1800

Title of Position Sought Board of Commissioners

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Last Name Taranto Suffix (Jr, Sr, II, III) _____

First Name Stephanie Middle Initial C

Phone Number (Day) 919-228-9469 (Cell) 919-228-9469

Email Address stephanie@sctaranto.com

I am at least 21 years old ☒ Yes ☐ No (If "No" stop here -- you are not eligible for this position)

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Physical Address 224 W Gannon Avenue Unit # _____

City Zebulon State NC Zip 27597 County Wake

My primary residence is located within Zebulon's Corporate Limits. ☒ Yes ☐ No

MAILING ADDRESS

Mailing Address ☒ Same as Above

Address or PO Box _____ Unit # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

I am a registered voter in Wake County and legally eligible to vote in Zebulon elections. ☒ Yes ☐ No

QUESTIONS

You may attach additional sheets of paper when answering questions.

1. Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
Please see Attachment A for response.
2. Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)
Please see Attachment A for response.

01/2022

3. With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

- Transportation
- Economic Development (business development and recruitment)
- Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)
- Public Safety (police and fire)
- Land Use and Development
- Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)

4. Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Please see Attachment A for response.

5. What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

Please see Attachment A for response.

Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

Please see Attachment A for response.

By my signature, I certify the above responses are true, accurate and my own.

Date 31 January 2022 Signature Stephanie C. Taranto

- ☒ I will attend the Board of Commissioner meeting February 7, 2022 @7 PM in Town Hall and be available to make a verbal presentation (no more than 5 minutes) and answer questions from Board members.
- ☒ I am interested in attending a "Government 101" seminar hosted by the Town Manager.

01/2022

TOWN OF ZEBULON

Position: Board of Commissioners | Applicant: Stephanie C. Taranto

- 1) Describe, in detail, your public service experiences? *(Limit answer to 400 words or less)*

My Why

Elevating others' life experience and sparking transformational journeys – these are the converging pathways I tend to choose when deciding how best to contribute my personal and professional time and resources to others.

I have learned through experience that the desire to feel better, do better, and be better is universal and crosses all socioeconomic, race, cultural, and religious frameworks. As such, my public service mirrors the same diversity and meets others where they are to help solve what matters most to them in the moment. These incremental and practical wins can truly be the spark of inspiration for the greater shift needed so one person, one family, one town may create and experience their uniquely defined version of *"The Feel-Do-Be-Better Life."*

My Service

Growing up in the Biloxi, MS Gulf coast region, and all the challenges that comes from being a small transient city, I identified many opportunities to make a practical and inspirational difference. For one, the regional VA Hospital is located in Biloxi and with it comes a large percentage of veterans vulnerable to homelessness and high suicide rates. Identifying the need for the basics of food, shelter, and hope, at the age of 17, I collaborated with local churches and the city to form an outreach to deliver food and resource information to veterans on the streets. Keeping authentic to my practical + inspirational approach, we delivered this public service through a performing arts group of teens that went outside the walls of the churches and made the streets our stage and the homeless population our audience. Not only did this infuse the veterans with life-changing hope, it also inspired the youth of our city to see beyond the walls of their own life and help define an opportunity to make *The -Better Life* for themselves and others using their unique abilities and talents.

My public service has continued over the years delivering targeted funding and resourcing and business and life coaching and mentoring to individuals and small businesses through my business fund which I referred to as the "TruHeart Foundation."

- 2) Why do you want to serve as a Town of Zebulon Commissioner? *(Limit answer to 400 words or less)*

As a Board, you are faced with the rare and particularly significant role of appointing a commissioner to fill a vacated seat. The citizens of Zebulon have elected each of you to collectively represent their highest and best good and to establish town policies that simultaneously 1) solve the current needs and 2) encompass forward-thinking placeholders that effectively bridge us to the desired future quality of life without diminishing the deeply regarded small-town spirit.

To that end, each of you on the Board brings a unique set of strengths, skills, and perspectives to the table that will help identify, shape, and bring life to the current and future policies. Looking to the empty seat at the table, I ask you to pause and first consider not who but what practical and inspiring strengths, skills, and perspectives YOU need to complement the existing team for the next 21 months in order to accomplish the critical agenda ahead of you – the time remaining on this vacated seat’s term. Once you know the what, matching the who from applicants becomes a much simpler decision.

Zebulon has been slowly climbing a growth trajectory for the last few years, but it is obvious as we enter into the next 3-to-5-year period, the ascension is picking up rapid speed and the decisions and policies are becoming much more critical to the current and future Corporate and Resident Citizens of Zebulon and our strategic value to the greater Wake County. Without the right mix of strengths, skills, and perspectives around this Board table, Zebulon is at risk for not becoming a prime location to live, work, and play in Wake County and the State of North Carolina. I want to be a highly-functioning and contributing member of this incredibly talented collective of commissioners, town leadership and staff all of whom are committed to excellence and creating a safe community for a unique and high-quality life for its citizens and a destination we can be proud to invite visitors.

3) With respect to the following topics, what do you consider to be the most pressing needs of the community. (Limit answer to 300 words or less for each topic)

- **Transportation**

Having a successful Transportation infrastructure is the key underpinning of the Town’s Strategic Vision and Mission, and for every department-level master plan. The ability to be forward-thinking and collaborate are skills the Board must possess to effectively plan and secure funding and resources for what Zebulon will require for Smart Growth. Ease in citizen transportation directly impacts Zebulon’s ability to retain our business tax base and attract new Corporate Citizens.

The right mix of investments in infrastructure for Walk-Bike-Drive-Public transportation will ensure all Citizens are able to maximize the Town’s assets and quality of life available in Zebulon. Recognizing that Land Use is an interdependent resource for effective Transportation planning, and not just for obvious needs in commercial and residential Development activity but allocations of land for roadway expansion and sidewalk projects are necessary. Our ability to effectively plan and collaborate and consistently demonstrate the Town’s shared investment, to Wake County and the greater Metro Transportation Planning is critical to Zebulon receiving the funding and priority allocations needed to achieve goals and fulfill our mission.

- **Economic Development (business development and recruitment)**

In looking at the Town’s organizational chart, it is my opinion that Economic Development would benefit as a formal department instead of a function embedded within the Planning department. Rationale: 1) Economic Development is a core service and a critical component

Stephanie C. Taranto

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of our strategic vision for growth and improving citizens’ quality of life. 2) Further, being a department signals to external parties the Town’s commitment to economic initiatives.

Accelerating the plan for establishing and resourcing this department should be a top priority for the Board in budgetary planning for FY 2022. The launch of this department could be accomplished with one (1) FTE as a first phase investment provided the right-fit resource is selected.

- **Parks & Recreation (programs, facilities, parks)**

The adoption of the Parks and Rec Master Plan was certainly a significant milestone achievement for the Town of Zebulon. Recognizing this plan will positively impact other key initiatives such as Economic Development there is an importance in phasing investments on the right projects that will maximize interdependent benefits.

The number and quality of the Town’s Park and Rec assets is a differentiator for the area and helps to establish Citizen pride, which is a key influencer in attracting attention for economic development initiatives, diverse commercial and residential developers, and new Resident growth. It’s my opinion that a strategic communication plan is needed to 1) educate our citizens of what’s available for quality of life (as the department has started doing in late 2021) and 2) deliver external advertisements and public relation opportunities. We have niche assets such as our disc golf course that can be leveraged for creating positive awareness of Zebulon as a prime place to live, work, and play.

- **Public Safety (police and fire)**

The health of a city can be measured through its sense of place (commitment and pride of its citizens), commerce, and safety. As the growth accelerates the next 3 to 5 years, Zebulon will require expansion of Public Safety investments, including people, land, and capital assets. The location of these expanded public safety resources in relation to town residential and corporate developments and the current and planned transportation infrastructure will be an important consideration for the Board.

Given that Zebulon is interconnected with and in close proximity to Interstates and highways, we have an increase in non-citizen traffic within the town limits. This fact alone has the potential of substantially increasing crime rates and introducing new types of crimes into our area. Identifying other small towns that have similar transient traffic and minimal resources who have successfully maintained or improved Public Safety metrics that we could learn from and collaborate with would be a worthwhile investment of time. Our new Police Chief has done an outstanding job at establishing a citizen communication plan that helps build awareness and open lines of communications between the department and the community. Proactive and relevant communication together with accessibility give the perception of a larger Public Safety resource than may actually be present which helps people feel safe and deter crime.

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- **Land Use and Development**

As demonstrated in each of my responses, the Town Leadership's and Board's responsibility within Land Use and Development has a ripple effect for Housing, Transportation and Economic Development that can't be easily course corrected, if at all. Funding, policy decisions, and development approvals are foundational to smart growth of a sustainable community that retains its corporate and resident citizens for long-term. It's important to refrain from making decisions from a scarcity perspective (what if no one else is interested in the future) and have the plan to support not just "good" development deals but holding out for excellence. For example, with residential development, I believe it to be important to consider a scaled housing/development growth plan that is diverse in its offerings to existing and future citizens. We need a housing infrastructure that aligns with generational socioeconomic upward mobility. This would encompass options for affordable single-family housing, multi-family developments, and luxury developments. This will require us to also prioritize the quality of schools and the types and placements of parks and gathering places.

- **Infrastructure Investment and Maintenance (examples: road, sidewalks, and stormwater)**

Roads. With the number of NCDOT-owned roads that are part of Zebulon infrastructure and the value of these roads to the greater Wake County and State of North Carolina Transportation Plan, the Town's responsibility in developing a more effective feedback loop and results-oriented relationship with the NCDOT is critical.

Citizens have a role to play. Creating awareness and promoting citizen action on the importance of reporting feedback on the potential operational and safety improvements for NCDOT-owned roads should be a top priority in the Town's strategic communication plan. A simple but profoundly helpful example to this point is how our police department shared a link to the DOT citizen feedback webpage. I cannot count how many times over the years and most recently in the municipal elections I heard citizens express major frustration and concerns over road conditions, operations and safety. Not one single response to these expressed concerns included a thorough explanation for how the NCDOT and Town's collaboration is managed nor that the NCDOT provides a website for citizens to report their feedback. We have a new police chief who has worked with her administration to establish a consistent communication plan for citizen engagement through social media, and it was there that we learned about process, the important role we play as citizens in providing feedback and were provided the link.

Broadband. Corporate America operations and workforce are shifting significantly. The corporate workforce is resigning in larger percentages to establish freelance solopreneur businesses that operate from home offices or shared workspaces. Companies are decentralizing the "point-of-work" requirements from office-centered to remote-based workforces. Zebulon must have the technological infrastructure in place, so our Corporate and Resident Citizens have the ability to operate and do their work with the same high-level tech capabilities as offered in our neighboring communities. Prioritizing this infrastructure investment is critical to our economic development growth and for attracting new Corporate and Resident Citizens as well as commercial and residential Developers.

4) Of the needs mentioned, what do you consider to be the top three priorities for the Town of Zebulon, and why? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

I've kept my responses to each topic in Question #3 concise and prioritized to support response to this Question #4. The only addition is my recommendation for our Town to have a strategic communication plan and an effective means for consistent and convenient delivery, particularly for Corporate and Resident Citizen engagement. I believe this to be an overarching priority for all departments, initiatives, and plans. Incorporating a Town mobile app to augment our Town website would be a worthy investment.

5) What are your skills and qualifications through work or life experiences that are transferable to service on the Board of Commissioners? (Limit answer to 400 words or less)

My husband and I have been a resident of Zebulon since July 2013, close to nine (9) years. We own a 'historic' home on W. Gannon Avenue. My husband has been part of the Zebulon community since he was a child spending summers barning tobacco on extended family farms. His parents live in Zebulon. He and I operate our respective businesses from our home offices. In 2013, I considered us "pioneers" moving here from Raleigh and only held a vision of the quality of life that could be attained from quaint small town living with a vibrant downtown we could easily walk to and pridefully invite our friends to join us as a worthwhile destination for dining and cultural events. Fast forward to January 2022, we have made progress towards that personal vision, but certainly there is more to accomplish to have that sense of place in Zebulon we desire.

My transferrable skills and professional credentials are diverse, and I believe to be an excellent match for the open seat at the Board table:

- I have been in business operations leadership for the last 22 years within healthcare research, a highly regulated industry.
- For the past 12 years, I have owned and operated a consulting firm focused on 1) forming strategic alliances, 2) drafting and negotiating legal, financial and operational terms for service and licensing contracts, and 3) supporting financial and accounting departments in budget development and oversight.
- I am on speed-dial for many senior executives as the go-to problem solver in continual process improvement and strategic planning.
- In addition, I have a second consulting business that helps small businesses and solopreneurs with strategic communications, marketing, and business development and structuring.
- I have a NC Real Estate Brokers license which I solely use collaborating with and providing strategic planning and communications advice to Residential developers.

Other skills and understandings that can be of support to the Board in planning and evaluating opportunities:

Stephanie C. Taranto

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- App development
- Website development
- Graphic Design and Publishing
- Video Production
- Social Media Strategic Planning and Management
- Project Management
- Vendor Governance and Issue Mediation

6) Provide any other pertinent information you want to share that is not covered above. (Limit answer to 300 words or less).

I approach most everything, including public service, with an entrepreneurial and transformational mindset. I believe having a visionary focus from the start quickly illuminates the gaps in the road and helps to bridge those gaps with creative and adaptable solutions. Moreover, this approach of forward-thinking anchored in practicality tends to cultivate the influence of early adopters which builds momentum and attracts the larger group of people and resources necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.

I believe my business acumen, friendly and approachable demeanor, and ability to influence and connect a diverse group of people towards a common goal, all together make me an asset to this Board and the Town of Zebulon for such as time as this.

I reiterate the recommendation that your selection to fill this seat should with someone having the strengths, skills, and perspectives that will compliment the existing members and with the competencies to ramp up quickly and be a strong contributing teammate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stephanie C. Taranto

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