

*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

December 1, 2023

Solid Waste Track Loader

The track loader approved for purchase by the Board of Commissioners has been delivered to Solid Waste.

Vacancies

We maintain 19 vacancies, with 11 of them being in Human Services. Eight of the 19 positions have been vacant more than 90 days and 1 has been vacant almost 12 months. In accordance with the County Personnel Policy, when a position has been vacant 12 months, it is eliminated. Unless this position is filled by the end of December, it will be eliminated.

VIPER Tower and Communications Center Upgrade

Staff is meeting with various groups about the construction of the new VIPER tower to be built on Baker Road, as well as the renovations of the space in the Sheriff's Admin Building to move Communications. The renovations and equipment are being funded through 911 funds and the grant received from the 911 Board. We plan to contract for technical project management for assistance on both of these projects.

Strategic Planning

The strategic planning survey closed yesterday and staff held the second public meeting at Forbush High School this week. Twenty-eight (28) citizens were in attendance. There was great discussion concerning farmland preservation; growth/development to occur in towns, not out in the county; utilize existing buildings rather than build new; low cost of living; rural character of the area; multiple highways for people to stop here; enhance parks; great opportunities here, but people need to take advantage of them and support them; etc.

District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office voiced concern last month about the possibility of mold in their offices. The area has been deep cleaned and the roof is being replaced this week. The retesting should also occur today. We should know the results early next week.

Upcoming Dates

The Annual Christmas Employee Luncheon will be held on **Friday, December 22nd, 12noon-2pm** in the Banquet Room at the Agricultural & Educational Building. County offices will be **closed the remainder of the afternoon**, as well as **December 25, 26 and 27**. County offices will also be closed **January 1**.