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Frank Zachary, Commissioner*



*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
Tanya Gentry, Clerk to the Board*

COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT

September 13, 2024

Sheltering Grant

Emergency Services applied for a State grant to install a generator at Starmount Middle School gym for when it is used as an emergency shelter. Currently, if it doesn't have power there is no heat or air conditioning in the gym. The State awarded the County \$538,000 for the needed wiring, generator and installation. I am having conversations with Anthony Davis to determine the next steps. The County will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the State and then replicate that MOA for one with the School District.

Vacancy Report

There hasn't been any changes in our vacancies this week as 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. Fourteen of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 8 of them being in Human Services. Six of them have been vacant over 100 days. The Communicable Disease Nurse position has been vacant 405 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.

Solid Waste

The recycling compactor for the Landfill has been received. We are working with Triad Recycling on the installation of the compactor. In regards to replacing the existing box recycling cans with a compactor at the 5 additional sites discussed, Triad will cover the cost of the grading, site prep and wiring for their installation, as well as maintenance of them. This cost will be included in the \$1100 per month per site rental fee charged to the County. The County will lease these additional compactors from Triad for 4.5 years and then assume ownership of them.

The cardboard cans at Lone Hickory are working well. Triad intends to apply for grants in the next few months to purchase more cans. They will allow us to use these cans at no cost.

NCDOT

NCDOT has begun planning studies for the proposed intersection and roadway improvements of Old 421/E Main Street from US 601 to Unifi Industrial Rd in Yadkinville. When driving in the area you may see people working and marking areas as part of the study, but nothing is final at this time.

Senate Bill 166, now Session Law 2024-49

Senate Bill 166 became Session Law this week. This bill will impact Environmental Health and Central Permitting. Staff will receive direction from the State to fully comprehend its impact on our work. Below is the link to the Session Law, it's 71 pages.

[S166v6.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](https://ncleg.gov/legislation/bills/2024/senate-bill-166)

Christmas Holidays

Full-time County employees receive a \$115 Holiday bonus in early December that is taxed according to IRS guidelines. Part-time benefitted employees receive a prorated bonus based upon the number of hours required to work. Full-time employees and Cooperative Extension employees have received a ham or turkey (their choice) since 2011. A couple of employees suggested that we increase the Holiday bonus in lieu of the ham or turkey. The County receives a substantial discount on the price of the hams and turkeys due to the volume purchased. Human Resources has sent a survey to full-time employees asking if they had rather receive an increase in the bonus to in lieu of the ham/turkey. The decision will be made based upon the majority vote. The increased bonus will not exceed the amount of the cost of the ham/turkey and the total will be limited to the amount budgeted to purchase the hams/turkeys.

The Annual Employee Christmas luncheon will be on Friday, December 20, 11:30am-1:30pm. Last year, the County closed offices for the remainder of that day. Being that the County will be open Monday, December 23 and Closed for the holidays December 24-26, we will remain open December 20 after the lunch and close at 12noon on Monday, December 23. We will be open Friday, December 27.