

*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

May 31, 2024

Solid Waste

Brock has been working with Solid Waste preparing for the transition with the change in vendors. It has been realized that Republic is picking up compactors that are less than half full and site attendants have been allowing citizens to place trash in the containers rather than using the compactors. We are charged per lift, not per ton on the collections side. We are billed for tonnage ones the garbage leaves our facility. Some of the extra containers have been removed from some of the convenience sites and this is already helping increase the utilization of the compactors. Republic has not been providing the highest quality of service this week. They have missed pickups and stated issues with recycling at the schools, which recycling was removed from the schools years ago. Brock and Keith Cain continue to work through these issues with Republic on a daily basis.

OSHA Standard

Previously I reported on the pending new OSHA Standard that would impact fire departments, primarily with the cost of required physicals that met NFPA standards. This new standard is for Emergency Response that also includes Emergency Services. The intent of the new standard is to protect emergency responders from injuries and illness. For fire departments, these standards would apply only if they have career firefighters. Yadkin County has one fire department that is strictly volunteer and the others have paid full-time or paid part-time firefighters and this standard would apply at least to the ones with full-time firefighters. It also includes other NFPA standards such as age of apparatus, tires, turn out gear, air packs, etc. Several North Carolina Associations have met and prepared a draft letter for entities impacts to submit during the comment period which ends in June.

Vacancy Report

This week we have 20 vacancies. Human Services continues to have a significant number of vacancies this week, with 12, 9 of which are in the Social Services Division. One of the vacancies is in the Sheriff's Office (Detention) and 3 in Emergency Services. The Tax Assessor's Office has 2 vacancies. Seventeen of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 12 of them being in Human Services. Nine of them have been vacant over 100 days. One of these positions has been vacant over 300 days, which in accordance with the County's Personnel Policy positions vacant for 12 months are eliminated. The one that has

been vacant over 300 days has been vacant 335 days and is recommended in the FY2025 Budget to be reclassified to a higher pay grade and given an additional 6 months (thru December 2024) to be filled before elimination.

Watershed Dam

The County is utilizing state grant funds to assist with the replacing the gates at our high hazard dams. Recently we have been having issues with one of the low hazard dams in the Boonville area, near Hwy 67. The dam is not draining like it should and we rented a pump to help lower the water levels. We have lowered it 6' within the last 9 days, but it is still high. Staff removed the cement cap today and the 30' pipe is full of sticks, branches, etc. We are going to continue pumping it, but may ask our contractor working on the high hazard dams to look at it. We may need to enter into a contract with them to help remove the sticks from this one.

Classification and Pay Plans

Had a good meeting with Davie and Wilkes County Managers today discussing multiple items, but focusing on position classifications and benefits. We all provide the same core benefits (health insurance, retiree health insurance, retirement, etc.), but there are some differences in those that we may need to consider moving forward to remain competitive. We did agree that reviewing the classifications of positions of our plans is the best place to start.

Opioids

There is another settlement that has been reached with Kroger Co. North Carolina is one of the states that is eligible to be a part of the \$1.2 billion settlement. The municipalities in NC, as well as other eligible states must OPT in by August 12th. This option will be placed on one of the Board's upcoming agendas.

Legislative Goals

It's time to start thinking about Legislative Goals to submit to the NCACC. The submission process will kick-off this month. Please be thinking about what you would like to submit. In the past, the Board has submitted an average of 4-6 goals. The goals will be in any of the following areas: Agriculture, Environment, General Government, Health and Human Services, Justice and Public Safety, Public Education and/or Tax and Finance.

Conferences and Trainings

The Upcoming Dates section below includes several Conferences and meetings that require pre-registration. As a County, we try to be good stewards of County funds and take advantage of early bird registrations, when registration fees are at their lowest point. Most of these registrations, as well as hotel registrations, have cancellation dates to receive full refunds or partial refunds. If these cancellation dates are not met, the registration fees and / or hotel fees are not-refundable.

Attending Conferences and Trainings is beneficial to employees and Commissioners, however, we all need to be cognizant of the costs involved and the commitments to attend once registered.

Please note the early bird registrations in the Upcoming Dates below and ask Tanya about cancellation dates in the event you register and are later not able to attend. Tanya is the point of contact for the Commissioners to register for Conferences and Trainings.

Upcoming Dates

NCACC's County Advocacy Days will be held **June 11 & 12** in Raleigh. Registration is now open. The meeting starts with a Networking Reception at 1pm, followed by Steering Committee meetings at 2pm and a Reception/Dinner starting at 6pm. The Legislative Program starts Wednesday morning at 8am at the Quorum Center before moving to the Legislative Building for meetings with our local representatives.

The NACo Annual Conference & Exposition is **July 12-15** in Hillsborough County, Florida. Please let Tanya know if you are interested in attending.

The NCACC Annual Conference will be held **August 8-10** in Forsyth County, with the special event on August 7th pertaining to the use of Opioid Settlement Funds.