

MEMORANDUM FOR: BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SUBJECT: APRIL REPORT
MEMORANDUM FROM: WALTER ECCARD

During the month of April I worked on the following matters.

1. Met with County officials to discuss fire fee. Shallotte requested an increase of 10% to our maximum fire fee. That will net approximately \$130,000 and leave us with a deficit of approximately \$900,000 which is covered by Shallotte property taxes. During the meeting Chief Dunwell and I were informed that for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2026, the County will propose substituting a fire tax for the fire fee. Under this approach the fire fee would be eliminated and replaced with an increase in property taxes. The initial amount of property tax increase is 7 cents. County-wide that would produce the same amount of revenue as the fire fee. Many questions need to be resolved including:
 - A. How would the money be allocated? This is significant since if moneys were distributed by fire district, Shallotte would face a reduction in fire income of approximately \$400,000;
 - B. How will the process take place? I requested a transparent process with municipalities included; and
 - C. What tax increase would be needed to address the current deficit municipalities such as Shallotte currently face.
2. I worked with staff and in consultation with NCLM to address the various bills that are being considered in Raleigh that would take powers (especially land use matters) from municipalities. Tonight we will consider a resolution to oppose HB 765.