

BOC Bits N' Pieces

During the February 10 regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners unanimous approval of the revised cash management plan was achieved. This action was stimulated by a 2004 resolution mandating an annual review of the plan between the months of January and March. The group conducting the review was comprised of the mayor, two commissioners, town manager and finance officer.

In an effort to collect delinquent taxes a second notice will be mailed to affected property owners in the first week of March. This will be followed in early April by advertisement of the remaining list of delinquencies. The current list of delinquent 2007 taxes totals more than \$1,150 in personal and over \$136,000 in real property.

Town Manager Brian Kramer reported that the police department had recently been reduced from nine to eight officers. The current status of the economy was identified as the cause for this downsizing. Assurances were given that this reduction would not impinge on the departments patrol capability but would possibly affect investigations.

During the managers report on the condition of the general fund he noted a projected short-fall of some \$80,000. However, as a result of more than \$58,000 in line item freezes that have been implemented the net short-fall is just over \$21,000. He noted that cost saving measures continue and expressed optimism about reducing the short-fall to zero by June, the end of the fiscal year.

Water Department – The water audit has reported a water loss of nearly 9%. It was noted that the meters at the well houses were in need of recalibration. The current utilization of master water meters that do not register small flows is being analyzed. Approximately 30 of these master meters are being utilized around the town. State-of-the-art compound meters appear to be a cost effective alternative to the current meters. It is likely that in the near future a single compound meter will replace a master meter to determine exactly how much savings can be realized.

May will mark the one-year

anniversary of the town's take-over of the administration of the water department. As of February the town is ahead by \$6,000 from where it would have been if the take-over had not occurred. A full status report on the town's water department is anticipated on its first anniversary.

Police Department – Chief Joey Culpepper urges citizens to carefully check their bank and credit card statements each month. He notes that if unexplained amounts, as little as \$1.50, are withdrawn or charged it could be a "test" to see if the account is active. If one or two of these "test" withdrawals go unreported the results could be a cleaned-out bank account or large sum of money charged to your credit cards.

The chief became aware of this scam after receiving a report from a resident who discovered a false charge from Western Union on a credit card. The case is under investigation, but working with the company's fraud division it was discovered that two attempts had been made although only one was successful.

Activity during January included: 80 calls for service, 2 accidents, 7 assists to other agencies, 6 assists to fire and rescue, 2 domestics, 3 assists to motorists, 2 ordinance alerts, 28 wellness checks, 2 unlocked doors and 4 alarm activations. There were also 28 driving citations issued, 52 warnings, 87 residence checks and 273 business checks.

Fire/EMS – Chief Bill Matthias relinquished his Grey Ghost – a 1997 Crown Victoria that was a hand-me-down from the police department with more than 120,000 miles on the odometer. It will be donated to the Harkers Island Fire Department who will use the Grey Ghost for administrative purposes.

Town Manager Kramer is investigating the possibility of a modest increase for the volunteer fire fighters to help them off-set their expenses. Chief Matthias in supporting this increase noted that the current stipend has not been changed since he became chief more than four years ago.

Activity during January included 29 service calls: 12 rescue and EMS, 7 service, 8 false alarms and 2 miscellaneous.

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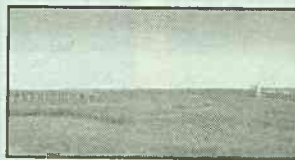
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Spending Cuts Could Affect Local Library

Submitted by Dot Miller

As you read in reviews about proposed state funding, local libraries in North Carolina could lose \$16.5 million and even more if Governor Perdue's demand for deeper cuts is met. That will hurt the programs now offered at our local library, even though our libraries do have county support.

The program of the Bogue Banks Public Library now includes a huge selection of books, with an even broader choice in a fast and smooth exchange between Bogue Banks, Carteret County, and Western Carteret libraries. Audio and CD books, magazines, newspapers and internet access are available. The children's section offers a wealth of wonderful books and a Summer Storytelling Festival that attracted 2000 children this past July. An ever-changing display of creations by local artists is featured in the Art Gallery

and the crafts of local residents are shown at the entry. A writer's presentation each January is a standing-room-only attraction. Each spring and summer the Friends of the Library sponsor a used book sale that has seen a continuing growth in sales.

The Friends of the Bogue Banks Public Library urges all the residents of Pine Knoll Shores to support our library by becoming a member of the Friends. At the present time 188 family memberships support our library. PKShas a year-round population of 1,601. What an amazing opportunity to be a part of this local gem - our very own Bogue Banks Library. A yearly family membership costs \$15; an individual membership \$10. Application forms are available at the library Mondays through Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.