

# STATE OF THE COUNTY

## BY BILL KENDALL COMMISSIONER

### **FINANCIAL** – STRONG AND STABLE BUDGET AND SPENDING CONTROLS WORKING

**2007 spending came in \$807,067 or 8.7% under budget.** Approximately ½ million dollars was passed on to taxpayers in tax cut.

**Cash On Hand on 12-31-07 - \$2,103,403.15**, which meets the ACCG recommendation of 3 months operating reserve.

**TAXES - Tax mills levied 4.187 – Lowest in States 159 counties.**

**LEGISLATION TO REDUCE HIGH PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS** Commissioner has asked that state legislation be passed for local Constitutional Amendment to be voted on by Towns County Citizens in November election to limit to no more than 3% per year increase in tax assessments through floating homestead exemptions.

**NO NEW DEBT** – It is my firm belief that the taxpayers and property owners should not be put into long term debt without voting on and approving a bond referendum. Therefore, the County will not be ONE PENNY in debt for anything purchased or constructed after adopting my last budget during 2008 and to the end of the term of office to which the citizens entrusted me. The County does owe an old long-term debt of \$1,221,197.10 for the jail constructed in 2000.

**ENVIRONMENT** – FRAGILE AND UNDER MUCH PRESSURE Ordinances listed below have been passed to protect our mountains, lake & environment.

#### **NEW MACEDONIA (EMS) AMBULANCE STATION**

The Macedonia Ambulance Station is under construction and will be in service this summer. This will cut the ambulance response time of 8 to 10 critical minutes for citizens with emergencies in the eastern part of the County, which will save lives. This will not result in a tax increase because the same ambulances and personnel will be used. We will simply move part of those now stationed at Woods Grove EMS Station to the Macedonia Station.