



BOARD BULLETIN

June 13, 2008

Legislative Update

Several items of legislative interest to counties were introduced or approved by either the House or Senate in the past week. Below please find a synopsis of several bills:

- **Repeal of land transfer tax authority for counties** – The Senate Finance committee voted in favor of repealing the .40 percent land transfer tax revenue option given to counties as part of the Medicaid swap last August. If repealed, counties would be left with only the alternative revenue option of an additional 0.25 cent sales tax. The full Senate will vote on this measure next Tuesday, June 17.
- **Senate approved a bill that mandates changes to revaluation schedules and low income housing** – Legislation passed through the Senate earlier this week that would require counties to revalue property 2 ½ years after their sales to assessed ratio drops below 90%. As information, Anson County’s sales/assess ratio dropped below 90% two (2) years after the 2002 revaluation. Thus, under the proposed legislation, Anson would have been forced to move up the revaluation by 3.5 years. The expense associated with the more aggressive revaluation schedule would have been financially burdensome. Given the potential financial impact of this proposed legislation, it is extremely important our 2010 revaluation be done both accurately and comprehensively.

Additionally, the aforementioned legislation calls for a change in how low-income rental property is valued. Currently this property is valued based on market conditions with respect to comparable sales. Under the proposed legislation, the value of low-income housing will be based upon income generated in lieu of the market value.

- **Bill to extend Present-Use Valuation (PUV) to protected wildlife habitats** – The Senate Finance Committee is still considering a bill that passed the House late last session (August 2007) which would extend the provisions of the PUV system to include property maintained primarily to protect wildlife habitats. There will be no income requirements associated with this PUV. The property must be at least 10 acres and no more than 100 acres in any one county and be under a wildlife management plan certified by the N.C. Wildlife Commission. This change will have an impact on Anson County’s assessed valuation.

Anson EMS Responds to Wildfire Emergency

Earlier this week, two Anson County EMS staff joined several colleagues from across the state to assist with the large wildfire (60,000 acres) in eastern NC. Two (2) staff and an ambulance unit were deployed on a four (4) day mission to Hyde County. The Anson crew will provide medical assistance to fire departments who are working to protect residential areas.

The State Office of Emergency Management will reimburse Anson County for all expenses associated with this mission.

Airport Investments – Producing Positive Outcomes

Anson County’s recent investments in the new Airport terminal and parallel-taxiway are beginning to demonstrate positive outcomes. Airport traffic has increased. The number of incoming and outgoing flights has increased an average of 5% over last fiscal year.

The increase in flights has had a positive impact on fuel sales. Last fiscal year, Anson County’s average fuel sales per month were 1,260 gallons. This fiscal year, fuel sales have increased by an average of 500 gallons per month.

Further, the success of the recent fly-in event at the Airport demonstrates the increased interest in the facility as well as the opportunity to market and increase aviator, business owner and citizen awareness.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Recessed Board Meeting	Friday, June 27 10:30 AM Room #31 - Courthouse
Regular Board Mtg.	Monday, July 7 6:00 PM Courtroom #1