

*David Moxley, Chairman of Board  
Frank Zachary, Vice Chairman  
Cliff Collins, Commissioner  
Ricky Oliver, Commissioner  
Tim Parks, Commissioner*



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

## **COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **January 3, 2025**

#### ***East Bend Waterline***

The Complaint filed by the Town of East Bend and the Response / Counterclaim filed by the County is expected to provide Motions in Superior Court Monday in Wilkes County. Judge Duncan has ordered Mediation/Settlement by April 23, 2025 and if not successful, a trial date of July 7, 2025.

#### ***Solid Waste***

All of the compactors are in use and there were no major issues with Solid Waste over the holidays. The holidays are always the busiest time of the year for Solid Waste.

Jason Roels is becoming involved in the improvements to be made at the Solid Waste Facility and the plans should be in the finalization stage soon and brought back to the Board for final approval.

#### ***Vacancy Report***

There are 13 vacancies this week. Human Services has 7 vacancies, all in the Social Services Division. The Sheriff's Office has 2 positions vacant, Emergency Services has 3 vacancies and the Tax Assessor's Office has 1 vacancy. Ten of these positions have been vacant over 30 days, with 6 of them being in Human Services. Five of these positions (3 in Human Services) have been vacant over 100 days.

Ethan Decker has been hired as the Animal Shelter Director, effective January 13, 2025.

#### ***Ambulance***

We have received notification that our first promised ambulance is in the works and should be delivered later this month. They have provided pictures of the ambulance on the assembly line. Keith Vestal will travel to Ashe County next week to view it.

#### ***Hurricane Helene***

Keith Vestal, Chris Bolden and I met earlier this week with Intergovernmental Reps from FEMA to insure the County has everything we need from FEMA, including communication.

The deadline for individuals to claim assistance from FEMA has been extended to February 6, 2025. If individuals lost power, had to buy a chainsaw to cut a tree that fell, etc. due to the Hurricane, they can apply for assistance.

### **Cooperative Extension**

Cooperative Extension will be closed January 6-8 as staff attends training in Raleigh.

### **Rural Center Summit**

The Rural Center will hold its annual Summit March 25 and 26 in Raleigh. The Summit is open to anyone who wants to attend. For more information see: [Register Now for Rural Summit 2025: Securing Our Rural Future - NC Rural Center](#)

Sandi Scannelli and I submitted Yadkin County's efforts on the Child Plex as a session presentation. The Rural Center received over 80 submissions for sessions and selected 12. Yadkin County's was one of those 12 selected. Sandi, Carolyn Choplin, Bobby Todd and I will lead the presentation and discussion on Child Care.

As most of you know, Marion and Jewell Welborn donated the land for the Child Plex to be constructed. It has been decided that the Child Plex will be known as Mama Jewell's Child Plex in memory of Jewell Welborn. Jewell was known to her grandchildren and great grandchildren as Mama Jewell.

### **Upcoming Dates**

**January 13, 2025 at 6pm** we will have training by Jim Joyce with the School of Government on planning, zoning and the relationships/purpose of the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Board of Commissioners.

**January 27 at 6pm** will be the FY2026 Budget Retreat at the Moose Lodge. Dinner will be provided.

The School of Government has several webinars coming up that you may be interested in. Please let Tanya know if you are interested in any of these or any other training.

January 23-24: Essentials in County Government in Winston Salem

January 30: Leading Your Board in Raleigh

February 7: Top 10 Primer: Managing Conflict Online

March 5: Top 10 Primer: Tools for a Successful Strategic Plan Online

March 19: In the Hot Seat: Leading Through Public Scrutiny in Chapel Hill

April 2: Fiduciary Responsibilities of Local Elected Officials Online