

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board  
David Moxley, Vice Chairman  
Cliff Collins, 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**

### **January 13, 2023**

#### **Lance Corporal Daniel Swaim's Plaque**

The new plaque has been installed at the Daniel's Playground at the County Park. Below is a picture. It looks great and we are very pleased with the outcome. His family saw the proof and were happy with it.



#### **Holcombe House**

They are digging the footings to move the Harding Office and then will start getting the house ready to move. Hopefully there will be more movement in the upcoming weeks.

## **Pioneer Building**

The Board of Elections staff and Board members have voiced concerns about the one-stop voting location and security. The State has had Homeland Security assessing the security at voting sites. We have planned to build a couple of walls to provide them better security and limit access to employees and records. Knowing all of this, I showed Elaine Barnes and Laurie Lankford the office space at the Pioneer Building. They were in awe of the space and requested that I show it to their Board. So, yesterday, Elaine, Laurie and I met with all 5 of their Board members and showed them the space. They all agreed that it would be great. They could use it for office space, storage, one-stop and as the Yadkinville precinct. They would like to build a few walls to enclose an area for secured storage of the actual voting machines, laptops, etc. I would like to have them moved by April. To build the walls, I will have to obtain approval from the Landlord.

The storage area is not sprinkled and there isn't a fire wall between the storage area and office space. It is just under 12,0000 sq. ft., so we are obtaining determination from the NCDOI.

This does mean that because they need all of the space, we will not be able to move the payroll records there, so we are moving them to the hospital until we can determine a more permanent location.

We do have the 2<sup>nd</sup> Zachary Building that we have not completed since the clean-up last year. It needs flooring, ceiling tiles, some woodwork repair and that could be a location.

I've also heard that Polka Dots is closing the end of the month, so that may be another option.

## **Land-Use Plan Committee**

The Land-Use Plan Committee met this week and I invited Justin Somers to attend since we have not had representation from the agriculture/farming community. I think they are ready to move forward with a draft of the Plan. The Plan references the NCDOT Community Transportation Plan, so we are considering holding a special meeting for the Board of Commissioners to receive a presentation of both Plans, as well as staff so we all can be on the same page.

## **IT Policy**

The Personnel Policy contains a section "Information Technology Policy" and IT has taken what is there and expanded it to become an Information Technology and Security Policy. Within the next few weeks, we will provide you a copy to review for consideration and adoption at a later Board meeting.

### **School Capital**

In August, the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners approved applications for the Department of Public Instruction's School Capital Needs-Based Grants. We had to submit one application per school. We submitted one for plumbing and roofing needs at some of the elementary schools, an auxiliary gym at Starmount High School and an auxiliary gym at Forbush High School, along with roof repairs at Forbush High School. We received a letter in September stating that they were only able to fund 12.1% of the funding requested. However, we were notified this week that the auxiliary gym at Starmount High, the auxiliary gym at Forbush High and the roof repairs at Forbush High were funded. It's a little over \$6million and we will have to provide a 5% match for those projects.

### **ASULGAA**

The Appalachian State University Local Government Alumni Association (ASULGAA) has been a longstanding Association for those of us who are Alumni working in management or department director roles. We work closely with the Masters of Public Administration Program promoting the program and providing leadership in the field. I was asked to serve on the Executive Committee last year, so I am in my second year on the Executive Committee. We had our First Vice President resign from his position this year and today, President Tom Hart discussed with the Committee advancing me to the First Vice President position. So, after the Fall Conference in September, I will be the President of the Association. I am excited about this opportunity and the impact the Association has on the development of upcoming managers throughout the state.