

July 2020

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have known Kurt Wright, P.E. for approximately 12 years. I first met him when I was employed with the Town of Spindale, NC in their Public Works Department. After the Public Works Director retired, I was promoted to that position and continued to work with Kurt on many important sanitary sewer system projects. Together we installed about 20,000 linear feet of replacement sanitary sewer lines. A lot of it was funded by grants, which was very helpful due to the town's financial situation. The s.s. lines we replaced were old vitrified clay lines installed by the textile mills that essentially built the town around 1920 - 1940. The clay pipe joints did not have gaskets and so they leaked severely. Also, these lines were installed in rights-of-way that were not being maintained well, if at all, after they were first installed. By the time I became the Public Works Director I had a significant problem on my hands with these old s.s. lines running through +70-year-old mature hardwoods with no way to access them. I knew if I had a plug in one of those lines it would result in sanitary sewer overflows because the town did not have the equipment necessary to get to these lines to unplug them. Kurt instituted a program to replace these lines, in some places rerouting them where they ran under homes, decks and swimming pools, and clearing out a 30-foot-wide right-of-way so the town could keep these rights-of-way cleared for future maintenance. Kurt provided all the engineering for this from the planning stage through design, through construction and the final close-out with the funding agencies. All the projects went very smoothly. We had construction occurring in tight areas and in the backyards of many residences. We had virtually no issues with the residents. Kurt and his team were very easy to work with and allowed me to focus my attention on other important town matters while construction was going on.

I left the Town of Spindale to become the Public Works Director for the Town of Lake Lure, NC and have worked there for about 3½ years. During that time I noticed many significant infrastructure problems associated with the fact that this is a lake town, issues related to the Dam itself, the hydroelectric plant and the sanitary sewer system that was installed in 1926 in the valley areas before it was flooded by the lake, and the aging wastewater treatment plant. One of the most notable problems for the town was replacing this nearly 100-year old sanitary sewer system that flowed underneath the lake. A very difficult and expensive proposition. The Town of Lake Lure hired Kurt Wright as a contract Town Engineer. He essentially became part of the staff and I was very glad to see that. He and I have been able to work together to help solve the problems with replacing the old subaqueous sanitary sewer system. He and I have also worked on many other important projects all the way from roadway subsidence to replacing worn out equipment in the town's hydroelectric plant to dealing with the wastewater treatment plant, waterlines, and other important matters with the town.

He has been a very big help to me in doing my job as a Public Works Director for both the Towns of Spindale and Lake Lure. He is a great asset and any town is lucky to have him come alongside to help them with their infrastructure problems.

Respectfully,



David Arrowood
Public Works Director, Town of Lake Lure, NC