

Week of February 1, 2010:

- Weather has been a challenge this past week and looking ahead to the weekend. Staff from the Maintenance Department, Water Department and Solid Waste Department spent much of Monday clearing snow and ice from the front of county buildings and the convenience sites. This weekend could bring more snow, rain, and wind to an already saturated ground. We are under a wind advisory for this weekend as well as a flood watch.
- I was out of town on Wednesday and Thursday this week at the City and County Managers Conference in Durham. Governor Perdue gave the keynote address on Wednesday. We also had a retirement system update from the Director of the Retirement System about the increases in the employer % for the upcoming year. He also informed us that additional increases are planned for the next several years. The rate will increase from the upcoming rate of 6.35% to 7.55% in 2011 and continue increasing after that to 9.12% in 2015 before coming back down. The local government retirement system lost \$5 billion during 2008 or 20% of its value. The incremental increases are designed to gradually recoup those losses without drastic increases in one year.
- I also attended a session on the upcoming ethics training that will be required for all Board members. The School of Government is developing a model code of ethics and will be offering ethics training opportunities around the state before the deadline of January 1, 2011.
- Lastly, I attended a session on Health Care Reform and the potential impact on counties if either one of the current drafts are adopted. Two town managers also gave presentations on methods that they have used to reduce their employees' health insurance costs. I will be discussing this information with our health insurance committee.
- Attached is the latest land transfer tax report. January was a big improvement over last year, but we are still not where we need to be with regard to the budgeted amount. We are approximately 7% below the budgeted amount at this time of the year.
- I have been in contact with YoungWilliams today regarding the child support enforcement program. I explained the difference in cost to contract with a private provider vs. the in-house cost. I also sent them all of the information that we have received so that they could see our numbers and comment on them. They have asked to meet with me next week to discuss this further.
- Steve Harris came by this morning to talk about the Soil and Water Technician position. I gave him the information on the sale of the truck to Camden County. The Soil Conservation Supervisors are working on a proposal to hire a part-time technician. They will be submitting the proposal to me in the near future.
- The Water Department reported today that the 24 hour pump test was completed on the Pike well and it flowed 1200 gallons per minute. We have planned for 950 gallons per minute.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Finance Office

- The County received \$21,449.17 from the N.C. Department of Revenue from the debt setoff program. Of this amount, \$5,990 is for EMS bills. Most of the rest of the money was for motor vehicle taxes, some of which were 10 years old. These accounts would be almost impossible to collect without the debt setoff program. During January \$2,260 was collected through garnishments for EMS accounts receivable.

Register of Deeds:

Our scanning and indexes of old records continues on. We are now scanning in the year 1956 and indexing in the 1960's. This is being done because the State Office of Vital Records is working on a program that will allow citizens to access their birth record in another county instead of exclusively in the one they were born in.

I attended a District VIII meeting in Williamston yesterday, February 3rd. Our guest was Davis Brinson, President of the NC Association of Registers of Deeds. He reported on various committees within in the Association and the progress they are making on various issues affecting our offices. Our minimum indexing standards guideline book has decreased from 50 pages to 17 because of the many changes to be implemented soon. We also heard of how one company, Genesis allows people to use credit or atm cards to obtain their birth certificates from a particular ROD's. They charge an additional \$8.00 for the handling of the card transaction and then forward \$10.00 to the Register of Deeds office for actual certificate.

Charlie Roederer, of Courthouse Computer Systems visited our office this week and gave a demonstration on the Indexing and POS software program his company offers. I will be going to Camden Register of Deeds next week to see a demonstration of the Cott Indexing System and to Perquimans later this month to observe Eagle's new package.

Central Communications:

Telecommunicators were placed on recall last Thursday due to the approaching inclement weather. Staff remained at the Public Safety building on Friday and Saturday night because of the road conditions. It was a slow weekend because people heeded the requests to stay off the roads unless absolutely necessary.

Central went "live" with the NCAWARE program on Wednesday. This program that every County in the State will have by the end of 2010 will assist law enforcement in regards to warrant information.

Emergency Medical Service

- Groundhog Shadow Day was on Thursday. We had over a dozen classes of 8th graders come through our building to listen to and look at information on EMS careers and operations.
- We are progressing towards testing of the new VHF communications system for Fire and EMS. Phase I frequencies have been released for testing and we will begin programming portable radios in order to begin testing of the new frequencies and repeaters.
- Four EMS staff members attended a Stryker stretcher training class on Wednesday. Stryker representative Chris Coleman walked us through many features and maintenance secrets of the Power Pro stretchers. We hope that the training that we received on Wednesday will better prepare us to fix any minor problems in-house.
- We were very busy last weekend in the snow. At one point Saturday Morning, all crews were busy on emergency calls. Hats off to all staff members who braved the weather to provide EMS care to our residents. Some technicians even came in early or came to town the day before to make sure they could be here.
- Jerry and Walter attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) on Thursday.

Emergency Management

Wednesday I attended a workshop in Kinston where Eastern Branch counties came together to work on "injects" for the May 4th and 5th statewide Hurricane Exercise. The design team will be taking these county injects (which are based on each county's objectives) and incorporate these into the Master Scenario Events List (MSEL) document during the state's workshop in Raleigh on February 9th. Doug Haas (Area 4 Coordinator) and I serve on the State Design Team and are representing the Eastern Branch.

Thursday morning I met with Jim Brincefield and Camden Commissioner Michael McLain. Jim is a member of a newly formed Disaster Response Team at the Camden United Methodist Church. The church has recently completed their new Fellowship Hall facility which has resources that will greatly benefit the community during times of disasters. We discussed the many ways the use of this facility could be utilized including, feeding operations, points of distribution, reunification sites, housing for relief workers, etc. Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management will be working with the Church Disaster Response Team to develop plans for this much needed resource.

Thursday afternoon we attended our Pasquotank-Camden LEPC meeting. Items discussed included past hazardous materials calls, newly received equipment/grants and planned hazardous materials training. The main focus of the meeting was on the upcoming LEPC exercise scheduled for May. This exercise is being funded through a grant and will be a multi-agency, full-scale exercise including many of our local emergency agencies, state agencies and the USCG Support Center Elizabeth City.

A Public Hearing will be held on Monday, February 15, 2010 at the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners meeting to accept comment on the final draft of the Pasquotank County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Copies are available for public viewing at the Pasquotank-Camden Library, Pasquotank-Camden Emergency Management Office and online at www.co.pasquotank.nc.us

Cooperative Extension:

Agriculture

38 attended the annual awards program.

38 also received pesticide credits for commercial and X/V

A \$500 grant was secured for weather stations in Pasquotank County

4-H Livestock judging was held for 10 youth.

Family and consumer sciences

5 medicare part D sessions were offered for seniors

18 attended a Steps to better health session

3 Extension and Community Association scholarship were awarded

18 attended a Steps to Health at Harriot Heights

4-H and Youth

Home school session was held for 23 youth

6 attended the 4-H youth council meeting

17 participated in the science Fair at Sheep Harney Elementary.

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