MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Mark E. Biberdorf, Town Manager

COPY TO: Heather Taylor, Assistant Town Manager
Jabbo Pressley, Public Works Director

DATE: January 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Resuming Brush Collection Services to Assist with Debris Removal

It has been nearly four months since Tropical Storm Helene severely impacted the Town of Fletcher. Shortly after the storm our Public Works Department temporarily halted brush collection services due to Henderson County indicating that they would provide debris removal services. The Town did not want to interfere with the removal of storm related debris so the decision was made to halt brush collection and allow the County's FEMA approved contractor complete this work.

The Local Government Committee for Cooperative Action (LGCCA) met last week and a report was provided by the County Engineer, Marcus Jones, on debris removal activities. Marcus shared that they estimate that there was 1,500,000 cubic yards of debris as a result of Helene. They have to date collected 334,000 cy that includes all types of eligible waste. Due to the sheer volume of uncollected debris, it could take up to two years complete this process. The contractor is making progress but it is a tedious process and adequate staffing has been a challenge.

In light of the above circumstances, I would like to propose that our Public Works Department resume brush collection for storm related debris. I have spoken with the County Engineer about this and he indicated that their contractor could collect it from a staging area near the Parks & Recreation maintenance building. This would help to provide some relief to the overall debris removal process and help to improve the appearance of the Town. Our Public Works Director, Jabbo Pressley, will be on hand to discuss logistics for resuming brush collection at the Agenda Review meeting.

If Council should have any questions on this item prior to the meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

MEB/meb