



Unusual Procedure Is Charged On Bids

Edenton's Board of Public Works was accused of making "an error in judgment" by Mayor George Alma Byrum Tuesday night as the manner in which bids were taken for a new truck.

A Hertford motor company was invited on December 29 to submit a bid. When the utilities board met January 6

a motion was made and carried that only bids from local dealers be considered.

George Chevrolet Company was the apparent low bidder. However, the Towe Motor Company bid was later opened and was "somewhat lower" than the George bid, a spokesman said.

James Dail, Towe sales manager, appeared Tuesday night to protest the manner in which the bidding was handled. He contended that if the Towe bid was not to be considered it should have been returned unopened.

Councilman W. H. Hollowell said if a letter was sent to Towe requesting a bid then the bid should have been considered. Councilman J. D. Elliott agreed.

It was then that Mayor Byrum said: "I think they (the E&W Board) have made an error in judgment. It is not the first time we have gone out of town to buy merchandise and will probably not be the last if we spend the taxpayers' money wisely."

Towe was low on two new police cars by about \$1,000 it was noted during the discussion and that prompted Supt. R. N. Hines, Sr., of the utilities board to invite them to bid.

The council agreed to amend the board's budget to purchase the new truck and equipment.

Town Attorney W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., advised the council he saw no legal

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Public Parade

On The Move

A new hospital, additions to a school and construction of units in a shopping center sent building permits soaring along the Public Parade during the last three quarters of 1969.

The total from April 1, 1969, through December 31, 1969, is \$1,811,997.

This is an indication that we are living where at least some of the action is.

W. S. Long, building inspector, reports only four new single family residences built during the period at a cost of \$105,000. The two new institutional buildings were \$1,371,897 and the five new commercial buildings, \$269,700.

This is an impressive report. But the thing which shows Sam Long is doing his job is that 11 houses were upgraded; three moved to the county and 21 buildings demolished.

His substandard housing report for the same period showed 121 dwellings inspected; 48 complied with; and 18 actions pending.

While some might question the direction we are taking, at least we are going somewhere.

More Than Money

On November 4, 1969, the votes cast by taxpayers in the Town of Edenton were the deciding factor in favorable passage of a 1 per cent local option sales tax.

The sales tax issue, as unpopular as is any tax measure, was sold here on the basis it would tend to broaden the tax base and hopefully reduce property taxes.

This newspaper supported the tax for this reason. Also, we supported the sales tax not only because we consider it a fair tax, but because we felt our elected officials were making an honest effort to operate a tight ship. In other words, we had sufficient confidence in their ability to think the revenue already being received was being spent wisely.

Now this confidence has been shaken. If the manner in which the Board of Public Works went about obtaining bids on a new truck—for which they didn't have sufficient budgeted funds in the first place—is an example of what these members consider good business, then there is room for readjustment of our thinking.

We adhere strongly to the theory of shopping at home. That is, so long as you feel you are getting a good deal. In order to keep things in line, sometimes it is necessary to shop around. By so doing, the Town Council saved the taxpayers more than \$1,000 in the purchase of but two police cars. It doesn't take a sharp pencil to figure this is nearly one cent on the town tax rate.

With this in mind, Towe Motor Company of Hertford was invited on De-

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93 Units Of Blood Donated Monday

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile collected 93 units of blood here Monday from 104 people who showed up at National Guard Armory to donate.

Pete Ward, chairman of the Jaycee-sponsored visit, said the March 17 visit will require 125 pints in order to meet the quota for the year.

Local officials expressed their appreciation to those who offered to donate blood and said the fact that so many showed up indicates the interest here in the program.

At one time it was feared the local hospital would be unable to draw blood from the Tidewater Blood Center because local donations were so low.

The 104 who offered to donate Monday included:

Sheriff Troy Toppin, Garland Asbell, Bill Boyce, Scott Harrell, Joe Swanner, Virginia O. Oliver, John H. Oliver, Jr., Thomas M. Surratt, George Nixon, Da-

vid Harrell, Frank White, Jr., Carlton Asbell, Carroll Byrum and Forest Jernigan.

Also, Henry Allen Bunch, Lloyd W. Evans, Faye O. Harrell, Rudolph Dale, Barbara Stille, Jean Ashley, Wayland Byrum, Pete Ward, Trudy Parker, Mary Elizabeth Dail, J. Paul Bunch, Roland Evans, Gloria Ward, Thomas Robey, and Beulah Privott.

And, Clyde Williams, Ruth Lane, Cherie Davenport, Betty Perry, Mrs. Thomas Ward, J. C. Forehand, E. P. Robey, Sarah Margaret Harrell, Georgia Bazemore, E. C. Toppin, Bob Weintraub, James Byrum, Mickey Spruill, James E. White, and William N. Herman.

Also, Carlton Nixon, Lester Lewis, Lynn Perry, Andrea Miller, Mary S. Williams, Thomas Hoskins, Bertram Byrum, Jimmie Ricks, James C. Hughes,

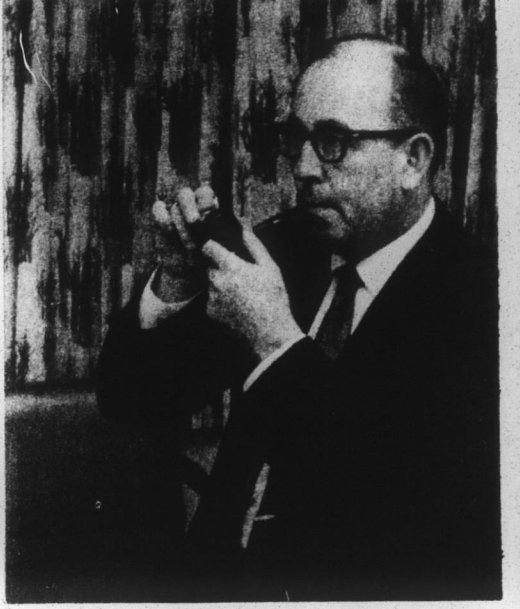
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Mayor Byrum answers . . .



. . . then ponders question



. . . and stops to light up.

Mayor Is Looking Ahead

The ability to maintain top personnel in all departments and more citizen involvement in municipal activities are necessary to keep the Town of Edenton moving ahead in the 70's. So says Mayor George Alma Byrum as he looks at the accomplishments of 1969 and looks ahead to the future.

Mayor Byrum was high in his praise of all town personnel, saying they are both qualified and dedicated. "They have done a good job," he states.

The mayor is also thankful for community relations between the races where progress is made through mutual understanding and communication.

In the coming year he looks for added

emphasis on neighborhood recreation and steps toward creation of a city-wide park.

He adds that a strong effort will be made to keep Edenton clean, keep vacant lots in a more sightly manner, and condemn and remove delapidated houses.

Open ditches are still a thorn which cause the mayor to be somewhat uncomfortable. "With the leadership of the council and neighborhood committees a major effort will be made to get open ditches closed," he stated.

During the coming year the mayor hopes to see the water and sewer project completed with the assistance of a federal grant. He also wants to see street improvements in all areas and some headway on downtown sidewalk improvement.

He looks forward to actual construction of the 100 units of low-rent public housing and start of work on the U. S. 17 by-pass.

Mayor Byrum said a major effort would also be placed on bringing government closer to the people and the upgrading of services by the town.

He said he foresees continued economic growth for the area.

There are many items which he recalled that had a great bearing on the community during the past year. They include:

- 1—Continued growth of Edenton Municipal Airport.
- 2—Expansion of the town limits to more than double the land area inside the corporate limits.

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School Bus Cost Figures Released

It cost more to operate school buses in Chowan County during 1968-69 than the state average, according to data recently released by the Transportation Division of the State Department of Public Instruction.

A. C. Davis, controller for the State Board of Education, said the operating cost per mile in Chowan County was .2412 cents per bus mile. The state average is .2243 per bus mile of operation.

At the same time it was revealed that the number of regular school buses operated during last year here were 35. An average of 1,818 students were transported daily with an average of 51.9 students per bus per day.

Each bus traveled an average of 35.1 miles per day getting 6.722 miles to the gallon of gasoline.

The report also showed that during the past school year 54.9 per cent of the total public school population were transported to and from school daily.

The average school bus in the state transported 66 students per day, made 1.57 trips per day — an average of 12 miles in length one way — and transported an average of 48.5 students per bus trip. The total cost of North Carolina's school transportation was \$14,293,272.80, including replacement of buses.

GOP Events Set

Chowan County Republicans are planning two executive sessions this month, according to H. E. Bass, county party chairman.

Bass said county precinct chairmen will meet at 7:30 P. M., January 23, at his home on West Queen Street.

The county GOP convention will be held at Edenton Restaurant at 8 P. M., on January 30. Members of the county executive committee attend the convention.

Cancer Meeting

Mrs. R. E. Forehand, Jr., president of the Chowan County Cancer Society, announces a meeting on Tuesday at the Edenton Municipal Building.

The meeting time is 7:30 P. M.

A film, "The Million Club" will be presented. All committee chairmen are asked to have reports ready. Mrs. Forehand urges all members to plan to attend.



THE BLOODMOBILE COMES TO TOWN—It takes a number of volunteers as well as donors to make a visit of the American Red Cross Bloodmobile a success. The pictures here show some of the activity Monday at National Guard Armory when 93 units were collected from 104 possible donors. At top, Dr. Roland Vaughan takes a break and a snack with Mrs. H. C. Jackson and Mrs. Bruce F. Jones. Joe Swanner, center left, is shown in a familiar pose on Bloodmobile Day. He has given 71 units to top all local donors. The other picture shows Mrs. Warren Nance as she takes the blood pressure of Mrs. Faye Harrell. Mrs. J. W. Davis, left, and Mrs. Warren Twiddy are pictured registering Pete Ward, left, and E. C. Toppin, two Edenton Jaycees in charge of the blood program here.