

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board  
David Moxley, Vice Chairman  
Gilbert Hemric, 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 August 12, 2022**

### **COVID**

Our active COVID cases are back up to 342 as of today and there has been another death, up to 118 total. The no-fee testing vendor (Optum) in Yadkinville is changing to a different vendor, however, it will still be available at no cost and no appointments are necessary. They offer rapid tests and PCR tests.

### **Legislative Goals**

It's time to submit Legislative Goals to the NCACC. Goals are due September 12th. So far, I have ones for accreditation, school calendar, CD nurse funding and possibly 100% state funding of forestry. Please let me know any thoughts you have on these or other potential goals.

### **NCACC Annual Conference**

The sessions offered during the NCACC Annual Conference were great.

There was a session on the Fire Service presented by Iredell and Cabarrus counties. They told what they were doing and gave other ideas. The three things that stood out were: if counties are collecting the fire tax, we are the ones responsible for the service that is being provided to the citizens (not the fire departments); we need to determine our standards by engaging our citizens in what they expect and need from the fire service; and both used an independent third-party to assess the fire service.

The NC National Guard conducted a session on cybersecurity and demonstrated how easy it is to find information on the internet and to get into someone's computer. We did have the NCNG conduct an assessment several years ago and I've asked Steven to pull that out and let's review their recommendations. They also conduct training and monitoring services. Steven is going to reach out to the Lt. Col. who conducted the session about other services we can take advantage of.

Beth Macy, author of Dopestick and Raising Lazarus concerning the opioid crisis and how what we're doing isn't working. She highlighted the work of Surry County and the impacts they are making.

There was also a session on getting younger people interested in government work. Cabarrus County offers opportunities for high school students to learn more and be involved in local government: one day event, Youth Commission and a Local Government Institute. These are offered through Civics classes and 4-H. I would like to explore the one-day event and discuss it more with Bryson Helton and Madaline Jones for 4-H. Then we can expand it.

### *Sound System*

The sound system in the Commissioners' Room has been upgraded and the clock/timer mounted for easier view by the Board and attendees.

### *Courthouse*

Steven Ratcliffe and I received an email from the Administrative Office of the Courts advising us of a new system that needs to be installed. The County is responsible for the wiring and we can select a vendor to do the work or sign a Memorandum of Agreement for the State to do it and the County reimburse the State. The Memorandum may be the best route so it is all conducted through the State.