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*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
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COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

September 16, 2022

COVID

While it seems as though COVID is everywhere right now, the State data shows that overall there have been 13,383 cases total **reported** during the pandemic. That equates to roughly 35% and doesn't include unreported home tests or people who had it and never knew it. The 25-49 year-olds and the 50-64 year-olds had the most cases, as they are the majority of those in the workplace. The State shows there have been 126 deaths, with 117 of those being over the age of 50 and half of them over 75.

Broadband

I met with Seth Dunlap and Brad Worthen with Zirrus this week and talked about their broadband coverage within Yadkin County. As a company, they are committed to having broadband (fiber) in all of their "home" areas in Yadkin County within the next 5 years. The primary area that would not be covered is the Jonesville area. They are in Surry Communications area. Zirrus (Yadtel) has received many grants to help expand broadband in the county. Their Reconnect 2 project is now completed and that impacted 295 structures in the county. Their Economic Development Grant will reach 1100 structures in the Boonville area and 317 in the Woodlyn area south of 421. This project has a 3-year build out and they have not started it yet. Then, there are the 625 structures that would be served with the GREAT Grant funds and that has a 2-year build out from the time the contract is signed. This is the Grant, the County agreed to provide a 10% match. Of course, these grants will get the fiber to the structures, but then it is up to individuals to connect.

There are CAB grants and last-mile grants that are available through the Broadband Office in the NC Department of Technology. The State has not yet completed the application process for these grants and we are not sure there would be sufficient gain in us pursuing either one. Seth, Brad and I are going to stay in touch on all these grants and broadband expansions.

Holcombe House

I noticed this afternoon that someone, not us, has cut the majority of the top branches of the cedar trees at the Holcombe House and left them on the property. I will ask Jason's guys to cut the rest of it and if there is anything, like a bench, we can use the wood for, it would be great.