



# BOARD BULLETIN

June 20, 2008

## *Legislative Update*

The NC Senate approved their version of the FY 2008-2009 budget on Thursday afternoon. The spending plan will now go to conference so differences between the NC House budget and Senate can be resolved. Below please find a brief update regarding several other bills of interest:

- **Repeal of land transfer tax authority for counties** – The full Senate has voted to repeal the .40 percent land transfer tax revenue option given to counties as part of the Medicaid swap last August. It also appears there is momentum building for an appeal of the measure in the House. This leaves counties with only the sales tax option for an alternative revenue source.
- **Change in additional sales tax ballot procedures** – As part of the land transfer tax repeal, the Senate also voted overwhelming to include a measure that will allow counties to state specifically how the funds from an additional ¼ % sales tax would be used. Previously counties did not have this authority. Currently, counties can pass a resolution stating how the funds will be used, but the specific language on the ballot was established by the General Assembly.
- **Special provision requires notice to parents of 10 lowest funded county schools** - The Senate budget includes a new provision that would require the State Board of Education to identify the ten (10) counties that provide the lowest funding per student for public schools and prepare a letter to parents. The letter must indicate the funding level, its impacts, other counties' public school funding levels, and the county's relative funding level in relation to its ability to pay. The provision does not specify how the funding level will be defined (e.g., current expense, capital, debt service, fines & forfeitures, etc.) Additionally, the Board of County Commissioners in these 10 counties would be required to forward the letter to the parents of each child enrolled in school.

County staff have discussed concerns about this new provision with our legislative delegation. If funding is defined as only current expense, Anson County may fall in the lowest 10 counties. However, if all local funding is included (e.g. capital outlay, fines & forfeitures, grants, debt service payments, etc.) Anson should fair much better. Staff will continue to monitor this new provision.

## *Water Department Update*

The installation of the new radio read meter system is approximately 33% complete. Once complete, the Water Department will gain significant staffing efficiencies. The labor hours which were previously spent manually reading meters will now be reallocated to water line maintenance, repairs and extensions. In fact, a new meter technician recently read 1,100 of the radio read meters in six (6) hours. This equates to 183 per hour. The current average rate per hour with the old, manual meters is 21.

A total of 7.5 miles of water lines have been installed since July 1, 2007 (FY 2007-2008). During fiscal year 2006-2007, only 2.75 miles were installed. Having additional labor hours for water line extensions will certainly assist the Board in achieving its goal of extending water service to more areas of the county at a more aggressive rate.

## *Revaluation Status Report*

The 2010 revaluation team is still working in the southeast area of the county. The team has also been working commercial/industrial property on Hwy. 74 east in and around the Wadesboro area. The revaluation project is on schedule, and 3,985 property cards have been issued to date for review in the field. Every parcel will be visited and reviewed.

The team is leaving a door hanger on every improved property when no one is at home. It is important these door hangers are returned to the Anson County Assessor's Office with the information requested on the card. Citizens can call (704).694.3372 with questions and/or concerns about their property as it relates to the revaluation process.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

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|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Recessed Board Meeting</b> | Friday, June 27<br>10:30 AM<br>Room #31 - Courthouse |
| <b>Regular Board Meeting</b>  | Monday, July 7<br>6:00 PM<br>Courtroom # 1           |