

*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 8, 2023

Vacancies

We have not filled any of the 19 vacant positions reported last week and have not received any resignations this week. 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.

East Bend Water Rates

During the Board meeting Monday, questions were asked about the East Bend water rates. According to the County Board adopted Fee Schedule, we charge customers on the East Bend Water line \$36.04 for up to 2,000 gallons and then \$13.81 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons. We bill our customers up to the master meter by the library and then we bill the Town of East Bend based upon the gallons that go through the master meter. We are charging the Town of East Bend \$7.93 per 1,000 gallons monthly.

The Town charges their customers and they are required to be self-sustaining just like the County. They bill their customer every other month based upon their fee schedule:

Water: inside city limits \$61.48 for the 1st 1,000 gallons and then \$11.98 for each additional 1,000 gallons; outside city limits \$79.50 for the 1st 1,000 gallons and \$14.20 each additional 1,000 gallons.

Sewer: residential \$61.48 for the 1st 1,000 gallons and \$5.83 each additional 1,000 gallons; commercial and industrial inside city limits \$75.26 for the 1st 1,000 gallons and \$8.48 for each additional 1,000 gallons; outside city limits \$116.60 for the 1st 1,000 gallons and \$10.60 for each additional 1,000 gallons.

Dress Down December

Employees love our Dress Down Fridays and last year we started Dress Down December. For the month of December, employees can donate \$20 to dress down every day in December and they can wear Christmas shirts or sweaters. Last year we collected \$800 for Yadkin Christian Ministries. This year after hearing a presentation by representatives from Mercy and Truth Ministries about their Christmas Project, we decided to provide our

collections to them this year. We provided them \$1,500 yesterday. We have wonderful employees who are not only dedicated to their jobs, but also dedicated to our community.

VIPER Tower and Communications Center Upgrade

Brock and I met with representatives from the State Highway Patrol about the VIPER tower and renovations for a new Communications Center. They said we have three options: contract with someone to do the project for us, oversee the project ourselves or contract directly with Motorola for a turnkey project. Brock, Dylan and I would like to have a technical consultant representing the County as project manager on both projects. It could be the same consultant or separate. For the tower, we need to make sure that everything is to the Highway Patrol's specs or they won't accept it for ownership and maintenance.

Michael Hodgson with Highway Patrol who oversees VIPER stated that the construction costs for new towers has almost doubled in the last 12 months and that we should plan on at least \$2.5 million for the tower.

Solid Waste Convenience Sites

Brock asked Solid Waste Director, Keith Cain to document each time a convenience site closes early over the next two weeks and we will report that to the Board. If you visit a convenience site and it's closed or if someone tells you they went by there and it was closed, please document the date and time. We are trying to obtain reliable data on early closings.

Pedestrian Bridge

The Towns of Jonesville and Elkin, with the support of Surry and Yadkin counties have applied for a federal DOT grant to build a pedestrian bridge between the two towns. Right now, it looks favorable that we may receive funding. The grant does require a match of \$6 million that the two towns and two counties would have to provide. However, there may be some funds available through the State. We hope to hear more about this funding in the next few months. It will take about a year or so to officially receive the federal funding.

Adam Anderson

Adam Anderson, our DSS Attorney on staff in Human Services notified me this week that he intends to run for the new District Court Judge seat that was included in the State budget. Filing begins this week and he anticipates at least one other candidate in the primary. He will continue working with the County and we will determine next steps after the primary.

District Attorney's Office

The District Attorney's Office voiced concern in November about the possibility of mold in their offices. The area has been deep cleaned, the roof replaced and retesting conducted.

The test results indicate that the building is safe or occupy and spore levels are lower than outdoor levels. The District Attorney's Office has been provided a copy of the full report.

County Park

There was a person living in his car at the County Park that we had to report to law enforcement. He was removed from the property and a warrant was served upon him.

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**.

The NCCCMA Winter Seminar is **January 31-February 2, 2024** in Winston Salem. Brock Hall and I both plan to attend.