

*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

October 27, 2023

Solid Waste and Convenience Sites

The County's current contracts for collections and operation of the transfer station expire at the end of the fiscal year. In preparation for the issuance of the Request for Proposals, staff would like to discuss the convenience sites and recycling. Do we need to continue with the same number of convenience sites, given that two of them are only open one day per week? Do we want to continue recycling at all of the convenience sites? Do we want to allow commercial disposal at the convenience sites? Do we want to continue to contract for collections or bring it in-house?

We also had someone dump approximately 30 bags of trash over the fence at the Speer Bridge site last Sunday. We have pulled the footage of the vehicle and the suspect and filed a report with the Sheriff's Office.

Golden Leaf Community-Based Initiative Grants

The Yadkin County Schools submitted their application for their proposed project to target opportunity-youth for the Golden Leaf Community-Based Initiative Grant, as did the Economic Development Partnership for the Multi-Unit Day Care Facility. Both of these projects had to be endorsed by the County Manager and these were the only two projects submitted for consideration. It is anticipated that the Golden Leaf should announce grant awards by February 1, 2024.

Strategic Planning Survey

We have received over 460 responses to the Strategic Planning Survey that is now live and available through our website and on our Facebook page. Public meetings have been scheduled in November at each of the high schools.

Employee Vacancies

There are currently 21 vacant positions this week, up from 16 last week. There has been no change from last week, no new hires or separations from employment (resignation, terminations or retirements).

VIPER and Communications Center

We closed on the property for the VIPER tower this week and are continuing to have conversations with the State Highway Patrol about the project. We are in the process of scheduling another VIPER committee meeting and having conversations concerning the new Communications Center.

Holcomb Creosote

We had a virtual meeting with the EPA and the DEQ about the re-use and clean-up progress of the Holcomb Creosote site. We have asked them to explore all potential future uses of the site, including but not limited to, industrial (along Hwy 601) and residential (on Dobbins Mill Road). We have scheduled our next meeting to be in person on January 24, 2024.

Energy Savings and Performance

The Yadkin County Schools are interested in pursuing an Energy Performance Grant to convert their older boilers and water heaters to natural gas. They are working with Schneider Electric on this project. It does require non-monetary support of the Board of Commissioners, only to the extent that their funding will not be reduced due to the cost savings. They will have to use those savings for 8-10 years to pay the debt they incur for the upgrades. Schneider Electric guarantees the savings and will have to pay in the event the savings are not realized.

Upcoming Dates

Joint meeting with the Board of Education, **Monday, October 30th**.

Viewing of "The Veteran's Battlefield", A Story of North Carolina Veterans at the Willingham Theater on **Thursday, November 9th** at 7pm.

Community meetings for Strategic Planning will be held **Tuesday, November 14th** at Starmount High School and on **Tuesday, November 28th** at Forbush High School. We plan to review the survey results thus far and to offer those in attendance an opportunity to complete the survey online if they have not. Staff would bring 2-3 laptops for their use.

The Annual Christmas Employee Luncheon will be held on **Friday, December 22nd**, **12noon-2pm** in the Banquet Room at the Agricultural & Educational Building.