

## **Week of February 8, 2010:**

- We had our annual department head budget meeting on Tuesday. I reviewed the information on the status of the budget that I shared with the Board at the retreat. I also had a power point presentation on the retirement system increases that was presented at the managers' conference. Letters to the other agencies that receive funding from the County were also mailed out this week.
- I participated in a conference call with Association staff and other county members on the 911 Study Group about a legislative committee meeting that will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Association has asked me and two other county representative to attend the legislative committee meeting and make a presentation on the need for expanded uses of the 911 funds. I will have to travel to Raleigh on the night of the 22<sup>nd</sup> for the early morning meeting.
- Mike Etheridge and I met with representatives from Waste Industries on Thursday to discuss the amount of waste that they are hauling from Pasquotank County to landfills outside of Pasquotank County. We discussed the County's ability to impose flow control ordinances and ways to negotiate a volume discount similar to the contract that we recently approved for Waste Management. They are going to review the information and meet with us again.
- I met with representatives from YoungWilliams on Thursday to discuss the private contractor option again for child support enforcement. They are revising their numbers due to the different configurations of the regional offices and will be submitting new information to us today.
- Attached is the latest sales tax report. Our overall totals are 4% below budget which equates to a \$280,000 deficit if that trend continues. I am encouraged by the fact that the amount of Articles 39, 40 & 42 sales taxes are up for the last 2 months compared to last year.
- I am pleased to report that we have finished our United Way Campaign with a 6% increase over last year. This year's total was \$8,884. Thanks to everyone who donated to the United Way.
- Sheri and I have been monitoring our tax collection % at the end of January compared to previous years. This year, we have collected 90% of our tax levy. Last year, we had collected 92.3% at the end of January. In 2006, we were at 94% during the same period. The Tax Office has reported that they are seeing an increase in bankruptcy filings, especially on some large accounts. Although we will eventually collect most of these funds, it will take longer and could reduce our collection % at the end of the fiscal year.
- More news on the tax side shows that we have experienced a decrease in motor vehicle valuations for the last two years. Traditionally, motor vehicle values have increased each year as people traded in older vehicles for new vehicles and more people bought vehicles. Our motor vehicle value was \$238.5 million in 2004. The value rose steadily to \$290.1 million by 2007. In 2008 the value dropped to \$283.9 million and in 2009, the value dropped again to \$267.7 million. This is another indicator of a slow down in the economy especially in new car sales.
- I am on my way to Raleigh today to meet with Leza Wainwright about the Mental Health transition. Bobby Outten and David Peoples will also be at the meeting. We will be discussing the debts that are still owed to the State by Albemarle Mental Health and how we can negotiate that with the State.

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

### **Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:**

This month is usually pretty busy since it's the beginning of a new year. All departments must review the past years training records to make sure all volunteers got the required training. Then

the certification rosters must be mailed out to the state. Some personnel may come up short and those members will have to be removed from rosters and insurance coverage. The final fire reports for the 2009 year are also submitted at this time to the state for each department. These become permanent record documenting the number of incidents each department responded to during the year. There were a few issues with proper documentation of the 2009 grant paperwork and those had to be resolved before state grant checks could be released.

During January we lost one of the past Chiefs of Providence Fire Department and County Commissioner. Jimmie was one of the founding members of the Providence Fire Department and was liaison to the fire departments for the County Commissioners. Jimmie will be remembered as a very important part of the volunteer fire departments for Pasquotank County.

I met with both Nixonton and Providence Fire Departments at their regular business meetings. I responded with Providence Fire Department to a daytime trailer fire during the month. All volunteer departments are suffering from low manpower during the day since most members are working. I assisted Newland in applying for a Federal Wildlife grant.

There is a change being made in the response district for Weeksville. The new Aviation Park on Consolidated Road will become part of the city's fire response area and be removed from Weeksville's. That official change will now go before the City and County Boards for approval.

All of the fire chiefs met in January to begin plans for more certified training for their department members. The additional training will benefit each department's training hours and will also provide members with standardized state training.

Here is a list of the incidents the departments responded to and the training hours for the month of January.

Nixonton:

- 1 Medical assist
- 1 Tractor fire
- 1 Public service assist
- 11 man hours on incidents
- 80 man hours on training

Weeksville:

- 1 Vehicle accident
- 3 EMS assists
- 1 Smoke scare
- 36 man hours on incidents
- 204 man hours on training

Providence:

- 2 Vehicle accidents
- 4 Vehicle accidents with injuries
- 1 Gas leak
- 1 Controlled burn
- 1 Call cancelled enroute
- 1 Electrical problem
- 1 Mobile home fire
- 1 Brush fire
- 1 Structure fire
- 1 Alarm malfunction
- 1 Unauthorized burning
- 2 False alarms unintentional
- 234 man hours on incidents
- 172 man hours on training

Newland:

- 2 Calls cancelled enroute
- 1 Vehicle accident with injuries
- 1 Mobile home fire

1 EMS assist  
 2 Vegetation fires  
 49 man hours on incidents  
 244 man hours on training

**Social Services:**

Income Maintenance Statistics  
 Report Month: December, 2009

Program	Applications Taken	Applications Processed	Reviews	Terminations/ Changes	Total Caseload
Adult Medicaid	90	67	86	185	2313*
Family & Children's Medicaid	304	353	238	577	3773
Food & Nutrition Services	327	316	299	562	2908
Work First Family Assistance	31	45	11	51	159

\*Includes 1092 SSI

cases

In a reverse from last month, all programs except Work First had an increased number of applications in December 2009. Caseloads in Work First & Adult Medicaid decreased very slightly while Food & Nutrition Services & Family Medicaid increased.

Due to new requirements to verify Citizenship for NC Health Choice children, a new match procedure began effective January 1. This new match allows us to send information to SSA & if our information matches theirs, citizenship is confirmed & no other verification is required for Citizenship. This process seems to be working well; however, the report is cumulative & is quickly becoming cumbersome as the number of individuals submitted for verification increases. Individuals will not "drop off" of the report until their application is processed.

Effective January 1, 2010 an application submitted to SSA for assistance with their Medicare Part C premium can also be an application for Medicaid. If a client chooses to apply for Medicaid & Part D assistance simultaneously, the state will automatically enter a new application for the person. Initial information will be limited to what was provided to SSA which means our staff will have to spend additional time gathering information necessary to determine eligibility. We anticipate this will increase the number of applications for Adult Medicaid. Jo Ellen Smith (Adult Medicaid Lead Worker) retired January 31—she and her knowledge are missed!

Interpreter Contacts: 25 Total  
 Spanish 23  
 Vietnamese 1  
 Other 1

**Board of Elections:**

Candidate filing continues through 12:00 noon, February 26, 2010. We have had a very active week. So far, each available seat has had at least one candidate to file.

**Emergency Medical Service:**

Walter Meads, Jennifer Harris and Jerry Newell attended the North Carolina Association of EMS Administrators Conference which was held in Wilmington Wednesday through Friday of this week. Administrative staff gather at this annual conference to receive the most up to date information from the Office of Emergency Medical Services as well as training on various topics in EMS ranging from operations to billing. This conference always helps us get one step ahead of the game when it comes to preparing our system for future changes and requirements from the Office of EMS and insurance companies like Medicare and Medicaid.

EMS went to Blackwell Preschool on Monday and Tuesday of this week to show the preschoolers an ambulance and talk a little bit about what we do and how we do it. About 80 children toured an ambulance and were shown some of the equipment that we use on a daily basis.

### **Emergency Management:**

Monday Rebecca and I made an onsite visit at Camden United Methodist Church and met with members of their Disaster Response Team to determine how to best utilize their facilities following a disaster. We will be continuing our preparedness efforts with this team to further develop plans.

Tuesday I spent the day in Raleigh working on the Master Scenario Events List for the statewide Hurricane Exercise. A lot of effort is being spent to build an exercise that will test the capabilities of our local and state agencies to be able to respond to a Category 3 Hurricane.

Wednesday morning I had a lengthy conference call with FEMA concerning the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) program. (IPAWS) is the nation's next-generation infrastructure of alert and warning networks and expands upon the traditional audio-only radio and television Emergency Alert System (EAS). It will provide federal, state, and local alert and warning authorities integrated services and capabilities enabling them to alert and warn their respective communities, via multiple communications pathways for all hazards impacting public safety and well-being. We spent the majority of the call talking about our local capabilities and needs.

Wednesday afternoon we participated in a City Readiness Initiative (CRI) conference call with local Public Health, Virginia Public Health, OEMS and other Emergency Managers. Eastern Regional Advisory Committee (ERAC) has provided a grant for CRI and it will be used to coordinate planning and increase the understanding of the responsibilities of NC and VA agencies.

Thursday I meet with Mr. Linwood Williams and Susie Elswick-Morgan. We reviewed the Critical Incident Response Plan for the ECPPS district, discussed training and an after-action review of the bus accident. This was a rescheduled meeting; it had been previously scheduled for the day after the bus accident.

After two cancellations due to weather we are (at least I hope so) moving forward on Sunday with the CERT Exercise. This is the final part of the CERT class and is a culmination of all that has been learned throughout the course with the students demonstrating the skills and knowledge of the CERT organization and operations in a simulated disaster exercise. I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend and support these citizens that have completed over 20 hours of training and will be volunteering in our community during disasters. Many of them will be continuing to train in additional areas to further augment our emergency operations. The exercise will begin around 2:30 pm and continue through 4pm. and due to weather conditions be held at the Public Safety Building.

### **Water Department:**

I'm glad to report the RO well on Foreman-Bundy Road has had its 24 hr. well test and it produced 1200 GPM.

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