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TOWN of Biltmore Forest

George F. Goosmann, III, Mayor
Doris P. Loomis, Mayor-Pro Tem
Fran G. Cogburn, Commissioner
E. Glenn Kelly, Commissioner

Jonathan B. Kanipe,
Town Manager

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Board of Commissioners
From: Jonathan Kanipe, Town Manager
Re: Agenda Item Number D-2 – Duke Energy Targeted Underground Program Update
Jason Walls, Duke Energy
Date: January 6, 2021

Background

For over a year, the Town has worked with Duke Energy on the first stages of a targeted underground project that will modernize and strengthen the electricity grid within Biltmore Forest. Duke Energy has approached this project with a desire to bury all electrical lines within the Town by 2025. The project will commence on the southern end of Town (bounded by the Blue Ridge Parkway) and move north until the entirety of Town has lines buried.

Project Update

Easements have been obtained from residents within the first project area, which includes Frith Drive, Holly Hill Road, and portions of Stuyvesant Road south of Greenwood Road. Duke Energy has moved the start date for the project up slightly and intends to begin construction on this project the week of January 25th.

The installation of the underground cable is anticipated to take 14 weeks. Duke Energy's contractor will install the conduit and their restoration crew will follow behind each time to repair and restore the areas where the lines are buried and leading to each home. Once the entire line is energized and all power restored and flowing through the new conduit to the home, Duke will then cut the service lines from the back lot and cut the top of the pole where there lines are presently located. Town staff and Duke Energy staff are working cooperatively to ensure the project goes as smoothly as possible. We understand it will not be without hiccups, but our goal is to do everything we can to ensure our residents are satisfied and the project occurs smoothly.

Special Guest

Jason Walls, Duke Energy's District Manager for Local Government and Community Relations, will be attending Tuesday's Commissioner meeting via Zoom to provide additional information and answer any questions the Board may have concerning this project.