



# BOARD BULLETIN

May 9, 2008

## *Grant Project Updates*

The County received a \$78,000 grant funding award from the NC Rural Center in the Economic Infrastructure Program. The grant will offset the cost of running sewer services to serve the new dialysis center on US 74. The project developer agreed to contribute a \$39,000 match toward the project and the company has agreed to create a minimum of 8 new jobs.

The \$1 million dollar project will bring much needed dialysis treatment beds to Anson County which will decrease or enable the County to reallocate existing public transportation funding.

The County also received notification the Rural Business Opportunity Grant (RBOG), that was submitted to offset the cost of the Agri-Civic Center feasibility study, was not selected for funding.

As a result, the County and Pee Dee Electric will need to pay the balance owed for the study. Anson County committed to paying Pee Dee Electric back for its portion over a three-year period beginning in FY 2008-2009.

## *Tax Revenue Collection Update*

The County's current ad valorem collection rate has slowed in the past month. The vehicle collection rate (79.35%) is 2.5 percentage points ahead of the rate at the same time last year.

In the area of real property, the collection percentage (94.32%) is tracking below the rate at this same time last year. However, forced collections have increased significantly over the past month.

Past due collections have been positive in the current fiscal year. To date, the County has exceeded its revenue budget by \$123,000.

Keep in mind, the prior year collection percentage must be used in setting the ensuing fiscal year budget. As such, the County will be using a figure of 94.37% in FY 2008-2009 versus the rate of 94.99% which was used to set the current year budget.

## *Medicaid Expense Update*

Since the State of North Carolina began paying 25% of the County's local share of Medicaid in October 2007, the County's average monthly Medicaid expense has been \$167,000 per month. If this trend continues, the County will have sufficient funds budgeted to cover the Medicaid expense in FY 2007-2008 .

As a result, staff will be making a recommendation to the Board at its May 12 meeting to release a portion (\$60,000) of the capital outlay reserves set aside to cover a potential Medicaid expense gap. The remaining balance of reserves are not recommended to be released given there are still three (3) months of Medicaid liability remaining in the fiscal year. Staff will continue to monitor spending, and may come back to the Board in early June seeking the release of additional capital project reserves.

## *Alternative Sales Tax Referendum*

A total of twenty (20) counties across the State of North Carolina (including nearby Stanly) placed the new 0.25% sales tax referendum on the May 6 primary ballot. The sales tax passed in only 2 (10%) of the counties. Voters in Cumberland and Haywood counties voiced approval for the local quarter-cent sales tax increase.

Cumberland County commissioners passed a resolution to lower the county property tax rate by 2 cents if the sales tax referendum passed. Haywood County commissioners pledged to use the quarter-cent sales tax to improve classrooms at Haywood Community College.

## **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

<b>Regular Board Mtg.</b>	Monday, May 12 6:00 PM Courtroom #1
<b>Manager's Recommended Budget</b>	TBD – Mid May