Saluda County has been busy in the past few weeks with many projects taking place.

Here are a few updates as of **June 15, 2023**…

***Commerce Park:***

The timber at the Commerce Park located on the Columbia Hwy / Hwy 378 across from the Saluda Body Shop & Salvage had matured and was harvested in preparations for future development. The County will also be harvesting and thinning timber at properties on the Batesburg and Greenwood Highways / Hwy 178 in the future.

***Short-Term Animal Shelter:***

Bids for the construction of the short-term animal shelter which will be located near the Saluda County Elections & Voter Registration office on Hwy 178 have been awarded.  "Short-term" does not mean that the department will only be used for a little while, it means that the "residents" will only be housed there until they are picked up by their owners or transported to the Edgefield County Animal Care and Control Facility.  The Saluda County Sherriff's Office Animal Control Division will be implemented in the near future as well.

***Saluda County Library:***

The County Library will be moving to the old Long's Drugs building at 307 West Butler Avenue. The County Finance Specialist is currently waiting on the adjusted plans to come back and be approved before construction/remodeling can begin.

***Saluda County Recreation Department:***

The Saluda County has recently acquired approximately 12 acres of land off of Wheeler Circle and Webb Road from the Saluda Jaycees for future expansion of recreational facilities. This conveyance was accepted by Saluda County on behalf of the Recreation Department for recreational purposes only.

***Saluda County Detention Center:***

Bids are out currently to construct a building for the coroner to relocate services in anticipation of the new Detention Center. Plans to bid the Detention Center project will be issued around the end of the year.

***Public Safety Referendum:***

The Council finds that it may be in the best interest of the County and its citizens to provide funds for the construction of a public safety facility to house County emergency medical services, fire protection services, and an expansion of the Saluda County Sheriff’s office. In addition, the County is preparing to construct a new detention center and may require funds in addition to those available to the County from other sources. The cost of the Project, which is estimated to be $7,500,000, must be funded with the proceeds of general obligation bonds of the County.

* We have a plan to build an EMS Headquarters which is currently located in the basement of the Nursing Center. This Headquarters will also be able to house space for Fire Service and a Fire Truck.
* An Expansion has been requested by the Sheriff’s Department to accommodate investigations, filing space, and training. Some of those areas have been housed in a mobile home space that has passed its temporary use and was vacated.
* The Estimated cost of the Detention Center will be mainly funded through the Capital Project Sales Tax previously voted on by the public in 2018. The cost may run more than originally planned at an estimated $200,000.

The following is how the referendum will appear on the August 8th ballot:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT, REFERENDUM
$7,500,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS
OF SALUDA COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA
August 8, 2023**

**Question**

1.      Shall the County Council of Saluda County be empowered to issue and sell, either as a single issue or as several issues, general obligation bonds of Saluda County, South Carolina in the principal amount of **not exceeding** **$7,500,000**, the proceeds of which shall be applied to defray the costs of designing, constructing, equipping and furnishing of (i) facilities to house County emergency medical services, fire protection services, (ii) an expansion of the Saluda County Sheriff’s office, and (iii) a new County jail, along with all associated costs and costs of issuance?

**If the voter wishes to vote in favor of the question, select “Yes, In Favor of the Question”; If the voter wishes to vote against the question, select “No, Opposed to the Question.”**

**□ Yes, In Favor of the Question**

**□ No, Opposed to the Question**