

★ China Grove Town Council ★

Choose three

On the issues...

On contracting with Salisbury-Rowan Utilities and water rates

On renovating the town's police and fire departments

Why should voters elect you?

Brandon Linn

Age: 27
Address: 407 Keller St.
Background: A Landis Police officer. A graduate of South Rowan High School, he attended Rowan-Cabarrus Community College.



He said he's not in favor of giving Salisbury-Rowan Utilities the opportunity or the satisfaction of merging with China Grove. He said if the town of China Grove merges with Salisbury-Rowan Utilities, it would give Salisbury the ability to control what the citizens of China Grove pay for water and sewer.

He said every time a fire truck pulls into the station, the firefighters have to stop traffic. "I believe that the fire department should have more than one way to enter and exit the building." The police department also needs a better layout. Police officers currently have to question prisoners in the open around other citizens. The police department should have a separate room to question prisoners.

He said his reason for running for council is "simply for the citizens, I have nothing to gain from it." He would like to see more industry in China Grove to provide better opportunities for citizens. He would also like to see some type of program for the youth. "Keeping our youth out of trouble will in turn help the parents of China Grove. I believe we all want what is best for our youth because they are the future of China Grove."

Butch Bivens

Incumbent
Age: 60
Address: 410 S. Franklin St.
Background: Completing 14th year on the town board. Maintenance director for the Rowan-Salisbury School System. A member of the Civitan Club, the China Grove Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the Rowan County Historic Landmarks Commission and the Rowan-Cabarrus Metropolitan Planning Organization.



He said in order to properly assess the possibility of a water/sewer contract, a town official must be well informed on the pre and post data. He would look at long-term demand capability, expansion and system operations and maintenance cost.

He supports the renovations. "It presents an opportunity to utilize and maximize pre-existing town-owned buildings and grounds to expand the facilities and operations of town hall and emergency services."

"When people vote, I hope they vote for the candidate who they feel will represent them for their needs, concerns and future. Hopefully, people will vote for a person who has experience, thinks rationally, weighs the issues, has community involvement and is dedicated to work for the betterment of the town and citizens. I will appreciate all votes."

Charles Seaford

Age: 52
Address: 313 W. Ketchie St.
Background: A 32-year employee of Duke Energy working as a coordinator for vendor contracts. Seaford is a former chief of the Rowan County Rescue Squad and is a volunteer with the Bostian Heights Fire Department. He also serves on the town's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.



He would look into some things before making a decision on the water/sewer situation. He is not in favor of merging the China Grove and Salisbury systems. "I want to see what this agreement means to China Grove and how we can manage it to reduce the cost to our citizens."

He said there are a number of needed repairs to both the police and fire departments. "This renovation is something that should have been done before now. If the town has the money or some grant funding, then now is a great time to start construction." He would like to see a China Grove contractor be considered first, then contractors elsewhere in Rowan County.

He said for the first 15 years, his job at Duke Energy included budgeting, forecasting, and cost analysis. For the last eight to 10 years, he has been more involved with projects, project management and managing contracts with vendors. "I think I can utilize the abilities I have to keep taxes as low as possible and continue to get quality from all departments of the town."

Mike Upright

Age: 55
Address: 835 Bostian Road B.
Background: A realtor and broker with Kannapolis Real Estate Agency. He is past president of the Kannapolis Jaycees, and past president of the Cabarrus Shrine Club. He is also a member of Allen-Graham Masonic Lodge.



"I look forward to getting more information on this subject in hopes of negotiating a better deal for China Grove if possible." He said he would possibly renegotiate the terms and try to get a better rate, or possibly reduce the length of the agreement.

He said he doesn't think the time is right for this project. The estimated \$1.9 million doesn't seem out of line for the work needed, but now isn't the time, he said. He also feels there should be a 10 percent contingency built in. "I worry this may not be enough due to possible hidden structural issues with the existing structure."

"China Grove, like most cities, will be forced to make some tough decisions in the upcoming year concerning the budget and will need people in place to help make those decisions. I want to be one of the council members to make those choices."