

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

- Mike Etheridge and I met with the Landfill contractor and subcontractor on Tuesday to review some operational procedures and clarify items that are allowed in the C&D area. The County has banned items from the landfill that are not banned by the State which has caused some confusion for the contractor. Mike provided the contractor with a detailed list of items that are allowed to be disposed of in the C&D area along with examples of what to do when small amounts of banned items are included in a load. Mike and Don Bunch also went over the recently approved sedimentation and erosion control plan with the contractor and obtained prices for installing the erosion control structures.
- We have been receiving budget requests all week. Today is the deadline for outside agencies to submit their budget requests to the County.
- I have been working with the Local Government Commission, USDA, Bank of America, and our Bond Counsel this week to coordinate the closing for the USDA loan that will pay off the construction loan with Bank of America for the jail project. Due to two items that have not yet been completed with regard to the smoke evacuation system, we will not be able to complete all of the inspections by the end of the month. This will delay our loan closing by 30 days. The remaining two items are in the process of being completed which will allow us to receive the Certificate of Occupancy by the first part of April. The Bank is agreeable to extending the construction loan by 30 days and we are working with the LGC for the approval process. I will have the details completed by the meeting on Monday. We are finally at the finish line and are about to step across.
- Attached is the latest sales tax report. This reflects retail sales for December. We are still running 5.4% less than last year for sales tax collections.
- The Library will be closed on March 17, 2010 for the Regional Staff Development Day.

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

### **Register of Deeds:**

I attended the Legislative/Educational Conference for the NC Association of Registers of Deeds March 8-10 in Raleigh. A representative from the State Board of Elections gave a very informative presentation on the requirements and other issues facing someone running for public office. Janet Mason from the School of Government gave us information on marriages. Chuck Szypszak, Institute of Government professor and our consultant for ROD issues attended and gave us all much needed advice and guidance. Also, a representative from State Archives and Vital Records attended and spoke.

State Archives are beginning to hold workshops for ROD's and their staff on preservation of records and other issues facing us everyday in our office. The first one coming up in April, a member of my staff and I will attend.

The Institute of Government in order to help save travel expenses has begun to have internet sessions which our office can do at any time. They will be taught by Chuck Szypszak from IOG and will cover the same material that we usually have to travel to Chapel Hill for. We are all planning on taking advantage of that opportunity. There will be a charge of \$25.00 per class which still equals out to less than if we had to personally attend.

Business continues to be slow in here but we are keeping busy by using this time to input and scan old births and deaths into the computer, so, we will be able to access them easier at a later date when we complete this project.

### **BOARD OF ELECTIONS:**

Ballots for the May 4, 2010, Primary have been approved and ordered. Absentee by-mail begins Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

The registration books close April 9, 2010, at 5 pm., and any changes in political party affiliation must be made by this date.

### **Emergency Medical Service:**

- Glenn Ward, Walter Meads and Jerry Newell were in Atlantic Beach at the end of this week at the North Carolina Child Passenger Safety Conference. It is there that we get our continuing education in order to recertify as National Child Passenger Safety Technicians. One of the classes this year was on airbags. Attached is a short video of an airbag deployment outside of the vehicle. It all happens in a short instance and with a lot of force. It only takes about 50 milliseconds for an airbag to ignite and begin its deployment when your vehicle senses that it has been in a wreck.
- We are now receiving Medicare reimbursement via electronic funds transfer (EFT). We received our first EFT last week.
- Keep an eye out for EMS information in an upcoming issue of The Virginian Pilot. Jeff Hampton came by this week and got some information on some of the new procedures that EMS will be implementing in the near future.
- Assistant Director Walter Meads was recently named to serve on the North Carolina EMS Education Task Force. This committee will have its first meeting Greensboro on Tuesday of next week. The committee will be molding future education, skills and training based on the EMS Agenda for the Future and the EMS Education Agenda for the Future.
- The Communications Committee will be meeting on Wednesday to streamline or new communications Standard Operating Guideline. As completion of Phase I of our new communication project draws near, the SOG will be put into place to make sure that EMS along with City and County Fire Departments operate smoothly together on our new channels.

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

The annual Albemarle Firemen's Association Fire School was held at College of the Albemarle during February. It's usually held on the last weekend in February. This year's school was well attended by over 100 fire fighters from the area.

During February the departments begin looking at their equipment needs for the next year. This month is the time to apply for the North Carolina State Fire Grant. A good portion of the month is used figuring equipment needs, requesting price quotes from equipment suppliers and completing and submitting the grant applications. It will be May before the departments know if they will be receiving grant funding.

While considering grant funding the departments have to consider the new communications plan. They need to make sure they will have enough radios which will be compatible with the new narrow band requirements. Changing to the new plan will take place fairly soon. Hopefully this grant will complete all the necessary purchases for the change.

One other item a couple of the departments are hoping to purchase with the state grant is a brush fire fighting unit that will go in the back of a pickup or small flatbed truck. Departments sometimes have difficulty reaching brush fires. The new trucks need to remain on the roadway and the older smaller trucks are not getting any younger. The departments must plan for the future. Newland is still trying to complete the last couple of items on their brush truck before they begin responding it on incidents.

I met with Inter-County Fire Department at their regular business meeting during the month. I attended the Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting. I received notice from the Department of Insurance that it was time again to inspect all the county departments for their 9E rating. This is an inspection that checks to see if all departments are meeting the very basic

requirements to be a fire department. It is not a rating inspection and will not affect insurance ratings. The inspection will take place in April.

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

**Nixonton:**

2 Calls cancelled enroute  
1 LP gas leak  
1 EMS assist  
8 man hours on incidents  
144 man hours on training

**Weeksville:**

1 LP gas leak  
1 Vehicle accident with injuries  
6 EMS assists  
22 man hours on incidents  
189 man hours on training

**Providence:**

2 Reported gas leaks  
1 Call cancelled enroute  
2 Vehicle fires  
1 Brush fire  
1 Rubbish fire  
1 Utility pole fire  
1 Structure fire  
1 Electrical problem  
62 man hours on incidents  
359 man hours on training

**Newland:**

2 Vehicle accidents  
1 Vehicle accident with injuries  
3 Calls cancelled enroute  
2 EMS assists  
2 Brush fires  
1 Service call  
1 Structure fire  
101 man hours on incidents  
111 man hours on training

**Cooperative Extension:**

**4-H and Youth**

Weeksville and J. C. Sawyer 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes began the 4-H Embryology Program.

A homeschool meeting was held at Corinth Church. This was the last of an 8 week session.

Met with Parks & Rec. Department to discuss collaboration with summer activities for the youth

4-H EFNEP classes were held at Mt. Lebanon Church for 2 groups. They discussed the Grain Lesson.

2 raised garden beds were made as part of the Kids in the Garden Program. These raised beds will be taken to local elementary schools that participate in the program so they can raise fresh vegetables.

## **Agriculture**

A presentation was offered to the public on the Brazil trip that was taken as part of the Agriculture Leadership Program

Answered several questions on varieties of soybeans that are available this growing season

Livestock Judging had 10 to attend a meeting in preparation of a contest to be held in Wilson next week

Extension Master Gardeners met to discuss plans for the next couple of months, including what they can do for the community.

Potato variety trail was planted.

Recommendations were given to a commercial vegetable transplant grower in the county.

## **Family and Consumer Sciences**

It's SIDS Training was held for 32 participants.

Steps to Health was offered at Harriot Heights for 16 participants

2 sessions of parenting matters were held for participants who were court mandated to attend.

Assisted 3 people with Medicare Part D

ECA Achievement Program was held with 28 in attendance. Scholarships were presented to 2 high school and 1 college student.

Attended the District ECA meeting in Plymouth. 26 ECA members from 13 counties attended with 3 being from Pasquotank

3 EFNEP home visits were made

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