



SQVFD

COMMUNITY LEADERS: North Carolina Rep. Bobby Hanig, Hyde County Sheriff Guire Cahoon, Swan Quarter Fire Department Chief Jeffrey Stotesberry, and Robert Hosford, USDA-RD N.C. director, had the chance to meet and speak during an Aug. 13 grant award presentation.

Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department receives \$48,000 grant

From the Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department

SWAN QUARTER — Robert Hosford, North Carolina State Director of the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development office was in Swan Quarter on Aug. 13 to award the Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department a Community Facilities Grant in the amount of \$48,200.

USDA-RD partnered with the North Carolina Department of Insurance and Office of the State Fire Marshall, which had earlier this summer awarded the SQVFD a Volunteer Fire Department Fund Grant in the amount of \$30,000. The County of Hyde provided a matching appropriation for that grant in the amount of \$10,000.

Both of these grants will be used by the SQVFD to purchase much-needed equipment.

Hosford indicated that USDA-RD had invested \$2 million in Hyde County in the past year in various projects. He went on to say that the partnership with the N.C. OSFM to help rural volunteer fire departments, which are often financially strapped, was a win-win situation for all.

“Our purpose is to help those who



SEALING THE DEAL: Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jeffrey Stotesberry and USDA-RD N.C. Director Robert Hosford seal the deal with an elbow bump instead of a handshake as the latter presented a \$48,200 grant to help the department purchase equipment.

financially can’t get across the finish line,” he said.

Other dignitaries present were North Carolina Rep. Bobby Hanig, Betty Jo Shephard, a field representative from U.S. Sen. Richard Burr’s Rocky Mount office, Trey Lewis, a regional representative from U.S. Senator Thom Tillis’ Greenville office, as well as Ben Cahoon, mayor of Nags Head. Tess Judge, a candidate for N.C. Senate District 1, was also in attendance.

Following the presentation, SQVFD

Fire Chief Jeffrey Stotesberry explained how the department benefited from the partnership between the N.C. OSFM, USDA-RD and Hyde County.

“Without the financial help from these three organizations, we would never have been able to raise the \$88,200.00 for this equipment,” Stotesberry said. “We can better serve our community, thanks to their collaborative efforts.”

The SQVFD was established in 1971 by a group of citizens who were concerned with providing an organized fire safety presence for the community. Since that time, their area of operation has expanded, as has the level of services they provide. Today they operate with 19 unpaid volunteers who provide not only fire incident response, but also first responder service for medical emergencies. They also work with the Hyde County Schools to provide fire safety awareness to the youth of the community. They are a recognized nonprofit entity by the Internal Revenue Service and donations to the Swan Quarter Volunteer Fire Department are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.