

Week of February 22, 2010:

- I was in Raleigh all day on Tuesday for a presentation to the House Select Committee on the use of 911 Funds. Jim Blackburn with the Association introduced Lee Worsley, Catawba County Assistant County Manager, Christy Shearin, Franklin County 911 Director and me to the Committee. The three of us gave power point presentations about the need for expanded uses of the funds and the redefinition of the 911 system. Richard Taylor from the 911 Board also spoke about action that the 911 Board took last Friday to lower the fee from \$.70 to \$.60 along with recommended changes to the law which would give limited expansion of the uses of the funds. There is currently \$92 million in fund balances across the state due to the limited uses of the funds. A lobbyist from the telephone companies spoke against the proposed changes. Due to time limitations, all of the presenters were not able to speak so there will be another meeting in March. I plan to attend that meeting also. Our 911 Study Group will also be meeting in late March to finish writing the 911 plan.
- Bill Trueblood and I met with representatives from the Red Cross on Wednesday. They are seeking assistance from the County for the upcoming fiscal year. The Red Cross is an important partner with the County during disasters such as hurricanes due to their role in managing the emergency shelters. A lesser known service that they offer is assistance to families that have suffered house fires. They spent \$6,785 on 15 events in Pasquotank County during 2009. They have already spent \$2,640 on 2 fires during 2010. In lieu of cash assistance, I suggested that the County may be able to offer in-kind assistance through the use of office space at Edgewood Center. Gus Smith had previously asked for office space when he was the executive director. We did not have space at that time, but we do have some vacant space at the former Mental Health offices now. I will be meeting with Carolyn Self on Monday to look at some potential space.
- I attended the joint meeting with Currituck and Camden on Wednesday to hear additional information about the anti-OLF efforts.
- I attended a meeting with Christy Saunders and representatives from the State Emergency Management Office on Thursday. We are being moved into Area 1 which will combine all of the surrounding counties into the same region. We were previously in Area 2.
- I attended the annual meeting of our Solid Waste employees. Mike and Janice use this meeting to update the employees on new policies, training, and safety. Almost all of the employees were in attendance.
- Rodney and I met with Pat McDowell, Don Bunch, Phil Donahue and Ray Owings today to review two different sketch plans for the development of the Vicki Villa property for the Dental School Clinic. We will present the two options at the Finance Committee meeting on Monday.
- Attached is the land transfer tax report for February. We had another positive month compared to last year. Year to date however, we are still 8% below budget.
- Attached is the latest Occupancy Tax report. January was extremely low compared to last year. Year to date revenue is down 11.9%.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Clerk to the Board:

We have the January results for the NACo Prescription Drug Discount Card Program. During the month of January, 234 residents who used the discount card saved a total of \$11,794.25 on 1108 prescriptions. This was an average savings of 24.25% off the retail price. The cards may be used by all county residents, regardless of age, income, or existing health coverage. Cardholders and their family members may use the card any time their prescriptions are not covered by insurance.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Candidate filing ended today at 12:00 noon.

The list of Candidate filings will be posted on our website after the close of filing. The Board of Education seats will not appear on the Primary Ballot but will be placed on the General Election ballot in November.

Emergency Medical Service

- EMS attended the School Bus Crash Hotwash at the Public Safety Building on Wednesday. EMS, fire, law enforcement, central communications as well as local school officials were present to go over lessons learned from the event as well as to discuss what went well. A lot was gained by each organization from the actual school bus crash as well as the after action “hotwash” on Wednesday.
- The H1N1 debriefing was also on Wednesday at Albemarle Regional Health Services. Many area EMS organizations and public health officials were there to talk about how the H1N1 Influenza response went.
- We have received new equipment that will allow us to be compliant with new state EMS guidelines effective April 1, 2010. Some of the equipment includes:
 - Sternal intraosseous deployment devices – these units will allow technicians to gain IV access through the sternum (chest) for those adult patients who have no IV access elsewhere. I’ll be demonstrating this unit at the next EMS Board Meeting.
 - Endotracheal tube introducers (better known in the EMS field as the “Bougie.”) This unit will better assist us in obtaining a secure airway on the first attempt. We will be able to slip the endotracheal tube over the “Bougie” and have correct insertion the first time, every time. This will allow us to secure and advanced airway on patients much more quickly and efficiently.

Emergency Management

Monday I attended a meeting in Williamston of the NENC Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) Advisory Council. After much time and planning we have finalized our Standard Operating Procedures and Responder Manual and the first group of volunteers are attending orientation training today in Edenton.

Tuesday morning we attended a meeting of the Albemarle Health and Safety Coalition Regional Preparedness Committee and reviewed the H1N1 response in various areas including:

- Communication/Updates
- Responder Health and Safety
- Medical Supplies Management & Distribution
- Planning
- Community Preparedness
- Emergency Public Information/Warning

Tuesday afternoon we hosted an After Action Review for the January 26th ECPPS School Bus accident. Agencies involved in the incident discussed Command, Communications, Notifications, Patient Care, Student Care, Manpower, Security and the Media considering the following questions:

- What was supposed to happen?
- What actually happened?
- Why were there differences?

- What worked? What didn't work? Why?
- What would you do differently next time?

Wednesday we met with George Lane, HazMat Manager and Wes Harden, Corporate Safety Officer with Xe. Mr. Harden has replaced Dan Shaver who recently retired and was our liaison in planning and coordination of operations and resources.

NC Emergency Management Deputy Director Mike Sprayberry and Eastern Branch Director Mark Brown visited on Thursday morning. Topics included the realignment of Pasquotank and Camden Counties in the area divisions of the state as well as several other state/county initiatives.

Thursday afternoon we met with Janice Brown to continue work on debris management planning.

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