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*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
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COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

September 6, 2024

Medicaid Hold Harmless

In the spring of 2024 the Board was informed of the decrease in Medicaid Hold Harmless payment the County received. Counties were told it was due to sales tax declining and Medicaid costs increasing. As we continued to watch the County's sales tax collections, they were not decreasing as anticipated. In March of every year, the State provides counties their estimated Medicaid Hold Harmless payment and then in August they provide the true-up based upon actual Medicaid expenditures and Article 44 sales tax collections the county would have received. Yadkin County's true-up was a little over \$221,213 compared to \$66,259 in August 2023.

It isn't really a decline in sales tax that impacts the decrease in Medicaid Hold Harmless, it's the increase in Medicaid expenditures paid by the State. Counties were responsible for 15% of Medicaid costs and since COVID, more people have been on Medicaid thereby increases the Medicaid costs. During COVID, the Federal match changed and States had to start paying more, as well as increased Medicaid rates. I have been told that the increase Medicaid costs are not related to Medicaid expansion as 90% of it is paid by the Feds and 10% by the hospitals.

The Medicaid Hold Harmless is the difference between the 15% of the Medicaid costs paid by the State and the Article 44 sales tax the County would have received. If the Medicaid costs outpace sales tax growth, the hold harmless will continue to decline. However, based upon the true-up amount received in August 2024, I don't think Yadkin County will be as negatively impacted as the estimate was in March 2024.

Vacancy Report

This week we still have 17 vacancies. Human Services continues to have a significant number of vacancies this week, with 8, 7 of which are in the Social Services Division. Four of the vacancies are in the Sheriff's Office (2 in Detention) and 3 in Emergency Services. The Tax Assessor's Office has 2 vacancies. Eleven of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 6 of them being in Human Services. Five of them have been vacant over 100 days. The Communicable Disease Nurse position has been vacant 398 days. This full-time position (CD Nurse) is state funded and we do have a part-time nurse currently working in it. Human Services did receive a notice of resignation this week, as did Central Permitting and the employees in those positions are working out their notice, so they are not included in the vacancy counts.

KnowBe4 Training

KnowBe4 Training continues to be an asset to the County as other local governments have had their email accounts hacked. The County received an email from the hacked account and the email was “phished” to IT and they confirmed that it was a hack. IT sent an email to all “County Employees” making them aware of the hacked email and to not click on the attachment to the email. Someone did click on the attachment and then that email account was hacked. IT received over 200 phish alerts on that email from County employees. Both of the hacked email addresses have been blocked by IT as they continue to look for any impact to the County network.

Solid Waste

The recycling compactor for the Landfill has been shipped and should arrive any day. Plans are also underway for the placement of recycling compactors as the convenience sites discussed during the Board meeting. Garrett & Moore is 60% complete with the plans for the new scale house and maintenance building at the Landfill. Once the design is complete we will be able to obtain a rough cost estimate for the improvements to the Landfill.

Central Permitting

There has been an increase in complaints about people living in RV campers. Brittany Anderson and Kaelan Everhart are investigating them as they come in. Currently there are 8 active Notices of Violation of the County Zoning and 2 more that will be investigated next week.