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Sussex County
Government

News Profile

Sussex County Project Engineer Bob Jones

Georgetown, Del., April 18, 2006: Anyone who has ever built a house knows that in order to make sure the job is done correctly, you've got to keep track of the work, communicate often with the builder and be ready to work around problems.

Bob Jones isn't building a new house, but in many respects, his role as Sussex County's newest project engineer is like that of a diligent, maybe slightly fussy homeowner.

He's here to make sure county construction projects are done right .

"You want to make sure a job is being done to specifications. You need to be able to anticipate and find problems, so they don't cause extra costs or delays. It's about making sure I am getting – that we are getting – what is being paid for."



Bob Jones

Jones began work March 1 in the county's Engineering Department, bringing with him more than three decades of experience in the private sector as an engineer, contract administrator and manager with paving and engineering firms. He has experience in overseeing construction projects, managing large staffs and negotiating contracts.

His hiring is part of a larger effort by the county in recent months to bring in new employees with varied backgrounds to improve efficiency, as well as bolster the county government's institutional and professional knowledge.

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"I'm going to do everything and anything that needs to be done, to make sure it's done right," Mr. Jones said.

One of Mr. Jones' first projects has been overseeing the beginning stages of construction for the new 911 Emergency Operations Center near Georgetown, a \$7.1 million facility due for completion in 2007.

Already, Mr. Jones has been working out kinks. A discovery on his part of a glitch in a parking lot curb design, and his subsequent correction of that error on the engineering plans, will no doubt prevent work from having to be redone later. Mr. Jones eventually will

take on other duties, including helping community homeowners' associations with projects to improve their roads.

Assistant County Engineer Russell Archut said Mr. Jones is the kind of employee Sussex County Engineering had been looking for to shepherd projects, while having an eye for design, engineering and construction details.

"He brings expertise in an area where we wanted to strengthen our department, which is road construction and site work," Mr. Archut said. "Bob has that broad experience and exposure to that kind of engineering."

Name: William R. "Bob" Jones
Age: 55
Residence: Lewes
Occupation: project engineer, Sussex County Engineering Department
Responsibilities: manages various county projects, from design through construction, including the new \$7.1 million Emergency Operations Center; will advise communities in the county's road improvement program, in which home owners' associations needing technical and construction help can pay the county, through a special tax, to have the county design and build new roads
Background: worked the past 19 years for an internationally owned paving company, ending his tenure after serving as a vice president and contract administrator; spent 12 years prior to that as an engineer, senior associate and branch office manager for regional engineering firm
Education: bachelor's of science degree in civil engineering from University of Delaware, 1974; obtained professional engineer's license in 1979

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This is the fourth in an occasional series of profiles about some of the newest members of Sussex County government.