

## **Week of May 23, 2011:**

- Once again, this week has been dominated by work on the budget. After two county budget work sessions and one jail budget work session, staff now has enough information to prepare a budget for presentation to the Board on June 6<sup>th</sup>. That presentation will officially start the budget process. After the budget is presented to the Board, the budget will be available to the public and a budget hearing will be scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>. The budget must be adopted by June 30<sup>th</sup>. We are still waiting for some critical information from the State. The Senate budget has reinstated the Public School Building Capital Fund in the amount of \$72 million which would mean approximately \$400,000 for Pasquotank County. We are also still waiting to see what the final resolution will be for lottery funds and the possible housing of all misdemeanants in county jails. These items will have a bearing on the final tax rate for Pasquotank County.
- Rodney and I attended County Assembly Day in Raleigh on Wednesday. We received updates on the state budget and numerous pieces of legislation that affect counties. 22% of the bills that have been filed this year have some impact on county governments. Speaker Thom Tillis spoke to the group in the morning and we all adjourned to the General Assembly after lunch to meet with our legislators. We were able to meet with Senator White but Representative Owens was in session until 5:00 pm so we were not able to meet with him in person. County governments will need to remain active during this session of the General Assembly due to the numerous bills that can have detrimental effects on county governments.
- A long-time friend of Pasquotank County, Elizabeth City and the State of North Carolina, Melvin Daniels passed away this week. Mr. Daniels was our State Senator when I first began working in county government and became Mayor of Elizabeth City shortly after I came to work in Pasquotank County. He was a great public servant and his leadership will be greatly missed.
- Hugh Tarkenton informed me that all of the volunteer fire departments have been approved for their grants. The amounts are as follows:  
  
Nixonton - \$ 7,461.49  
Weeksville - \$ 6,578.38  
Providence - \$16,702.50  
Newland - \$12,712.85
- I had an inquiry from one of the groups that uses the Old Middle School for feeding the homeless to access some additional rooms for storing clothing and other items that they distribute to persons in need. An adjoining room was available and Mike Etheridge was able to obtain an inmate crew to clean out the room, scrape up the floor tile and scrape off loose paint on the walls. The Maintenance Department moved one of the locks to the other side of the room so the rest of the building is not accessible. The additional room greatly increased the space for these volunteer groups. If you have not been over there in the afternoons, you really should stop by sometime and see the work that these various church groups are doing. They are really making a difference in the community and individual lives.
- Most County offices will be closed on Monday for the Memorial Day Holiday. The City of Elizabeth City has invited us to attend a Memorial Day Observance at 9:00 am on Monday at Mariners' Wharf Park.

## **The following are reports from some of our other departments:**

### **Clerk to the Board:**

We had a very successful blood drive Wednesday with a total of 40 pints of blood donated, four more than our goal of 36! Of those donors 30 were county employees. There was also good

participation by the DA's Office and Probation/Parole. We learned about 15 minutes before the blood drive began that due to an oversight, the Red Cross had not scheduled volunteers to work at the registration desk and the canteen, so several county employees graciously agreed to take shifts during the six hours. These included Jennifer Stallings, Clementine White, Penny Newbern, Brenda McCloud, Joy Pritchard, Melissa Joines, Shelley Cox, Jackie Davenport, and Lynn Scott. We really appreciated their help. The Red Cross was very pleased with our blood drive and I would like to thank everyone again who gave blood. Our next blood drive will be held in October.

### **Water Department:**

- The fence is being installed at the RO Plant
- The asphalt has been laid at the RO Plant
- Testing of pipes and circuits are being tested at the RO Plant
- AC Schultes is working on the well houses and hooking them up at the Foreman-Bundy and Pike sites



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