

School Bond Issue Set For August 15

Good Buy

The Law Enforcement Assistance Administration continues under fire at the federal level. Nevertheless, the program continues to function efficiently and effectively along the Public Parade and throughout Northeastern North Carolina.

It continues, also, to be one of the best buys for local government and if this source dries up it will be a great loss.

Between June 30, 1977, and May 31, 1978, Chowan County put up \$6,763 and implemented projects totaling \$132,258. It is good to put up \$755 and get a \$15,093 project, but even better to put up \$5,000 and get a \$100,000 Alternative School.

In Edenton during the same period, town fathers put \$14,404 for projects with a price tag of \$75,240. The bulk of the town's matching funds went for a third year program which provides additional policemen.

The Albemarle Law & Order Association already has under development or consideration a second year funding for the Alternative School as well as an in-service deputy for Sheriff Troy Toppin's Department.

In the town projects include a crime prevention officer, investigative officer, two policemen, and an addition to the Police Department.

Programs which are heavily funded from the federal and/or state governments have to maintain strong leadership in order to continue to warrant the confidence of the people they deal with. LEAA programs here enjoy this type leadership and so long as the pipeline is open the area will continue to reap the benefits.

Great Effort

The worst-kept secret along the Public Parade and throughout North Carolina is the State Board of Education's agreement to fund a \$50,000 pilot project on the subject of a Tri-County Career Education Center in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans.

There have been so many spoons in the soup that information regarding the funding, and its basis, have flowed more rapidly than the water in the Chowan River. The latest is Bill Noblitt's column in the newspapers who subscribe to the Association of Afternoon Dailies, which in this area is our favorite in the Albemarle published in the Isle of the Pasquotank.

The project was in a "hold" position until Gov. Hunt gave it his blessing on March 23. This got the attention of the State Board of Education, of which he was a member as Lt. Gov., as well as the State Department of Public Instruction, whose superintendent has never been shy to innovative and bold proposals.

It is an idea of multi-county cooperation whose time has come. It is something which the federal, state, local and private sector can fund for an efficient and effective program of education.

Walter B. Jones, Jr., representative of the Governor's Office who was named coordinator for the project, has done his job well. He put the pieces of the

Continued on Page 4

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has been given the long awaited green light to go to the people on August 15 with a 3.5-million school bond referendum. County commissioners, by a 4-1 vote, Monday night approved the board's petition for the vote.

In presenting the petition, Eugene Jordan, Chairman, said the board estimated the project to cost \$4-million, but \$500,000 is available in state school bond money. Questioned about the site, he assured the commissioners it would be selected prior to the vote, as well as nailing down the cost and appearance of the project.

Commissioner C.A. Phillips said he felt the board was being "sorta rushed into it" but later voted with the majority. The lone dissenter was J.D. Peele whose most vocal objection was over a special election which could cost the county as much as \$3,500 rather than wait to the November election.

Jordan said by waiting until past the regular time for

opening schools the project could be delayed a third year.

Commissioner Alton G. Elmore noted that the county held a water bond referendum during a special election because "we wanted it to stand on its own merits."

During the discussion, Peele further commented that it appeared the commissioners are being dictated to as to what "they want and when we do it."

Jordan said the project was the same as previously discussed, a new high school facility. He noted that the board has various options, not only with a new high school but in complete reorganization. He said this appeared to be the overwhelming sentiment during community meetings.

Commissioner Lester Copeland quizzed Jordan about the tax boost such a referendum would require. It was estimated, at the current valuation, to be 17 cents per \$100 valuation.

At another point, Copeland asked if promotion of the referendum would be at any cost to the county. Jordan

assured him it would not since the information already available would be used.

When Jordan said the board would hope to sell the bonds to Farmers Home Administration at 5 per cent interest over 40 years, Phillips said he had problems with the longevity of the situation. "This is a burden everyone should understand," he added.

In other business, commissioners named Mrs. April Lane and Marvin Smith to fill vacancies on the Planning Board, but stopped short of removing from the board the authority of appointing its own chairman.

The contract of Henry E. Dick of Greensboro to serve as county manager was approved. It calls for an annual salary of \$22,000; \$2,500 in travel allowance; moving expenses; a week's vacation in August or September; and a six-month notice to terminate.



Volume XLIV, — No. 20.

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, May 18, 1978.

Single Copies 15 Cents.

Oakum Street Project Block Grant Sought

The Town of Edenton is seeking a \$832,810 Community Block grant from U.S. Housing & Urban Development to carry out Phase II of a program on Oakum Street.

Town Council last week approved the preapplication with the project year to begin October 1. Phase I, now underway in a three-block area from Peterson to Carteret streets, was funded at the \$445,000 level.

Jud Little, CD director, said if the new grant is approved the project will take in an area from

the existing line to Church Street.

The town is proposing a comprehensive program of neighborhood revitalization including rehabilitation, acquisition and public works improvements.

In the resolution adopted, council stated that the town faces "critical social and environmental problems as a result of deteriorated housing, blighted neighborhoods and inadequate public facilities."

The program would stabilize and revitalize neighborhoods using a comprehensive approach that addresses multiple programs in a low-income, minority concentration area.

Phase II is designed to rehabilitate 42 houses in the target area; nine have been found to be in such deteriorated condition that rehabilitation would not be feasible and acquisition is necessary.

The grant would also provide adequate street, water, sewer and drainage facilities. Sidewalks would be built and curb and gutter installed. Equipment would be replaced at the neighborhood playground.

Council also awarded an insurance contract to West W. Byrum Agency and gas and oil contract to Creywood Oil Company.

Dr. Parker Chesson of Elizabeth City was nominated for reappointment to Coastal Resources Commission.

Councilman James P. Ricks, Jr., reported that Edenton Jaycees have indicated an interest in cooperating with the town and Post Office in bringing about a unified house numbering system here.



NATIONAL DECA WINNER—Tim Lane of John A. Holmes High School DECA was chosen a national finalist in competition held last week in Washington, D.C. He was chosen from among 150 contestants and was one of two winners selected from North Carolina. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Paulette Lane, he is shown here with John Dowd, Holmes DECA advisor.

Budget Approved

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has approved a "hold the line" budget for fiscal 1978-79 which totals \$3.5-million and requires \$740,000 in county funds.

Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, said the local share is up some 15 per cent from the current budget. Based on 2,650 students, the per pupil cost is \$284.

He said the first draft of the budget was \$900,000, up considerably from the \$641,000 the schools get from the county this year. However, after two sessions of the board the "expansion budget was cut back to the current figure.

The superintendent said there was a rather large increase, about 30 per cent, in the cost of coal and electricity. Capital outlay was increased \$22,000 with the primary project being the repair to the boiler room at D.F. Walker

Continued on Page 4

State Board Pledges Funds

Following the lead of Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., the State Board of Education in six weeks has guaranteed funding of a \$50,000 planning grant for the Tri-County Career Education Center in Northeastern North Carolina.

In the process, the state's highest authority in elementary and secondary education hopes to involve Coastal Plains Regional Commission.

At a recent meeting of the boards of education in Chowan, Gates and Perquimans counties, steps were taken to launch the program. This came following a meeting last week in Raleigh where the superintendents were told of assurance of the request for a year-long planning grant.

At last week's meeting in Gatesville, Dr. J.H. Horton of the local unit, suggested that alternative means of launching the project be available at a June meeting. The options appeared to be: hire a director; retain a private firm to set up a program; or hand the idea over to a university for a draft proposal.

The Tri-County Career Education Center concept surfaced only a few months ago and became the first multi-county project of this nature in all of North Carolina. It quickly gained the "full support" of Gov. Hunt,

Continued on Page 4

Results Pending

Parents who have a child in grades 1,2,3,6, or 9 of Edenton-Chowan Schools, will soon receive the results of their child's achievement on tests administered during April. The testing was given as part of the statewide annual testing program. Individual student scores are being returned to schools between May 8 and 26 and parents should receive individual student scores between May 15 and 31.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held as well as other methods of communicating with parents about their child's achievement and progress or plans for remediation. Each local school system will release grade and school scores around July 24. State results are scheduled to be released at the August meeting of the State Board of Education.



REPRESENT CHAMBER—These seven men represented Edenton Chamber of Commerce at a State Utilities Commission hearing in Williamston regarding a Vepco rate increase. Left to right are: Stanley Hege, W. Earl Smith, Robert Moore, Charles Creighton, Al Howard, George Alma Byrum, and Bill Norvell, president.

Vepco Argues For Rate Hike

WILLIAMSTON — Virginia Electric & Power Company hopes the N.C. Utilities Commission will approve a 22 per cent rate in-

crease so the firm can get its earnings up to show the financial community a good investment, cover inflation since the last increase, and cover start-up costs of the North Anna nuclear plant.

This was the crux of a case put to the news media by Stanley Ragone, Vepco president, at a meeting here Monday on the eve of public hearings on the \$13.2-million rate increase request. Ragone said because of the manner in which the commission accepts data, the increase will not be adequate by the time it is acted upon.

While he expressed concern over those on fixed income, Ragone said the utility firm must have rates base on investment and the cost of producing electricity. He suggested that state and federal governments consider additional assistance to those on fixed income.

"Our job is to provide service at the most economical rate possible and we contend we are doing that," he said.

In answer to a question from the media, he denied that the firm has inflated the amount of the increase in hopes of settlement for a lesser figure.

The proposed increase will be offset by about \$2.8-million in fuel savings because of the use of lower cost nuclear fuel at North Anna Nuclear Power Station Unit 1 and other nuclear operation, said Ragone. The net effect will be a 17.4 per cent—or \$10.4-million—increase in customer bills, he said.

Continued on Page 4



GRANT CAUSES CONTROVERSY — An \$80,000 grant to promote historic sites and tourism in Northeastern North Carolina has brought about a controversy. It was discussed here Monday, with leaders being, Sen. Melvin Daniels, Mrs. Lucille Winslow of Edenton Historic Commission; Rep. Vernon G. Jones; Dr. Larry Tise of Raleigh; Rep. Roberts Jernigan of Albemarle; and Bill Edwards, president of Historic Albemarle Tour. (See Public Parade).



Rehabilitation



Improved Drainage



Curb And Gutter