

mikejohnson

From: Johnson, Lonnie [lojohns2@vt.edu]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 5:02 PM
To: mikejohnson
Subject: RE: March 22

Mike,

You would not have to wait until July 1, we could do that immediately. I just completed a transfer for Charles City and New Kent to share a 4-H agent on Feb 25. I do not know the answer to question two, but I can get the answer from Blacksburg and have it by the 22nd. As for question three, I left a message with Mr. Caskey yesterday and have not heard back from him.

As these positions have sat vacant, the TAREC and surrounding offices have been overwhelmed with calls from Southampton and Isle of Wight for help with agriculture. My office and surrounding local offices have been contacted from multiple parties interested in starting new 4-H Horse Clubs or preparing the necessary paperwork to continue their Charter status with 4-H.

My proposal is clearly not the perfect solution as the two counties are large and the demands will be high on the two people, however I see this as the first step in getting additional agents in the two offices where we could eventually get back to each office having their own ANR and 4-H agent with our typical funding structure.

Despite the budget cuts, I feel optimistic in the fact that I have been given the opportunity to allow internal transfers. Our goal would be to have at least one agent in every office that remains open after the General Assembly session. We opened 7 positions up for this and my new district has 4 of them. Our early retirement program resulted in 34 agent applications and acceptances. They will be off the payroll by July 1. My new district had 14 of them. I hope to be able to utilize the savings and fill additional positions through transfer or advertisement in the new fiscal year. We may even have a second round of internal transfers before this fiscal year is complete.

Let me know the specifics of the meeting on the 22nd and I will get it on my calendar. Thanks for your continued support. I hope we can make something work.

Lonnie

From: mikejohnson [mikejohnson@co.southampton.state.va.us]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 4:19 PM
To: Johnson, Lonnie
Subject: March 22

Lonnie,

Are you available on March 22 to brief the Board of Supervisors on the proposal you left on my voice mail yesterday. The meeting begins @ 6:00 p.m. and I can get you on our agenda early. I shared the news with them earlier today and they were very excited - but there were several questions that I couldn't answer:

- 1) Will we have to wait until the beginning of the new fiscal year (July 1) before the position can be filled?
- 2) If there is no interest in an internal transfer, will it be re-advertised, or will you simply go back to the pool of candidates from late last year?
- 3) Have you received positive feedback from Isle of Wight?

There may be others.

Thanks,
Mike