

Citizens Ask Questions

Commissioners Set 93-Cent Tax Rate

To Understand

Chowan Hospital, Inc., like Chowan County commissioners, has experienced management difficulties of late which have not been in the best interest of those designed to be served.

At today's (Thursdays) meeting of the board of directors, it will be the recommendation of a Search Committee that a management firm be employed to administer the affairs at the hospital.

Things, up until now, have been happening at such a quick pace that it appears no one has been able to get a handle on the situation. Contracting with a management group, with a stable of experts in every aspect of administration, could be the answer to many of the problems being experienced. We sincerely hope so.

Chowan Hospital is a big, important business along the Public Parade. The community can ill afford for it to get, let alone keep, a black eye. The challenges of providing the necessary services in the health care field are tremendous and not getting any less. It is for this reason that cost containment must remain foremost in the minds of those authorized to make the day to day decisions, while not neglecting the quality of patient care.

The community, then, should be encouraged by the new developments and be more willing to understand than to criticize.

Fooling With Dare

The State of North Carolina has recently taken on Dare County. Foolish, isn't it?

Nevertheless, this could prove to be a test case for the other 99 counties in Tar Heelia — including the Public Parade. The question is about who runs the Health Department.

While the state funds the Health Departments greatly, it is still considered a county operation. The employees are county employees.

But in Dare the duly appointed health administrator doesn't measure up to the educational standards set by the Department of Human Resources for such an employee, therefore, funding is in question.

The county has told the state to take the money and place it elsewhere. The state agrees that Dare has been getting good health administration in recent months although the administrator is longer on common sense than degrees.

In the past, Chowan has supported Dare on issues before the Coastal Resources Commission. And if the need arises, Chowan can be expected to again support our neighbors on the Outer Banks.

Those folks may talk differently but what they are saying is in tune with the need of the citizens. What you read from a book of policies should also conform to what the citizens receive in services. In Dare it doesn't, and it may not in the other 99 counties either.

No Fat Cat

Historic Edenton, Inc., could be headed for its most successful biennium — or its worst. The majority along the Public Parade hope for the better.

As reported last week in this newspaper, the N.C. General Assembly, in a year of tight budgets, etc., was quite generous with requests from Edenton. The

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Committee Prepares Report

The Board of Directors of Chowan Hospital, Inc., are meeting this morning (Thursday) to act on recommendations of a Search Committee with regard to a new administrator.

It is reported that the committee will recommend that the hospital enter into a contract with an unnamed management firm, rather than employ an administrator. "This may be a wonderful opportunity for our hospital, especially at this time," a member of the committee said. "There are pros and cons

Chowan County commissioners Friday slashed five cents off the proposed tax rate before adopting a \$2.8-million budget for fiscal 1977-78. The action followed a three-hour public hearing during

which the board members came under attack for previous actions, especially the purchase of property for the new courthouse-jail complex.

The tax rate will be 93 cents per

\$100 valuation. This is based on an assessed value of \$118-million and 95 per cent collections.

Commissioner Lester Copeland voted against the budget, saying he felt the county could be

operated on a 90-cent levy. Commissioner Alton G. Elmore countered with the remark that to cut it that thin would be doing what the board had done in recent years, under tax.

The first action after adopting the budget was to amend it to provide an additional \$5,000 to Edenton-Chowan Board of Education for an alternative program to handle problem students. The board is making application for a \$95,000 grant to cover the cost of the first year of a two-year pilot program — the first of its kind in Region "R".

The program appealed to a majority of the commissioners but N.J. George voted against the budget amendment because he felt that to do so now would leave the board open to criticism from other departments who experienced budget cuts.

"I wouldn't touch it with a 10-foot pole," he said when Chairman C.A. Phillips brought up the request following the budget hearing. "I don't know that much about it, anyway," George said.

It was apparent that his "no" vote was prompted by his unsuccessful efforts to amend the motion to require Murray Ashley, Civil Preparedness director, to

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BIG JULY 4th CELEBRATION — All roads in Chowan County led to Murray Nixon's Fishery in Rocky Hock Monday as more than 4,500 people turned out for Nixon's annual free fish fry. From 9 A.M. until well past the 4 P.M. cut-off time, people streamed to the Chowan River site to eat fried fish, with all the trimmings and to listen to music provided by several groups.



Hospital Is Reaccredited

Chowan Hospital has been reaccredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) according to Mrs. Barbara Cale, acting president. News of a one-year accreditation for the hospital was received on June 21 and the one-year accreditation for the Skilled Nursing Facility (Units B and C) was received July 5.

These accreditations are the result of two on-site surveys made by field representatives of the Joint Commission's Accreditation Council. Accreditation indicates that both facilities have chosen to operate according to standards set by the JCAH and that the facilities

Impact Funds

Edenton-Chowan Schools have been approved by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education, for federal assistance for current expenditures under a law which provides financial assistance for schools in federally affected areas.

Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, announced that the local unit has been certified to receive an immediate payment of \$5,678.86; with tentative entitlement of \$15,117 for Fiscal Year 1977.

Additional payments will be subject to such adjustments as may be required by actual data in place of estimates on which the tentative entitlement is based, and by the availability of funds in relation to total entitlements for financial assistance.

substantially comply with these standards.

The standards set forth optimal achievable goals of excellence against which a facility can measure itself and be measured by a survey.

The Skilled Nursing Facility is one of approximately 1,600 long term care facilities throughout the U.S. that have earned this recognition. There are approximately 23,000 facilities in the U.S. that fall into the long term care classification of the JCAH.

The Accreditation Council for Long Term Care Facilities was formed in 1971 to set standards as a benchmark of quality for facilities that provide extended, nursing, or residential care. This council is one of four such programs of the Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission began in 1918 under the auspices of the American College of Surgeons. It was incorporated in 1951 with the support of its member organizations.

JCAH is a Chicago-based, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization.

"In view of the Joint Commission's new standards in areas not previously covered by their surveys, we are all very proud to have received these two accreditations and have already begun work on the recommendations which accompanied the notices of accreditation," said Mrs. Cale.

Drop Charges

Five charges of drunk driving were dismissed in Chowan County District Court June 28 because of low breathalyzer readings — below .10 which is considered the minimum for prosecution in North Carolina.

Three of the cases were brought by patrolmen with Edenton Police Department and the other two were lodged by members of the State Highway Patrol.

Judge John T. Chaffin presided over the weekly term at which time the following drunk driving charges were dismissed:

Alan Roy Otis, Ernest Edward Askew, Jr., Howard Lee Hoskins, Johnnie Macon Abbott, and Joseph Warren Nowell, III.



Above left shows a group of men, (Nixon with back to camera in white shirt), as they turn out the fish. Earl Smith, a store owner in the community, was among those who assisted Nixon with his feed. He presides over the cornbread pan. Below, a group doesn't let the boiling sun deter them from enjoying the music.

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Ashley Is 'Not Backing Up'

Murray Ashley, captain of Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad and director of Civil Preparedness in Chowan County, denies allegations that he worked for the county only part-time while seeking the Democratic nomination for register of deeds.

Ashley resigned his CP post when he announced for the county office. He said it was his understanding that since none of his salary would be paid from CP funds then he was to devote all his time to the rescue squad.

Through what was described as "a comedy of errors", he was not officially reinstated as CP director until a special meeting of Chowan County commissioners last Friday.

Commissioner N. J. George put forth a motion that Ashley reimburse the county for his salary during the period of the campaign. It did not get a second.

"They (the county) want the state and federal funds but they don't want me to do any Civil Preparedness work," he said Tuesday morning. And he said he doesn't know what caused any misunderstanding about his salary.

"I was putting in more than 40 hours for the county each and every week (during the campaign) and my daily log will show it," he said. "I didn't take off any time from my county job to campaign. I didn't have the time."

"I have never just worked part-time for the county."

CP funds for Ashley's salary

Judge Speaks

The New Chowan County Courthouse-Jail complex hasn't been put out for bids yet and it is already under attack from a Superior Court jurist.

In open court here last week, Judge Bradford Tillery of Wilmington called on citizens to voice objections to the size of the courtroom in the proposed facility.

The jurist said the proposed circular facility would not seat as many people as the existing courtroom. "He appeared real concerned that the county might be making a serious mistake if the facility is built according to preliminary plans which are now available," a court official said.

Judge Tillery is among the jurists who have, in the past, been highly critical of the existing courthouse, pointing out it is "totally inadequate" for efficient operation.

Earlier in the week he told the citizens drawn for jury duty that it might get a little hot in the courtroom because the air conditioners are inadequate.

stopped when he resigned. Since that time his full salary has been paid from county funds, which are normally matched by state and federal funds.

Commissioner Alton Elmore told a reporter that the continued full payment of Ashley's salary was apparently the result of a "breakdown in communication"

with Mrs. Pansy A. Elliott, finance officer. He said a motion had been passed calling for half payments but the information apparently never reached the finance officer.

Ashley apparently has no intention of repaying the funds. "I have never felt it necessary to back up to the table to get paid," he concluded.

4-H'ers Get District Titles

Chowan 4-H'ers won nine first place and four second place awards at the Northeastern District Activity Day held Wednesday in Gates County. Chowan 4-H'ers also had two blue ribbon numbers in talent contest.

Mrs. Yates Parrish was recognized as the most outstanding 4-H adult leader for the 15-county district. Al Ward and Vanessa Spivey were recognized as candidates for district officers.

For the afternoon program Harold Jones and Cynthia Jones were asked to perform their "Hambone Rhythm" act. This act and Beverly Twine's vocal solo were both awarded a blue ribbon in talent competition. Also, taking part in the district talent show were Elizabeth Hornthal, Carol Voight, Karen Keeter, Greer Amburn, Patricia Ashley and Nicole Roberson who performed a variety act, "Carwash."

Chowan boys and girls who won first place district honors were as follows: Automotive skill driving, boys - Bradley Ward; automotive skill driving, girls - Beverly Twine; beef-char-grill, Al Ward;

crop production, Greg Brabble and David Jordan. Open class, Leon Rouson; pork cookery, Jane Parrish; small engines, Bobby Dail; American Business System, team Carroll Perry and Bill Jordan; American Business System, individual, Bob Jordan.

Four Chowan entries that placed second were egg cookery, senior division, Vanessa Spivey; poultry barbecue, Allan Dail; sewing, Sarah Chappell, breads, junior division, Sue Bunch.

Among others attending were: Frankie Martin, Anne Becker, Gary Copeland, Jewel Langley, Coleen Jordan, Jill Copeland, Dawn Blount, Deneen White, Craig McCloud, Darren White, Troy McCloud, Martha Hornthal, Maurice England, Mrs. Fran Ward, Mrs. Lynn Jordan, Mrs. Wayland Spivey, Nelva Brabble, Cindy Martin, Mrs. Blannie Copeland, Murray Goodwin, Mr. and Mrs. Yates Parrish, Wayland Spivey, Mrs. Betty Dail, Mrs. Olivia McCloud, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Hardiman, Mrs. Gladys White, Theresa Turner, Mrs. Gail Bunch, Mrs. Ginny Ashley, and Dr. and Mrs. Allen Hornthal.



DISTRICT 4-H WINNERS — Bradley Ward, Route 1, Tyner, and Beverly Twine of Tyner, won the 15-county Northeastern District 4-H automotive skill driving contest recently. They received engraved trophies and sponsorship to attend N.C. 4-H Congress July 25-29 in Raleigh where they will compete for state honors. The awards are sponsored by the N.C. Motor Carriers Association. Henry Revell, Jr., 4-H specialist with the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service, left, coordinated the contest and presented the trophy to Ward. Trooper S.E. Wilson of Gatesville, made the other presentation. W.T. Lawrence of Gates, right served as a judge.