

Week of February 16, 2009:

- I attended the breakfast with Senator Burr on Wednesday and a later meeting with him and officials from Camden, Currituck, Pasquotank, and Gates counties to discuss the OLF. Senator Burr was very emphatic that an OLF will not go in a county if it is not welcomed by the county.
- I met with representatives from BB&T on Wednesday to discuss possible savings for our health insurance program. They were able to save a substantial amount of money for Carteret County. After discussing our current program and the amount that we pay per employee, they stated that they could not offer a lower cost for health insurance. They agreed that our program was working well.
- I met with Sandra Jordan and Dick Oliver from Albemarle Mental Health on Thursday. They came to update me on their activities and to discuss lease space. They are trying to reduce their rental space and consolidate their offices at Edgewood Center which is owned by the County.
- We had a department head meeting on Thursday to update everyone on the budget situation especially the revenue projections. I asked each department to identify additional cuts for the remainder of this fiscal year before Monday's meeting. There were a number of good ideas that were discussed for saving money and sharing duties between departments.
- John Gregory, Sheri Small, Ed Lawler and I participated in a webinar (web-based seminar) that was hosted by the State to discuss the stimulus package and the procedures for applying for drinking water funding. We did learn today that there will be a \$3m cap on funding for each applicant. 50% of the money will be distributed as grants. Ed suggested that we submit the 24" finish water line as a project since it is approximately \$3.5m and we have all the permits for that project. It is ready to go out for bids and would seem to be the perfect fit. The initial application has to be in by February 27th and the final application by March 31st. There is only \$67m available for the whole state for drinking water projects.
- We received a letter this week from the Local Government Commission regarding our financial statements and our low fund balance. We knew that we would receive this letter since our fund balance dropped to 5% for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. I have drafted a response letter for the Board to review before it is signed and sent by the Chairman. The good news is that the steps that were taken by the Board during the preparation of the 2008-09 budget along with the sale of the Nags Head property will restore our fund balance to an acceptable level. Sheri is also working to transfer items out of the General Fund that inflate the budget and cause our required fund balance to be higher than necessary.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Clerk to the Board:

We have received the results of the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program for the month of January. A total of 276 individuals saved an average of \$11.04 per prescription on 1,063 prescriptions for a total savings of \$11,739.13, or 24.50% off the retail price. Since we began participating in the Prescription Discount Card Program, Pasquotank County residents who have used the card have saved \$68,562.55 on their prescriptions.

Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:

Attached are pictures of the Weeksville mini-pumper during construction. The chassis is built but we do not have a shipment date yet.

Cooperative Extension:

AGRICULTURE

Recommendations for ground cover was made for the proposed 15 acre solar farm

A fire ant lecture was given to faculty and graduate students at Elizabeth City State University

2 Master Gardener Volunteer training were held on small fruits and herbs, vegetables and flowers

Answered numerous questions on lawn care

Helped one grower complete application to become a certified organic grower

Recruited growers to attend the upcoming marketing and productions meetings

61 participants attended the area beef cattle conference where there was a local animal science professor and veterinarian on hand to discuss ways to reduce costs

14 youth attended livestock judging practice in preparation for upcoming livestock events

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

4 EFNEP home visits were made where individuals were taught about: Making Smart Drink Choices, Choosing More Fruits and Vegetables, and Shop: Get the Best for Less

9 participants from Mt. Carmel were introduced to EFNEP with "Fix it Safe"

EFNEP helped 4 participants from Pasquotank DSS and 5 from Camden WIC

6 Providence ECA met

10 Pasquotank ECA held their scholarship meeting

21 from Virginia Dare and 23 from Harriot Heights enjoyed the Steps to Health program

4 home visits, 3 duration calls and 3 following up calls were made to breastfeeding moms

Enrolled new mom in the breastfeeding support group

4-H

Embryology was held for 80 students at Pasquotank Elementary

Kids in the Garden was held at Sheep Harney for 40 students

OTHER

Attended the State of Northeast Conference in Williamston

Stated securing animals for the 2009 Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale

Contact was made to potential donors for the 2009 Albemarle 4-H Livestock Show and Sale

Interviews were held for mentors for the Governor's One-on-One Program

Spoke to 42 people at Elizabeth City State University about the community service opportunities and the Governors One-on-One Program.

Albemarle District Jail:

Attached are some pictures of the generator building construction that has already begun.

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