

*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**

### **February 24, 2023**

#### ***Surry Yadkin Works Summit***

Kevin Austin and I were asked to participate on several panels Tuesday sharing about the Surry Yadkin Works Program and how other counties implement it through establishing partnerships including the Community Colleges, Schools, County Government, etc. The Summit had over 150 participants and had multiple break-out sessions. We spoke as government officials and employers of interns through the program. We also had representatives from myFutreNC, ApprenticeshipNC, PTRC's Workforce Development Board and Commerce in attendance talking about ways they can partner with all of us in these programs.

#### ***Opioid Settlement and Action Coordinator***

We had another interview this week for this position and unfortunately, cannot compete with the salary the person is looking for. We may need to revisit the job description and search for a person without so much experience.

#### ***FY2024 Budget***

Lindsey Cearlock and I met with Clayton Campbell and Lindsay Cranford about the estimates previously provided. Clayton wasn't sure what the numbers consisted of, as this report is coming from the new software. Perry from Bi-Tek (the new software) was coming this week and Clayton has met with him and working on updated numbers, that should be more accurate.

REDFIN released a report yesterday that indicated U.S. Homeowners have lost \$2.3 trillion in value between June 2022 and December 2022. While the western part of the U.S. have already significantly felt the impact, it will move east to North Carolina.

#### ***VIPER***

Brock Hall and I met with the East Bend Fire Department Board Tuesday evening to discuss the possibility of locating the VIPER tower on their training facility site. They have 15 acres total as this site. Their concerns are mostly financial, as they need to replace at least one of their trucks and they may want to sell some of that land to help pay for the truck. The State would lease the land for \$1.00 per year on a 99-year lease. I stated we

would consider purchasing the 2 acres needed for the tower at fair market value, if that were an issue. While they have not told us yes, they have not told us no.

### **Communications**

Dylan Zachary, Ricky Leonard and I met Wednesday to discuss communications, especially with the Fire Departments. The Fire Departments have complained for years about issues with communications and dispatch, which Dylan has diligently worked to rectify the immediate issues that he has identified and everything is working more smoothly. However, looking at CAD data and what the Fire Departments submit to the State are different. We are going to work together to address issues and assist Fire Departments with reporting. It would be a huge benefit for the Fire Departments to complete all of their reports in Image Trend's Elite, which is a free reporting software provided by the Office of State Fire Marshal.

### **Building Projects**

I am still working with Creech and Associates, as well as New Atlantic Contracting to conduct value engineering on the new buildings (Government and EMS outposts) to get the costs down. I hope to have something to provide you at a meeting in March.

### **NCACC Strategic Member Services**

During the NCCCMA Conference earlier this month, Jason King with NCACC presented information about their new Strategic Member Services group and how they can help counties. Most of their folks in this division are MPA graduates hired by the NCACC who will hopefully later on be employed by a county. I had reached out to Jason about a few potential ideas we have that we could use their assistance. One of these is a Strategic Plan for the County. Jason is going to review the list we have and see how they can help us.

### **Golden Leaf**

About 5 years ago, Golden Leaf offered the Community-Based Grants Initiative for our prosperity zone and we applied to make improvements to the hospital property. The grant included changes to the front of the facility, mostly parking and sidewalk improvements and replacement of 2 HVAC units. While the grant was contingent on creating more jobs by obtaining more tenants that we didn't achieve, they still paid for the HVAC units (less our match). They also provided funding to Surry Community College – Yadkin Center during that round of funding.

It's now our prosperity zone's turn again and Golden Leaf invited Kevin Austin, David Shockley, Todd Martin, Bobby Todd and me to attend a meeting yesterday to hear more about this phase. Each county can submit up to 4 applications totaling \$2,000,000.

They also made us aware of regional grants that are available and those have to include at least 3 counties.