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*Ed Powell, County Attorney
Lisa Hughes, County Manager
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COUNTY MANAGER'S REPORT **September 2, 2022**

Sales Tax

Yadkin County's sales tax collections for July is higher than any month ever! We collected \$934,277.72, including an increase \$18,403.14 from Article 33 *524. The closest collections month was in January 2022 in the amount of \$931,010.44 Last July, we collected \$843,388.42.

COVID

Our active COVID cases continue to rise, as of today 361. Of course, these numbers only reflect reported positive cases and do not include any unreported home tests.

Distressed Water and Wastewater List

According to the July meeting of the State Water Infrastructure Authority agenda, Yadkin County's points from their assessment have decreased from the original 14 to 8. This puts us below the targeted score of 9 for both water and wastewater systems to be on the list. We will continue to be on the list until we have completed an Asset Inventory Assessment, Rate Study, Short-term Plan and a Long-Term Plan.

The Request for Qualifications for an engineering firm to complete the AIA and Rate Study will go out next week. We have been awarded a \$150,000 grant for the AIA Study.

Financial Summaries

Exhibit A contains the FY2022 Financial Summary through June 30, 2022. Exhibit B contains the Financial Summary for the first month of the new fiscal year July 2022.

Broadband

Steven Ratcliffe and I met with Jeff Brooks, Deputy Director of Infrastructure for CAB and Last Mile within the State Office of Broadband Infrastructure. They want to help counties ensure that broadband available throughout counties as much as possible. He provided Steven and me with contacts to determine how much coverage exists in the county and where the gaps are. CAB provides funding through counties and counties have to issue request for proposals for this funding in partnership with the State.

I also received a letter today from AccessOn Networks requesting a recommendation letter for them to apply for federal funding for the “middle mile” that would connect cooperatives such as Surry Communications and Zirrus (Yadtel).

Radio Communications

It's hard to believe, but the radio communications system in our 911 Center were installed in 2014, 8 years ago. It is time to upgrade the consoles and to address the coverage issues EMS, fire departments and law enforcement agencies have had. We are exploring using the State's VIPER system and have a committee consisting of Sheriff Oliver, Keith Vestal, Jeff Hinshaw, Jody Vestal (representing Fire & Rescue Association), Dale Couch, Wes Hutchens (due to his knowledge of our system) and Brock. Keith Vestal spoke with the municipal police chiefs and they support moving to VIPER, as does the Sheriff, Jeff Hinshaw and the Fire Chiefs.

Changing will involve additional costs (replacement of radios for agencies), possibly another VIPER tower to enhance coverage inside buildings, possibly additional equipment on the existing VIPER towers, and of course replacement of the consoles. The consoles can be paid for through the Emergency Telephone Funds and there may be State ARPA funds available to pay for some of the other equipment.