

*David Moxley, Chairman of Board
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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

May 2, 2025

General Assembly

Bill crossover starts next week in the General Assembly and they continue to review and revise bills.

HB 219 regarding ambulance franchises in counties has been revised and sent back to committee. This bill is not getting any support and will likely die in committee.

HB 675 pertains to credentialing of emergency medical technicians and it too has been revised and sent back to committee. Likewise, this bill is not getting any support and will likely not come out of committee.

HB 659 Local Government Spending Transparency was referred to the Committee on Rules this week and has been revised slightly. It requires local government to place a link on our website to all invoices and for them to be itemized with the payee's name, amount paid, items or services purchased and performance dates and updated quarterly. These invoices would not be redacted unless required by law. We would also be required to provide a link to the top three bids for every project, service or any goods purchased. Yadkin County currently provides our expenditures on our website, but not actual invoices or bids, even though they are also available for public inspection. There are concerns about the amount of staff time this will take as well as concerns about increased fraud from the information provided on the invoices.

HB 913 Liability/Unfair/Deceptive Development Actions passed its Second and Third Reading in the House yesterday. This bill holds local governments accountable for development decisions when the person shows a claim that the local government intentionally violated NCGS 160-D, intentionally delayed action or acted in a flagrantly unfair or deceptive manner. It allows them to recover damages, attorneys' fees and costs from the local government.

HB 765 has been revised and renamed from Local Government Development Regulations Omnibus to Save the American Dream Act. There have been revisions to this bill as well and some that are better for smaller counties like us, but it will still have a major impact on zoning. The bill was referred this week to the Committee on Housing and Development. The primary sponsors of this bill are on the Committee on Housing and Development with Representatives Zenger and Brody as Co-Chairs. Needless to say, the bill will pass this Committee and then it will be caucused again.

HB 729 was referred to the Committee on Energy and Public Utilities this week. This is the Farmland Protection Act. This Act will phase out the property tax exclusion for solar energy electric systems. Currently, the equipment (not the land) is only taxed on 20% of its value with 80% being exempt. This bill will increase the percentage taxed by 20% every year starting July 1, 2026 until July 1, 2029 when it will be taxed 100% with no exemption.

SB 257, which is the Senate's Recommended Budget contains a section that changes NCGS 166A increasing the National Guard's emergency response role. The National Guard has always played an instrumental role in disaster response and recovery. This bill changes the powers of the Secretary of Public Safety and shifts those to the Adjutant General of the National Guard. The Adjutant General will be responsible for the NC Emergency Operations Plan during a disaster response including all emergency management activities including operating the State's Emergency Operations Center. Previously, this was conducted by the State's Emergency Management Division of the Public Safety Office.

Vacancy Report

There are currently 21 vacancies throughout County departments. There are 6 vacancies in Human Services (6 in the DSS Division and 1 in the Health Division), 6 within the Sheriff's Office (4 Patrol, 1 Detention and 1 Communications), 4 in Emergency Services, one each in the Animal Shelter, Central Permitting, Elections, Information Technology and Tax. Of these positions 17 have been vacant over 30 days and 7 have been vacant for over 100 days, 5 of which have been vacant over 200 days. One position has been vacant 334 days and is starting to approach the 12-month vacant policy of being eliminated.

Magnolia Building and EMS Outpost

The EMS Outpost in Jonesville has been completed and staff moved in. We plan to have an Open House later this month.

The Magnolia Building has received its Certificate of Occupancy. New Atlantic is finishing their punch list and the furniture has been delivered. We anticipate a Ribbon cutting within the next few weeks.

AOA Signs Building

The County purchased the building located at 108 Jackson Street several years ago from AOA Signs. Prior to that it was Yadkinville Town Hall. The County needs to establish a formal name for the building. Please contact me with any suggestions.

Charters of Freedom

The Charters of Freedom is nearing completion in the Courthouse courtyard. The additional monument for the Sanctity of Life will be completed after the dedication of the Charters of Freedom. We are coordinating a date for the dedication and it should be later this month.

Upcoming Dates

May 7th, 5:30pm-7:30pm, NCACC District 18 meeting at Forsyth County Cooperative Extension. Let Tanya or me know if you plan today.

May 12th, 7-9pm, Budget Work Session

May 13th, 7-9pm, Budget Work Session

June 10-11, NCACC County Advocacy Days in Raleigh. Please let Tanya know if you would like to attend. It starts at 2pm on Tuesday and concludes Wednesday afternoon.

June 13, 7pm, Budget Public Hearing