

For Immediate Release
August 4, 2020
County of Yadkin
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The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution during their regularly scheduled meeting Monday requesting the Yadkin County Board of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether to levy a local-option one-quarter of one percent (0.25%) sales and use tax on the November ballot. If passed by the citizens of the County, this would bring the sales tax in Yadkin County to 7 cents on the dollar rather than the current 6.75 cents. For those of us who cross the Yadkin River to shop or eat out, we are already paying 7 cents sales tax to those counties. On a \$20.00 purchase, you would pay \$0.05 more in sales tax.

This sales and use tax, known as the Article 46 Sales and Use Tax would help the County continue to provide public safety to all citizens during a time of uncertainty. The proceeds would generate approximately \$580,000 per year and would be used for the Sheriff's Office, Fire Departments and Rescue Squad, and to set aside funds for future capital needs of the Yadkin County Public Schools. The Sheriff's Office will receive 40% of the proceeds, another 40% would be shared between the 10 volunteer fire departments and the rescue squad and the remaining 20% set aside for the School System.

It is the goal of the County Commissioners to retain dedicated and highly qualified law enforcement officers, detention officers and telecommunicators within the Sheriff's Office. This is a challenging time to be in law enforcement when there have been so many movements to defund the police. We need law enforcement officers to be there and ready to respond when the telecommunicators dispatch them to come to our need. The portion the Sheriff's Office receives would allow deserved pay increases for those who always come to work and do a job that so many are unwilling to do. It would also fund 2 new deputy positions that would be assigned to the night shift when there are typically fewer sworn officers on duty throughout the entire county.

Yadkin County is very fortunate to have 10 efficient volunteer fire departments and 1 volunteer rescue squad. The fire departments and rescue squad rely heavily on volunteers to respond to medical and fire calls, with a couple having full-time firefighters on duty Monday through Friday and part-time firefighters when they can afford it. They operate out of buildings that the newer trucks cannot fit into and drive trucks that are older than some of their volunteers. The portion for fire and rescue will be divided so that the rescue squad receives a 10 percent budget increase and the remainder will be divided amongst the 10 fire departments based upon the number of road miles within their 6 mile response district. These funds can be used by the departments in areas where they see the greatest need, whether it be people, equipment/vehicles or debt service. Our fire departments are working diligently to save our citizens money by lowering their ISO rating, which most often means lower homeowners' insurance for those within their 5-mile district. It is the County's goal that these funds can help them obtain or maintain their lower ISO ratings.

Yadkin County is blessed with a great school system. The remaining 20% will be set aside for the Yadkin County Public School System's capital needs. The County provides capital outlay through the budget process for the Schools, but often during the year there are emergency things that pop up like a roof needs replacing or an activity bus needs replacing. Rather than appropriating fund balance to pay for these unexpected expenses, funds will be set-aside in reserves for them.

The Yadkin County Board of Commissioners has been diligent about protecting the financial position of the County and to control budgets over the last 10 years. The Board has lowered the property tax rate twice and maintained the 66 cents tax rate since 2014. The Commissioners believe this sales and use tax is the fairest way to continue to provide beneficial public safety services to everyone who lives in and visits our county.

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