

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board  
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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 November 15, 2024**

### ***Communications Center, VIPER Tower and Radios***

We continue to move forward with the Communications Center move and construction of the new VIPER Tower. As discussed at the last Board meeting, an architect has been selected for the upfit of the shell space on the third floor of the Sheriff's Office. Once a contract is approved, the design will start and the construction bidding shortly thereafter. The County has secured grant funds for the design, construction and new equipment for the new Communications Center.

Federal Engineering has provided a cost estimate for the VIPER Tower of \$1,984,845. This is inline with what the State previously told us. The cost has nearly doubled since we started talking about the tower and the equipment is on State contract. Funding for this will have to come from the County.

All radios used by the fire departments, rescue squad, EMS, Sheriff's Office and police departments are supposed to be P25 compliant and have Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) programming. Based upon information provided to the County by these entities, the cost to replace all Fire, Rescue Squad & EMS radios would be approximately \$3,000,000 and for the Sheriff's Office and municipal police departments it would cost an additional \$1,300,000. These are current prices and before January 1, 2025 price increases.

### ***FEMA***

Since Yadkin County was added to the federal declaration state of emergency, there have been 229 individual households within the county that have applied for services. Of those, 12 have be eligible and received a total of \$12,300.

### ***Vacancy Report***

There are 13 vacancies this week. Human Services has 6 vacancies, all in the Social Services Division. The Sheriff's Office has 3 positions vacant, Emergency Services has 3 vacancies and the Tax Assessor's Office has 1 vacancy. Eight of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 5 of them being in Human Services. Four of these positions (3 in

Human Services) have been vacant over 100 days. Human Services has also received 2 additional resignations this week that are not included in the Vacancy Report.

### ***Solid Waste***

The recycling compactor has been installed at the Solid Waste Facility and the power has been run to it, but there has been issues with the connections so it is not operable at this time. The concrete pads have been poured at the Convenience Sites that will be receiving recycling compactors in the near future. The Catherine Lane site had been operating on a well and we have not applied for a water tap since the new waterline has been run.

The Maranatha Convenience Site has closed early on a few Saturdays due to everything being full. This Site is serviced by Triad on Thursdays, so it is filling up Friday and Saturday. For now, we have added 2 more 6-yard containers to help prevent closing early.

### ***Legislative Goals***

Chairman Austin has been serving as the County's Voting Delegate at the NCACC Legislative Goals Conference yesterday and today. The Board submitted 9 Legislative Goals to the NCACC in September, where they were deliberated in Steering Committees. Eight (8) of the goals advanced out of Steering Committee either as presented or combined with similar goals. The Pre-trial Release goal was sent for further discussion. During the Legislative Goals Conference this week, the Board's Goals continued discussion and were all passed. This means they will become Legislative Goals of the NCACC for discussion with members of the General Assembly. Great work!

### ***Fire Inspections***

NC Building Code through the Department of Insurance requires businesses to be inspected at different intervals: every 6 months, once per year, once every 2 years or once every 3 years. Of the 1593 facilities in Yadkin County, 825 are required to be inspected during the year. Yadkin County provides fire inspections through the Fire Marshal's Office with the full-time Fire Marshal, full-time Deputy Fire Marshal and 2 part-time fire inspectors. In years past, there was a Fire Marshal and Assistant Fire Marshal and no-part-time fire inspectors. Later, this was reduced to only a Fire Marshal. In FY2013, there were 112 inspections completed; in FY2014, 130 were completed; in FY2016, 101 were completed. In FY2018, the County added the part-time fire inspectors and the number of inspections increased to 385. The Deputy Fire Marshal position was added in FY2023 and the inspections completed increased to 479. The County purchased Image Trend software in FY2023 to assist with scheduling and tracking of inspections and it was fully implemented in early FY2024. During FY2024, 846 fire inspections were completed. The number of completed fire inspections include initial fire inspections and life safety re-inspections, they do not include all of the re-inspections needed due to time constraints. While Yadkin County is not the only county not meeting the State required inspections, it is the county with the fewest number of full-time Fire Marshals and fire inspectors. Iredell (1570), Davie (1700), Surry (1750), Catawba (2000), Rowan (2000) all have 3 or more full-time Fire Marshal / fire inspectors and multiple part-time fire

inspectors. Iredell is the only one that doesn't have part-time fire inspectors, but they have 4 full-time fire inspectors. This is an issue the County should address.

### *Generation Theory*

The NCACC's latest film, Generation Theory will be debuted at Surry Community College in Dobson on November 19<sup>th</sup> 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. You should have received an invitation for this event.

### *Upcoming Dates*

The School of Government has several webinars coming up that you may be interested in. The next one is Rules of Procedure (12/4/2024, 10am-11:15am, online). Please let Tanya know if you are interested this or any other webinar.