

*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

October 25, 2024

Helene

As previously stated, many County employees and employees in the Sheriff's Office and Emergency Services have assisted western NC counties in various ways. Recently, Human Services staff was asked by the staff to assist food stamp eligibility assistance. Human Services staff had already been assisting Transylvania County.

Marcy Mays, Cathy Johnson, Sandy Trivette, Bobbi Hoffman, Melissa Hardy, Sylvia Riley, Cynthia Sidden, and Kayla Childress completed 3 hours of training and then worked 2 hours per day for 7 consecutive days (including Saturdays and Sundays) taking applications over the phone from applicants in all of the affected counties. They have completed this work, as well as maintaining their Yadkin County workload.

Yadkin County employees always step up to help others in need.

Yadkin County has also been added to the state declaration of emergency, which now makes us eligible for FEMA reimbursement. Keith Vestal participates weekly in emergency management calls concerning the ongoing impacts of Helene. FEMA representatives visited Yadkin this week and they are partnering with the School of Government to offer upcoming training on the requirements for reimbursement. All financials and timekeeping records are to be submitted through Emergency Management and copied to Finance.

Vacancy Report

There are 12 vacancies this week. Human Services has 6 vacancies, all in the Social Services Division. The Sheriff's Office has 1 Deputy position vacant, Emergency Services has 3 vacancies, Tax Assessor's Office has 1 vacancy, and Central Permitting has 1. Eleven of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 6 of them being in Human Services. Four of these positions (3 in Human Services) have been vacant over 100 days.

KnowBe4 Training

On average 49 users of the County's network have not completed the required KnowBe4 training since January 2024. The majority of these are in the Sheriff's Office. A few employees have been out on extended medical leave and have not been at work to complete the training. Each month the number of users not completing the training increases. In January there were 39 and in September there were 67. The Sheriff's Office had 35 not complete the training in January and 67 in September.

Handicapped Parking

I received a complaint about lack of available handicapped parking at the Sheriff's Office and the Board of Elections. The County has handicapped parking available in the parking lot on Jackson Street across the street from the Sheriff's Office. The Town also has handicapped parking on Jackson Street between the Veterans' Center and the Sheriff's Office. The complainant complained a Sheriff's vehicle being parked closest to the building instead of it being handicapped. I spoke with Mike Koser with the Town and he agreed to make the first spot on Jackson Street closest to the Sheriff's Office handicapped.

At the Board of Elections, there are two handicapped spots towards the end of the front parking lot. The sidewalk is designed for handicapped access at that point. For early voting and on election day, the Board of Elections offers curbside voting. Being that the County does not own this building and the sidewalk is sloped to accommodate wheelchairs, etc. nothing will be changed at this time regarding the handicapped parking at the Board of Elections.

Generation Theory

The NCACC's latest film, Generation Theory will be debuted at Surry Community College in Dobson on November 19th at 6pm. Doors will open at 5pm and a panel discussion will be following the screening of the film. This film highlights public service and Surry-Yadkin Works.

NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

The NCACC Legislative Goals Conference is November 14-15 at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley. The purpose of the Conference is to hold voting sessions to finalize legislative goals. Please let Tanya know as soon as possible if you are interested in attending.