

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board
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Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



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

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

October 7, 2022

Sales Tax

Sales tax numbers continue to look good this fiscal year. In FY2021, we collected \$8,737,714 and in FY2022 we collected \$9,661,628 which was \$2,043,412 more than what was budgeted. This fiscal year, the budgeted amount is \$8,673,788 and we have collected \$1,835,268 in the first two months.

Elm Street Properties and Courthouse

The former Cooperative Extension building is currently being painted (primed so far) and then the former Zachary buildings will be painted the same color as the Courthouse. This will be a nice refreshing look of these buildings, especially as you come up Hwy 601. The District Attorney's Office has requested a sign, so we will apply for a sign permit from the Town and get that ordered.

We received 4 responses to the RFQ for a Construction Manager at Risk. Staff and the architects are currently reviewing them and intend to have a recommendation at the October 17th Board meeting.

Community Paramedic Program

The County has 2 Community Paramedic positions for the program and as of today both of them are vacant: one decided to stay home with her children and the other has decided to go to nursing school. We do have one applicant for the program and will proceed with assessment of this person.

The monoclonal antibodies for COVID treatment have been being administered by the Community Paramedics and we have been receiving the monoclonal antibodies at no cost from the State. However, the State is no longer going to provide the antibodies and to purchase them, they are \$2100 per treatment vial. The demand for the treatment has also decreased since the introduction of the pill form that can be prescribed by primary care providers. So, do to these reasons, our Community Paramedics will no longer offer the monoclonal antibody treatments. Notification will be provided to the local primary care providers, as they are most often the referral for the treatment.

Disposal of Property

I contacted the School of Government inquiring about what type of documentation would be needed if the County were to “donate” the Holcombe House to the Historical Society. Tyler Mulligan informed me that while NCGS 160A-280 permits governments to donate personal property to other local governmental units or a nonprofit organization, the NC Constitution does not allow this. The core principle behind this according to a Coates’ Canon by Frayda Bluestein is that public money must be used for purposes benefitting the public. So, the property either has to be sold through auction to the highest bidder or it can be conveyed to a local government / nonprofit as long as it contains a clause that it must be used for a public purpose and when it ceases to do so, it reverts back to the local government. Per Tyler, if we do public auction, we can not have any stipulations on it, so I’ve emailed Tyler inquiring about if they are required to move it, isn’t that a stipulation? So, it looks like we have 3 options for the Holcombe House: 1- demolish it, 2- convey it to the Historical Society with the stipulation that it be used for a public purpose and it reverts back to the County when no longer used for that purpose, 3- public auction it, if allowed with the stipulation that it be moved. According to GIS, the value of the house is \$57,430.

Dynamis Winery Tour

We have reserved 2-5pm on Thursday, October 20, 2022 for a tour of Dynamis Winery Tour. I have confirmed that spouses are allowed to tour as well, so please let me know next week if you and your spouse would like a tour. I will need to provide Bobby with a total count.

Chili / Chicken Stew Cook-off

The Chili / Chicken Stew Cook-off will be next Friday, October 14, 11a-2pm.