

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board  
David Moxley, Vice Chairman  
Gilbert Hemric, Commissioner  
Marion Welborn, Commissioner  
Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney  
Lisa Hughes, County Manager  
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **November 11, 2022**

#### ***Building Projects***

I met with Glenn Wise with New Atlantic this week to finalize the contract for the Board's approval. With this project being Construction Manager at Risk, the contract will be approved and amended at three points. This initial contract covers the pre-construction phase, estimated to cost \$89,000. It will be amended once they obtain better construction estimates and then finalized with a maximum not to exceed amount. The contractor will work with us and the architect throughout project to obtain the best prices, stay within budget and construct a quality built building.

We are going to present an amended Project Ordinance to break-out the architect fees, testing, furniture, fixtures and equipment as well as our contingency.

#### ***Fire Departments***

The Fire Chiefs and I met Wednesday night and discussed several items, including continuing education through Surry Community College and the NC Fire Chiefs Consulting contract. I provided the Chiefs with a copy of the Scope of Work and as requested by them, the June 30, 2022 balances in the Fire District funds. Exhibit A contains notes from the meeting.

#### ***BRIC Grant***

Brock Hall continues to work on the BRIC Grant for the solid waste project at the landfill. This will replace the scales due to the flooding that occurs there and build the new scale house. He previously submitted the pre-application and it was approved, so now he is working on the final application that is due next week.

#### ***Child Care Flex Plex***

Over the last several months, I have been working with Sandi Scanelli, Carolyn Choplin, Bobby Todd and Jeff Andrews on an alternative for child care in Yadkin County, known as a Flex Plex. Jeff has worked with these in other states and is working with Carolyn to bring it to North Carolina, starting with Yadkin County. It will provide 4-6 small centers to be located in 1 building, with some shared services. We are working to present a request to the Child Care Commission to adopt changes to the Child Care rules.

## EXHIBIT A

### **Fire and Rescue Chiefs' Meeting Notes November 9, 2022**

In attendance: Jeff Hinshaw, Kevin Macemore, Chris Messick, Robbie Williams, Jody Vestal, Shane Painter, Barry Williard, Jody Doss, Keith Vestal, Ricky Leonard, Brandon Renegar (via Teams), Chris Cheek (via Teams) and Lisa Hughes.

Ricky Leonard started the meeting by reviewing the information he needed to complete for the NC Fire Chief Consulting project. He verified the days and hours paid staff (full-time and part-time) worked at the fire departments. Lisa also handed out copies of the Scope of Work the company is providing to the County. Once the project is complete, they will provide recommendations and ideas to the Fire Chiefs and the Board of Commissioners.

In North Carolina, counties and municipalities are responsible for provide fire protection services. In counties, there are 4 options of providing the service: operate a county fire department, contract with a municipal fire department, contract with the NC Forest Service or contract with non-profit fire departments. Yadkin County has chosen and will continue to choose the option to contract with non-profit fire departments. The study being conducted will not change that. The study will help the County identify where there is room for efficiencies, perhaps better fire district lines, different funding options for contracts, review of our current contract, locations of fire stations and substations for efficiencies, assess the age of equipment and buildings, etc. that will help us develop a plan for moving forward and collectively working together to ensure the stability of the fire services in Yadkin County. It is NOT the intent of the County to take over fire departments, rather how to make them succeed and be operate more efficiently and effectively.

Contract for pump testing and/or flow testing was also mentioned as a possibility to pull together under one contract for all departments.

Lisa distributed the District Fund balances, effective June 30, 2022. These funds belong to the citizens of each district, not to the Fire Departments or to the County. The County has the responsibility of these funds to the citizens. When budgets are received and funding calculated, it is based upon what is estimated to be collected in the upcoming fiscal year. The calculation does not include tax payments from prior years or the interest, as those amounts are declining and unknown. The prior years' payments and interest are what increases the District Fund balances. The payment for the hose and ladder testing also comes from these District Funds.

There was also discussion about the medical continuing ed and the email from Dr. Doug Underwood discontinuing the training at fire departments. Lisa met with Doug and discussed different options, specifically continuing the training at Buck Shoals and Forbush as they consistently had over 7-8 members attend the trainings at these locations. They also discussed weekend options and online options. Doug talked with

his Supervisor and was approved to continue the training at Buck Shoals and Forbush, as well as the weekend trainings. Doug was unable to attend the Fire Chiefs' meeting, but also said he would be open to trying short-term to see if attendance at the fire departments can increase and if so, he would not be opposed to having them there.

The Chiefs' would like to continue offering it at fire departments in groups and offer it at the College, as they do have new people completing EMT and EMR classes. The groups would be Arlington & West Yadkin (alternate locations); Rescue Squad & Yadkinville; East Bend, Fall Creek and Boonville (hosted by Fall Creek); Lone Hickory & Buck Shoals (hosted by Buck Shoals), Forbush & Courtney (alternate locations) and at the Yadkin Center. Most departments do trainings on Mondays, Tuesday or Thursdays. There will need to be more discussion about specific days, but it is up to the departments to increase the attendance.

Also discussed the prospect of having a training center at the Yadkin Center. Wilkes County has a training center that cost \$550,000 to build, plus the cost of concrete. Kernersville also has a training center like this one. Surry Community College doesn't offer trainings like other community colleges do and that's why the departments go elsewhere for training. Lisa asked the Chiefs to send her the training hours the departments' members receive outside of Yadkin County so she can continue having the conversations with SCC about the training center.

The next meeting will be held on December 14, 2022 at the EOC. Sheriff-Elect Nick Smitherman and his Communications Director will be in attendance.