



# BOARD BULLETIN

July 3, 2008

## *Rural Center Planning Grant*

The County recently received notification of \$40,000 grant award from the NC Rural Center. This \$40,000 grant will be used to cover Anson County's expenses associated with the comprehensive capital needs assessment study being conducted in partnership with Union County for finished water treatment and distribution. The study will be conducted by Hobbs, Upchurch and Associates.

Union County has expressed an interest in increasing the volume of water it purchases from Anson County from 4 million gallons per day to 10 million gallons within the next 5 years. Currently, Union County purchases approximately 1 million gallons per day, but Anson County is contractually obligated to provide 4 million gallons if the demand and capacity exists.

The comprehensive capital needs assessment will evaluate and make recommendations regarding infrastructure improvements required to pump, treat, and distribute the additional water. This will include, but is not limited to, raw water intake, transmission, and above ground storage. Staff will keep the Board posted on the progress of the needs assessment and capital improvement study.

## *Heating and Cooling Efficiency*

In an effort to control and hopefully reduce our cooling and heating costs, County staff have been adjusting the thermostats in each facility to ensure the settings are consistent with what best practice suggests is the ideal setting.

In the summer, experts suggest setting the thermostat at 78°F. In the winter months, it is recommended the thermostat be set at 70°F. For every degree the thermostat is raised or lowered, research suggests one can save 4% to 8% on heating and cooling costs. Given our consumption of electricity for heating and cooling, a savings of 4 to 8% will generate a significant reduction in expenses.

## *Voluntary Turnover Rate*

The County's voluntary turnover rate increased in Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The rate increased from 8.8% in FY 2006-2007 to 11.1% in FY 2007-2008. The majority of the voluntary turnover (52%) occurred in four (4) departments. These departments are identified below:

- **Department of Social Services (10 employees)**
- **EMS (6 employees)**
- **Sheriff's Office (4 employees)**
- **911 (3 employees)**

Although the rate increased slightly in FY 2007-2008. The current rate is still six (6) percentage points lower than in FY 2005. The Board's commitment to annual cost of living increases and the implementation of phase I of the classification and compensation enhancement should help to reduce or stabilize voluntary turnover in FY 2008-2009.

## *Organizational Changes and Transition*

Effective this past Tuesday, July 1, two organizational changes occurred per the Board's approval. The County's 911 Communications Center transitioned to a program area under the Sheriff's Office, and water bill collections moved to the Water Department. No major operational or customer service issues have been reported during the first week of the transition.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	Monday, July 7 6:00 PM Courtroom # 1
<b>Golden Leaf Grant Community Forum</b>	Wednesday, July 9 1:00 PM Lockhart-Taylor Center
<b>Regular Board Meeting</b>	Monday, August 11 6:00 PM Courtroom #1
<b>NCACC Annual Conference</b>	August 20-23 New Bern, NC