

Week of December 4, 2010:

- I participated in a conference call with the 911 Study Group on Monday. There has been some pushback from the 911 Board regarding our draft report on the definition of the 911 System and the expanded uses of funds. Our Study Group wants to include the radio base stations, towers, and microwave links in the system. A number of members on the 911 Board are opposed to any inclusion of radios or towers in the use of funds. We are still trying to reach a compromise with the 911 Board. Another option would be for us to submit our recommendation to the 911 Board as originally drafted and present that directly to the Legislative Study Committee that is beginning to meet on this issue.
- I attended the Committee of 100 luncheon at The Pines on Wednesday. Ray Meiggs, Executive Director of Arts of the Albemarle, was the speaker.
- I participated in another conference call regarding the 911 Study Group with staff from the NCACC and the members of the Study Group that are representing the NCACC. We discussed strategy for accomplishing the goals of the Association and talked about the legislative process for having a bill introduced this year.
- We had a department head meeting this week. One of the main topics of discussion was retiree health benefits and the various options that are being considered. I shared survey results with them that I have obtained from the annual School of Government benefits survey. I also updated the department heads on this year's budget and we discussed the upcoming budget as well.
- County Managers from 10 counties were here on Friday to interview 2 firms that provide child support enforcement services in North Carolina and other states. The two firms, YoungWilliams and PSI both gave presentations on their experience and capabilities and answered questions. DSS Directors from most of the counties were also present for the interviews. After checking references, we will be making a recommendation about which firm to go with if the private option is our best option. We are still comparing the private contractor option vs. the county department option.
- Attached is the latest land transfer tax report. Collections slipped in December and we are currently at 46% of our budget. We should be at 50%.
- Also attached is the latest Occupancy Tax report. Collections are running 11.6% behind the same period in 2008.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:

Attached is a picture of the new brush truck for Newland Fire Department. The unit on the back was received from the grant in 2008. The truck was purchased from RO Givens. They have rebuilt the motor, repainted it, took the old bed off and replaced it with a flatbed and done extensive rewiring. All the purchases of the truck, and to rework the truck came out of their own money they received from contributions and fund raisers. They are still completing the final work on it. They are waiting for the proper tires and rims to arrive and to have the truck lettered with Newland Fire Dept.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS:

The Board of Elections members adopted a resolution to move the polling place location for Providence Precinct from Northside Elementary School to Pasquotank County High School. The US Department of Justice has given pre-clearance for the move and notices have been mailed to all qualified registered voters announcing the change, which is effective immediately. This change was necessary due to the limited parking at Northside Elementary and the inability to isolate the young students from the voting populous. The new polling location will be in the gymnasium of the high school and will afford ample parking for voters. Since the gym has a separate entrance, students will not have to come into contact with the voters on Election Day.

Emergency Management

Monday and Tuesday Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management sponsored Incident Command-300 training at ECSU. There were 27 students in attendance. While the class was scheduled primarily for ECSU staff, students from Elizabeth City Police, NC Park Service, Camden Planning, and EMS were also in attendance. David LaFon, NC Forest Service was the Instructor for the class.

Tuesday I attended a meeting in Raleigh of the Design Committee for the 2010 NC Statewide Hurricane Exercise being held May 4-5. I have been asked to serve on this committee as representative for the Eastern Branch counties.

Thursday night was the first night of CERT class. Twenty eight citizens were in attendance for this first session of the 21 hour Community Emergency Response Team training. The class is made up from citizens with varying backgrounds and experience that are willing to receive training and be able to volunteer in various areas that will greatly enhance our emergency response and recovery capabilities. The class concludes with a full-scale exercise on January 31st where the students demonstrate the skills they have learned during the class.

We recently received the announcement that Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management has received an Urban Search and Rescue Equipment, Training and Exercise Grant through the FY 2009 Homeland Security Grant Program. These grant funds will be utilized to support the development of a Swiftwater/Flood Rescue Team within our region and is in the amount of \$150,000.

Cooperative Extension:

Agriculture

2 pesticide recertification classes were offered for 25 different clients. These were for Commercial applicators and private pesticide licenses.

Assessments were done on cabbage fields for remaining acreage. Damages were about 20%. Also calls were received on moles, voles, organic transplants and tunnel greenhouse preparation.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Parenting classes were done for 5 individuals and Medicare D for 5 different seniors. 2 different sessions were held at nutrition sites.

ECA County Council met for a board meeting.

12 Head start participants learned about choosing more fruits and vegetables and 20 Albemarle Health learned to shop for value and nutrition facts.

EFNEP classes were offered at Weeksville and Sheep Harney Elem. Schools.

4-H and Youth

The 4-H Youth Council met with 6 members attending. Also, the Horse Club will meet tonight in Newland with anticipation of 25 members.

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