

*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**

### **March 31, 2023**

#### ***CRAVE and WAVE***

As previously provided to the Board, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) implemented CRAVE, which is a remote opportunity for first appearances in court. AOC provided us the opportunity to contract with a vendor or to reimburse them for the expense and the Board chose to reimburse AOC. The CRAVE project is complete and being used by the Courts and the Sheriff's Office for appearances. We have not yet received the request for reimbursement, but per the MOA it was estimated to cost \$17,226.

Now they are proceeding with WAVE, which is their wireless system that will provide WIFI in the Clerk's Office, District Attorney's Office and the Courtrooms. We had a WebEx meeting yesterday and they will not require a MOA for this project, but it too, is estimated to cost \$16,700 for cabling. Being that is cabling will be connected to the State network, I would prefer that their contractor Presidio conduct the work. However, being that there will not be a contract and I have asked them about liability for the installation if their vendor does it. Christopher Aman with AOC is to find out an answer to that question and will let me know.

#### ***Recording of Board Meetings***

Prior to COVID, the Board discussed the options of recording Board meetings and during COVID we did use ZOOM to conduct meetings when it was allowed through NC General Statutes. Last fall, I asked IT Director, Steven Ratcliff about options to record open meetings and post them on the website. These meetings would not be livestreamed, but would allow citizens to view meetings if they chose. He has looked at several options, including the one used in Davie County. Davie spent approximately \$80,000 on their system and they have an employee designated to it. We are going to experiment with ZOOM and see how the quality of video and sound are during Monday's meeting. Of course, if we are going to do this, we would want to have cameras that not only capture the Board, but also presenters at the podium. Some governments have systems that are voice activated to change cameras based upon where the voice is coming from. We will see how this test goes and if it goes well, all Board meetings will be recorded and posted on the website. If we need to purchase additional equipment, it will be included in next year's budget.

### *Courthouse Memorial*

We are looking at making improvements to the Courthouse War Memorial in the courtyard area at the Courthouse. For years, the flag has gotten caught in the trees, the stepping stones are broken/missing and there could be better lighting. While we are considering these improvements, we are also considering this space for the Charters of Freedom the Board discussed in 2016 and 2017. I discussed this again this week with Ron Lewis and they will need a space 20'x40' and Foundation Forward will pay for everything, except sidewalks. There would be a total of 5 monuments: Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Bill of Rights, Civil Rights Amendment and one recognizing the donors. Statesville Brick donates all of the brick. They will choose a brick color that is complementary to the Courthouse.

### *Courthouse*

The Clerk of Court requested their windows be tinted last year to help reduce the heat and bright light caused by the sun on their side of the building. Beth Holcomb as stated that it has helped tremendously. The Sheriff's Office has requested that the windows at the front of the Courthouse where people enter the Courthouse be tinted so that people can't see the Deputies at the Security checkpoint. The only way to accomplish this 100% is to have the "mirror" look from the outside. We are still exploring options for tinting that would be better than the clear glass. Beth Holcomb has also requested tinting of the Magistrates windows. Last year, we installed new shades in the Magistrates' Office for better climate control.

The Clerk has also requested improvements or updates be made to the Courtroom 1 Jury Room that she received a complaint from a Juror about the condition of the Room. We will explore this request more. Dwayne had already included in his FY2024 budget request to refinish the benches in Courtroom 1 and replace the chairs in the Jury Box.

### *Upcoming Dates*

The NCACC has changed the County Assembly Day from a one-day event in Raleigh, to a two-day County Advocacy Day. It will be held **May 23 & 24** in Raleigh. Please let me know if you would like to attend this.

**June 7 & 8**, the NCACC will host another Opioid Summit in Durham County. Registration is now open, so please let me know if you would like to attend this.

Lastly, the NCACC is hosting District meetings over the next several months and they have not provided a date for our District yet.