

County Connection for Week of 11/21/2018
By David Smitherman
Pittsylvania County Administrator

“Where does the \$120 fee go?”

Since this year’s real estate and solid waste bills have landed in people’s mailboxes, county staff and members of the Board of Supervisors have gotten quite a few phone calls about why we are charging the solid waste fee.

So, I thought we’d rewind a little and go back to talking about how the money this fee generates will be spent.

\$26 goes to Operations.

\$34 goes to Collections.

\$51 goes to Capital Investment.

\$9 goes to Debt service.

The operations section covers the salaries of the people who work at the landfill and our new site attendants at our convenience centers. It also covers the cost of operating the landfill.

Collections is exactly what it sounds like - the cost of collecting the trash from the convenience centers and green box sites, as well as the contract to pick up the trash from the green box sites.

Capital Investment covers buying new stuff - like land, equipment, and saving to build new, state of the art compactor sites across the northern end of the county. It also covers saving for the necessary costs of closing the current landfill cell and opening a new one.

We’ve already been working to replace old equipment, like our bulldozer and earth-moving pan out of the landfill. In fact, we saved nearly \$160,000 on the pan while we were purchasing.

At our convenience centers, we are working to replace worn-out compactors that have been working for several years longer than they should have been.

We are also searching for land that is appropriate for the new state-of-the-art convenience centers for the citizens that live in the northern end of the county. We hope to build two or three sites north of Chatham that are clean, have a high capacity for trash and humans, and have the features that our citizens need, such as recycling.

Debt service is paying back the debt that the county incurred for some capital costs, as well as the closing costs for the last cell.

All of this together goes to making a better solid waste service for our citizens as well as all of our future citizens.

Remember, homeowners can start paying towards their solid waste bill at any time at the Pittsylvania County Treasurer's Office, but the full \$120 must be paid by June 20 in order to be considered current. After June 20, this bill will come in two \$60 increments twice a year in order to make it easier on our citizens.

As always, I'm ending with a question for you, the reader. Is there a way that these attendants could help you when you go to the convenience centers? Is there something you'd like to see us change? Do you have suggestions for what we should add to our convenience centers to make your experience better? Share them with us!