

*Kevin Austin, Chairman of Board  
David Moxley, Vice Chairman  
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**

### **March 24, 2023**

#### ***Cooperative Extension***

NC State University has selected a new District Director for Cooperative Extension. Tyrone Fisher of Orange County has been selected to serve our area. I met with him and Addie Wilson this week to discuss the vacancies, as well as a new Memorandum of Agreement between Yadkin County, NC State University and A&T University. The last Agreement was entered into in 2006 and several things have changed since then. We will have the opportunity to decide if we want to be a "locked in" county or a "non-locked in" county. Locked in means that any salary increases approved by the State also apply on the county portion of their salaries. Yadkin County is currently a non-locked in or send-in county, where the Board of Commissioners decide on the salary increases on the county portion of their salaries. Tyrone is willing to meet with the Board so to better explain the differences between the two options.

#### ***Fire Department Funding***

Fire Departments are funded through District Funds that are collected through property taxes and sales taxes. Through 2019, Fire Departments received the collections as they were received and how much and when those funds would be received were unknown. In 2020, all of the fire departments agreed to a new contract that is reviewed annually and provides them a quarterly payment schedule that begins in July, regardless of when the taxes are received. Keep in mind that property taxes hit our books at least 30 days after payment is received and sales taxes two months after they are received. Since their contracts in 2020, the fire departments' collective contracts have increased 8%. The amounts they received were not known until they received them and were not guaranteed an amount. The annual contract guarantees them that they will receive the amount of the contract and that they will receive the quarterly amount by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the first month in the quarter. Any funds in the District Fund accounts are used to provide cash flow towards the first payment in July. Please see the following chart that shows the District Fund balances as of June 30, 2022, the amount of the quarterly payments and the balance in the Fund after the first quarterly payment that is sent to the fire departments before any taxes are collected or received.

Fire District Balances	6/30/2022 Balance	District Tax Rate	FY2023 Contract	FY2023 Quarterly Payments	7/30/2022 Balance
Arlington District	\$ 23,786	\$ 0.080	\$ 347,000	\$ 85,000	\$ (61,214)
Boonville District	\$ 19,788	\$ 0.075	\$ 254,000	\$ 62,500	\$ (42,712)
Buck Shoals District	\$ 7,781	\$ 0.050	\$ 69,800	\$ 16,450	\$ (8,669)
Courtney District	\$ 27,048	\$ 0.080	\$ 179,000	\$ 43,750	\$ (16,702)
East Bend District	\$ 42,358	\$ 0.073	\$ 230,500	\$ 56,125	\$ (13,767)
Fall Creek District	\$ 24,889	\$ 0.070	\$ 203,000	\$ 49,500	\$ (24,611)
Forbush District	\$ 37,690	\$ 0.075	\$ 284,000	\$ 70,000	\$ (32,310)
Lone Hickory District	\$ 10,192	\$ 0.075	\$ 76,000	\$ 18,250	\$ (8,058)
West Yadkin District	\$ 49,998	\$ 0.075	\$ 309,000	\$ 76,250	\$ (26,252)
Yadkinville District	\$ 25,995	\$ 0.065	\$ 544,337	\$ 134,584	\$ (108,590)

***VA Medical Center***

Veteran Services’ Officer, Mike Smith has heard that the Veterans’ Administration (VA) is seeking a location in the western part of the State for a new VA Medical Center. The Veterans’ Services’ Officers in Wilkes County and Surry County asked Mike if he had heard anything about it and about the Hamptonville area where 3 major highways intersect (US Highway 421, US Hwy 21 and Interstate 77). There are 2,273 known veterans living in Yadkin County and combined with Surry and Wilkes, that would be almost 10,000 veterans. From Mike’s understanding, Senator Ted Budd is the one who has pushed for a VA in our region.

***Beaver Management***

The USDA provides a beaver management program across the State and Yadkin County has not participated in the past because Soil & Water staff has been able to manage the workload. However, the beaver population continues to rise and exceed the availability of staff. The USDA contacts us every year and asks about participating in the program. We are at the point where we need to participate in the program in FY2024. The cost to participate is \$6,000 and the USDA will trap beavers for all residents of Yadkin County.

***Upcoming Dates***

The NCACC has changed the County Assembly Day from a one-day event in Raleigh, to a two-day County Advocacy Day. It will be held **May 23 & 24** in Raleigh. It will kick off with a dinner event at Raleigh Marriott City Center on Tuesday showcasing county stories and initiatives. This dinner will bring together county officials and legislators for an opportunity to share a meal and discuss shared priorities. We will also feature a speaking program with legislative leaders. On Wednesday it will start at the Local Government Federal Credit Union Conference Center located on the first floor of the Quorum Center. Information will be provided to guide you through your day at the Legislative Building. If you are interested in attending, please let Tanya know as soon as possible and she will register you. In accordance with County Policy, the County will pay for you to spend Tuesday night at the

Marriott in Raleigh. Please let Tanya know and she can book a room for you. The hotel rooms will fill up quickly, so please let her know as soon as possible.

June 7 & 8, the NCACC will host another Opioid Summit in Durham County. Last year, it was held in Greensboro. Lindsey Cearlock, Drew Hinkle, Kevin Austin and I attended last year.

Lastly, the NCACC is hosting District meetings over the next several months and they have not provided a date for our District yet.