

## **Week of May 10, 2010:**

- We had a meeting of the executive committee for our Health Insurance program on Tuesday at the Health Department. The good news is that we will only have a 2% increase in the county's portion of the premiums. The committee also voted not to increase the dependent's portion of the premiums, but changes in the plan design will increase the cost for users. The committee tried to balance the cost between the users and the employers for the health insurance program. Information on the plan changes will be going out to the employees as soon as possible.
- I attended a meeting of the Airport Authority on Wednesday to review the proposed renovations to the Terminal building. The estimated cost for renovations of the bathrooms, replacement of the HVAC system, a new roof and some inside renovations is approximately \$275,000. The funding will come from money that is restricted for airport capital outlay.
- I participated in another conference call for the 911 legislation today. The lobbyist for the telephone industry has proposed some changes in the bill that has been filed to reduce some of the flexibility for use of the 911 funds. They do not agree with the dispatch equipment outside of the four walls of the 911 center being funded with 911 funds. We are still negotiating to keep that flexibility in the bill.
- We received some moderately good news on sales tax this week. Attached is the latest report. I had projected monthly revenue and the actual revenue beat my estimate by \$9,000. Hopefully we are turning the corner on sales tax.
- We have completed the reimbursements on the Courthouse/Old Library renovation project and we have received the excess interest earnings in the amount of \$325,000 from the trustee. This is the pot of money that I had reported to the Board earlier in the year as a way to offset the lower sales tax revenue for the year.

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

### **BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Canvass (certification) of the May Primary was completed on Tuesday, May 11, 2010.

A **Democratic 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary** has been requested for the **US Senate** seat and the election will be held on June 22, 2010. One-Stop voting is scheduled to begin on June 3, 2010 and will continue through June 19<sup>th</sup>. Hours will be 8 am – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the last day, Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

The State of North Carolina holds closed Primaries. This means that voters who are registered with the Democratic Party are eligible to vote in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary. Also, any registered Unaffiliated voters who did not vote in the May Primary, or those who voted in the Democratic Party's May Primary, may vote in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary. Voters registered with the Republican or Libertarian Party may **not** participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Primary.

### **Water Department:**

- The RO Plant floor has been poured and if it passes the testing procedures, they will be standing up red iron next week.
- 2 of the 4 contractors have been approved to start laying pipe again, the third contractor is almost ready and could call for an inspection at any time.
- The 24' pipe is almost finished being installed, but there is a lot of other work to be completed before we can say it is finished.

## **Emergency Management**

Teen CERT training continued this week with JROTC at Northeastern High School on Monday, Thursday and Friday. Students this week were taught Disaster Medical Operations including how to treat life-threatening conditions, how to triage, how to establish medical treatment areas, how to perform head-to-toe patient evaluations and how to treat basic injuries.

Wednesday I provided in service training at Dr. Sue's office on Disaster Preparedness for Doctor's Offices. This was their second in service training. The first training was focused on severe weather mitigation, preparedness, continuity of operations and recovery and this second training was focused on the staff's preparedness/role in a community disaster and their ability to deal with crises outside their usual scope of practice during a disaster.

Saturday, several of the CERT members from our adult team will be assisting EMS at the Potato Festival. They will be walking throughout the venue and be available to visitors that may need minor medical assistance. They will also be distributing information on hurricane preparedness. These are volunteers receiving training to assist us not only during special events, but especially during times of disasters, and their service is greatly appreciated.

## **Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:**

The month of April began with a portable radio from each department being programmed for the new narrowband radio frequencies. Each department was asked to use the portable and do testing in their district with Central. We anticipate the new system of narrowband radios and the multi-tactical channels to be in operation before the year is out.

All of the 9S inspections were completed at each department over a 3 day period and all passed the inspections. The most important reasons these inspections are done is because they are mandated by a general statute and to make sure all paperwork and policies are being done correctly in the event a volunteer firefighter is injured or worse.

I met with both Nixonton and Providence fire departments at their regular monthly meetings. Nixonton continues to host certified firefighter training each month and many volunteers continue to dedicate many hours to become certified. Providence had their breathing air system tested and certified during the month. Newland began responding on fire calls with their recently completed brush truck. You will notice in the incidents for Newland that volunteers spent many hours tending the remnants of the Mt. Carmel Church fire until the investigation was completed. I just wanted to recognize their service.

I continue to work with GIS to make sure all county hydrants are mapped for CAD purposes. If a fire department needs the nearest location for a water source, Central should be able to pass on that information which GIS has put in their cad mapping.

All of the first quarter fire reports for all departments were submitted to the Department of Insurance.

I have begun working on two FEMA grants to hopefully replace the aging fire engines in the county. There are two now over 20 years old and in need of replacement. The problem is the grant funding was cut by one third this year and it will be more competitive.

The biggest news this month is that all the requirements have been met to return Weeksville Fire Department to their original insurance rating. The problem now is waiting for an inspector to come and actually see equipment in place. There are limited inspectors with a full schedule statewide. One will not be able to come by until June.

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

Nixonton:

- 1 Vehicle accident
- 2 Vehicle accidents with injuries
- 1 Call cancelled enroute

1 Structure fire  
40 man hours on incidents  
152 man hours on training

Weeksville:

4 Vehicle accidents  
2 EMS assists  
1 False alarm malfunction  
30 man hours on incidents  
125 man hours on training

Providence:

2 Electrical wiring problems  
2 Vehicle accidents with injuries  
1 Unknown odor call  
1 EMS assist  
1 Brush fire  
1 Public service assist  
1 Structure fire  
1 False alarm malfunction  
1 False alarm unintentional  
1 No emergency found  
169 man hours on incidents  
234 man hours on training

Newland:

1 Vehicle accident  
3 Vehicle accidents with injuries  
1 Fuel leak  
4 Calls cancelled enroute  
1 Mobile home fire  
3 EMS assists  
1 Brush fire  
1 Structure fire  
5 Structure fire recalls for rekindle before investigation  
293 man hours on incidents  
141 man hours on training

**Cooperative Extension:**

**4-H and Youth**

Work at the 4-H vegetable garden is underway. Vegetables will benefit local citizens.

Finalizing all 4-H programs at the schools – embryology, electric, Kids in the Garden

Youth are working on their presentations for District Activity Day

**Agriculture**

Nematode samples for the ongoing survey were taken. This survey will help provide management of nematodes in soybeans.

Crop weather survey was taken

Prepared the test plot for the soybean trail

Set up bus tour of 40 people who toured 3 local gardens

Master Gardeners annual spring plant sale was held. Proceeds benefit two local high school seniors with scholarships.

Master Gardener business meeting was held

## Family and Consumer Sciences

EFNEP had 6 home visits

2 programs were held for 21 adults on Shop for Value: Get the Best for Less in the EFNEP program.

## Other

Final paperwork for the 65<sup>th</sup> annual 4-H Livestock Show and Sale has been completed. This year there was 100 hogs, 36 lambs, 44 goats and 17 steers. The sale of the animals brought over \$160,000.

## Social Services:

Program	Applications Taken	Applications Processed	Reviews	Terminations/ Changes	Total Caseload
Adult Medicaid	63	80	135	217	2322*
Family & Children's Medicaid	305	281	286	628	3888
Food & Nutrition Services	268	250	343	428	3002
Work First Family Assistance	35	43	8	73	152

\*Includes 1115

SSI cases

Intake volume increased for all programs during the month of March 2010. While it has not rebounded to where it was a few months ago, Food & Nutrition Services as well as Family & Children's Medicaid caseloads climbed. Adult Medicaid remained the same and Work First Family Assistance dropped.

At this time, we have not seen the Adult Medicaid caseload increase from the applications being generated from Social Security; however, we are receiving these applications which have increased the number to be processed by our staff. Pasquotank was targeted to receive over 500 applications generated from Social Security.

Projected to be effective July 1, 2010, Food & Nutrition Services is expected to expand their definition of categorical eligibility and increase the income limits for this category to 200% of the poverty level. Once the policy is effective and made public, we anticipate both intake and the caseloads to increase dramatically.

The poverty level actually decreased from 2009 levels for 2010. Several Medicaid programs have income limits based on the poverty level. These levels generally increase effective April 1 each year. However, for 2010, we continue to determine eligibility based on 2009 levels until such time as Congress acts to allow the 2010 levels to remain at the level for 2009. If Congress does not take this action and poverty levels for 2010 are decreased, many individuals will become ineligible for the benefits they currently receive.

Interpreter Contacts: 23 Total  
Spanish: 22  
Vietnamese: none  
Other: 1

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