

Week of June 7, 2010:

- The Budget for FY 2010-11 was formally presented to the Board this week and the budget hearing is scheduled for June 21st at 7:00 pm. The ad for the budget will run in the Daily Advance this coming Sunday. A copy of the budget is available for inspection at the Library.
- Now that the County budget has been presented, we are anxiously waiting to see what the General Assembly might do that will affect our budget. The House version of the budget takes \$46.5 million of the counties' lottery proceeds and diverts the money to retain teachers. The Association is actively lobbying against this. Last year, the State took part of our Beer & Wine tax after we had adopted our budget and eliminated the \$18/day fee for state prisoners in county jails. All counties are concerned that something like that could happen again this year.
- A positive note from the General Assembly is the progress of the 911 bill. The bill which would provide for expanded uses of the funds for 911 expenses unanimously passed the House Public Utilities Committee and now goes to the House Finance Committee. This bill will also allow us to spend up to 50% of our 911 surcharge fund balance on any public safety related project over the next 2 years.
- Attached is the latest sales tax report. Although the numbers are still down compared to last year, we are still within the range that I have been projecting for the last 2 months.
- Mike Cox and I met with Rich Olson and Bill Morgan to discuss the MOU for the proposed consolidation of the Parks and Recreation departments today. We were trying to complete the language regarding insurance coverage for the various parks and how liability would be addressed in the event of an accident at a park. I believe that all of the issues have been addressed and we will present the final document to the Board at the next meeting.

The following are reports from some of our other departments:

Finance Office

The County received \$12,103 from the N.C. Department of Revenue from the debt setoff program. Of this amount, \$962 is for EMS bills. Debts totaling \$120,133 were sent to N. C. Department of Revenue this week for collection through the debt setoff program. The County currently has \$1,899,221 in delinquent debts in the debt setoff program. The majority of this amount is delinquent taxes, with delinquent EMS bills second, and delinquent Water bills third. **Total debt setoff collections this year are \$128,286 through June 5th, versus \$93,500 for all of last year.**

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

One-Stop voting continues through June 19, 2010. Early voting has been light; a total of 147 had voted by the end of the day on Thursday, June 10th.

Filing begins for two (2) seats for **Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor** on Monday, June 14, 2010, 12:00 noon and ends Friday, July 2, 2010 at 12:00 noon. The candidate filing fee is \$5.00.

The Board will meet at 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 15, 2010 for an absentee meeting.

Water Department

- Ronny and the water plant crew are continuing to prepare for the pilot R.O. skid, which should arrive at the Weeksville Plant around the first part of July.
- Two of the pipe laying contractors installing the 12" concentrate line got some pipe in the ground this week.
- The contractor working the 24" distribution line has finished installing the line and is doing some shoulder dress up work and preparing to start pressure testing.
- The contractor at the RO Plant Site is finishing some work inside the 2 million tank and has started painting the red iron on the plant. See the picture included.

Solid Waste Department:

We received a grant from the Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance, North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the amount of \$14,800 for equipment for our electronics recycling program.

We received a grant from the North Carolina Pesticide Environmental Trust Fund (PETF) in the amount of \$9,850 for equipment to make our pesticide jug recycling program more efficient.

We have begun working on the expansion of the Coast Guard Recycling center.

Volunteer Fire Department Coordinator:

A large part of the month of May was taken up trying to complete FEMA grants to hopefully replace aging fire trucks at Nixonton and Weeksville. Unfortunately grant funding has decreased this year and the grants will be even more competitive.

I met with the Inter-County Fire Department at their monthly business meeting.

I participated in a mock hurricane exercise held by Emergency Management. This was a good time to discuss issues that are still concerning departments in the event of a hurricane.

I continued to update county hydrant locations for GIS so that all of them can be properly displayed in the CAD mapping for 911. Central will be able to provide information on the closest hydrant to responding departments.

All fire department charters are being reviewed by the County Attorney at the suggestion of the inspector from the NC Department of Insurance. During the last 9S inspections the recommendation was made that we may want to go over them to make sure they are properly covering each department.

Members from departments participated with the Elizabeth City Fire Department in a live structure burn. The structure was very large and would provide ample training for all those who attended. It was a good time to train with personnel from other departments to keep everyone working well together for the actual incidents.

The biggest news this month was that all departments received their NC State Fire Grant Awards. Nixonton will receive \$8423, Weeksville \$7655, Providence \$16,973.50 and Newland \$15,225.90. These grants provide really the only time during the year the departments can make equipment purchases to replace worn out gear and equipment. It is the time to improve their service with better equipment.

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

Nixonton:

1 Call cancelled enroute
 1 EMS assist
 1 Structure fire
 8 man hours on incidents
 166 man hours on training

Weeksville:

1 Vehicle accident
1 Call cancelled enroute
1 EMS assist
1 Heavy machinery fire
1 Structure fire
13 man hours on incidents
68 man hours on training

Providence:

1 Vehicle accident
1 Reported gas leak
2 Calls cancelled enroute
1 EMS assist
1 Rubbish fire
1 Smoke scare
2 False alarms
32 man hours on incidents
299 man hours on training

Newland:

2 Calls cancelled enroute
1 Vehicle accident with injuries
1 Reported gas leak
1 EMS assist
2 Brush fires
1 Public assistance
1 Special outside fire
1 Smoke scare
1 Structure fire
2 False alarms
2 Unauthorized burnings
95 man hours on incidents
73 man hours on training

Cooperative Extension:

4-H and Youth

County presentation day will be held next Tuesday and Wednesday so youth have been working hard on their presentations. After competing at the county level youth will compete again on June 24th in Nash County during District Activity Day.

Agriculture

Met with farmers and offered solutions to different problems in their corn crops

Consulted a cabbage farmer and gave recommendations on damage control

Extension Master Gardeners held a workshop on plant propagation at Clay Forman's Arboretum

Spoke with 125 youth at Northside Elementary on Gardening, Plants and the Life Cycle

July 30th has been tentatively set for the Pasquotank Farm Tour

Wheat meeting and pesticide classes are being scheduled for the fall

Family and Consumer Sciences

EFNEP had 4 home visits

EFNEP held programs at Youth Build for 13 participants

6 seniors were helped with Medicare Part D

Eat Smart Move More class at ECSU was held

Presenting at the Essential Life Skills Workshop for Military Families

Canning workshop was offered at Olive Branch Church

Other

Agri-Business Council met to start discussing plans for the Soybean Festival which will be held January 25, 2011.

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