

# Town, County Give Tentative OK's To Budgets

## Town Budget

A proposed \$5.4-million budget for fiscal 1978-79 for the Town of Edenton was accepted by the council Tuesday night. Although the expenditures are expected to be some \$1.6-million more than the current year, the 68-cent tax rate is being maintained.

W.B. Gardner, town administrator, said a public hearing on the budget will be held at 8 P.M. on June 20 in the Municipal Building.

The budget is based on a valuation of \$48.5-million, up to \$1.5-million from this year.

Also, the budget carries a 7.5 per cent general salary increase with further adjustments in some areas.

The Utility Fund budget is \$3.5-million, up considerably from the \$2.4-million this year. This includes \$150,000 in new construction, including beefing up the line to the airport area and installing additional street lights on Virginia Road.

Gardner also noted that it was necessary to move \$20,000 from the Water and Sewer Fund to balance the Electric Fund.

Capital expenditures amount to \$250,000. All of it is connected with sewer work. There is another new item budgeted this year, \$335,000 for the Community Development Program.

The town has budgeted \$184,980 in Revenue Sharing funds.

The General Fund, totaling \$1,117,135 is broken down as follows:

Administrative, \$86,912; Police, \$238,474; Fire, \$91,030; Street, Sanitation, Garage, \$262,277; Recreation, \$64,559; Other, \$217,883; and Powell Bill and Granville Street, \$156,000.

## Cause Found

Probable cause was found Tuesday morning in six morals charges faced by Samuel Thomas Potts, 38, Route 2, Cape Colony. Judge Grafton Beaman denied the request of the defense attorney to lower the \$60,000 bond.

The charges were brought last month following investigation by Sheriff Troy Toppin, the SBI, Juvenile and school authorities. Potts is being held in Albemarle District Jail in Elizabeth City and trial is expected during the June 26 term of Chowan County Superior Court.

Prosecuting witnesses are two 12-year-old girls.

Two young Negroes were given active jail terms after being convicted of speed competition. Mitchell Gene Wynn, 16, and Carlton Lee Lynn, 18, both of Route 3, Edenton, were given 60 days each.

A third defendant in the case brought by State Trooper R.M. Potts, Larry Edward Boyce, was given 60 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

In other cases called by Asst. Dist. Atty. Richard Parker, the following action was taken:

Oliver Lee Dillard, Jr., Thomas E. Parker, Jr., and Joe Thomas

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## Phillips To Chair New Group

RALEIGH — Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr., has announced the appointment of C.A. Phillips of Edenton to the newly established Wanchese Harbor Commission. He designated Phillips as chairman.

The commission is functioning under the State Ports Authority and will be charged with development of the multi-million dollar, multi-faceted harbor in Dar County.

The project has received heavy funding from state and federal sources.

Phillips is president of Edenton Cotton Mills, is a member and former chairman of Chowan County commissioners and has a lengthy history of interest and leadership in regional affairs. He is a past chairman of the state-wide Farm-City Week promotion.

The commission chairman, who resides at Hornblow Point on Albemarle Sound, was a member



**MOTORISTS ESCAPE SERIOUS INJURY**—There were no serious injuries in this two-car wreck which occurred at 1:20 P.M. Monday on Highway 32, east of Edenton. Barbara Harris Sharpe, Route 2, Edenton, was driver of the 1971 Ford, right, which was struck in the rear by a 1972 Dodge, operated by William Robert Smith of Engelhard, left. State Trooper Charles Mims stated that the Sharpe vehicle slowed to pick up a pedestrian when it was struck by the Smith car, causing it to overturn into the ditch. There were six people in the Sharpe car but none were seriously injured. Property damage was estimated at \$1,500.

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## Public Parade

### Noted And Passed

It has been said the best way to have a short winter is to have a bank note falling due in the spring. And probably the best way to have a short summer is to have a multi-million dollar, bond issue coming in the fall.

### Hold The Line

Chowan County commissioners appear to be heading toward adoption of a record budget, one which carries a eight-cent tax cut. In our opinion, the tax cut is not only unnecessary but not smart.

The commissioners can see their way clear to roll back nearly half of this year's increase by using \$192,841 fund balance. The total amount of the anticipated fund balance for July 1 was not available to this writer, but it is being estimated that it will be in the neighborhood of \$230,000 in August, the second month of the new fiscal year.

This would mean that the commissioners are budgeting all but \$37,159 of the fund balance with a budget in excess of \$3.3-million.

The county board this year got caught playing politics with the tax rate. In order to pay for past sins the rate was boosted by a healthy 18 cents.

The action now contemplated is evidence that our county officials have not profited from past experience. The courthouse-detention facility is being paid for with a federal grant. There are no furnishings included in the contract and it will be difficult to find grant funds to purchase these items.

Too, Edenton-Chowan Board of Education is headed in a new

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## PTA To Aid Selection

Patrons of Edenton-Chowan Schools will participate in the selection of a new principal at D.F. Walker School as the result of board action Monday night. Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, reported that 12 applications have been received and some 14 other inquiries made for the post being vacated by James A. Kinion, who will become assistant superintendent on July 1.

Mrs. Emily G. Amburn requested that parents be included in the interview process for top personnel. Eugene Jordan, chairman, remembered that this is in line with the now defunct School Committee process where patrons played a key role in staff selection.

After considerable discussion, Dr. Edward G. Bond made a motion that the chairman be authorized to select a committee of school patrons to participate in the screening process with three names being presented to the board. The motion carried.

This was followed by a presentation of Mrs. Peggy Anne Vaughan, director of Community Education, who over the past few weeks has been establishing Advisory Councils in the five schools, as well as establishing ground rules for other volunteer groups.

She told the board that the councils had a broad area of representation, both on the racial, as well as teacher-student-parent basis.

The board approved a \$314,585 Title I program for 1978-79 which is designed to assist 650 students. James Pressley, director of instruction, explained the program and said it is hopeful that a psychologist slot can be funded within the system.

In discussion of the proposed \$3.5-million school bond referendum, Dr. Dunn noted that if a vote is to be held on August 29 application must be made by county commissioners to the Local Government Commission by Friday. A bond order must be received by Monday with a public hearing advertised on April 15 and held on June 20. This information has been given to the county attorney.

Later in the meeting he indicated that this might not be possible, as he referred to a referendum "in the fall."

Mrs. Mary Nixon presented a slide-tape presentation which will be available for presenting

## Coffee House

After you've driven up and down Broad Street, what do you do in Edenton — especially in the summer?

This question was posed repeatedly by concerned youth and adults in the Edenton-Chowan area last winter. The answer to the

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throughout the county. Fact sheets, etc., were also approved for distribution.

The board will have its next regular meeting on July 6 so the student tests and scores might be explained. Dr. Dunn described this as an "in-service" process for board members before the test results are made known.

## Advisors Meet

The newly formed Edenton Human Relations Committee had its first meeting at the Municipal Building on May 25. Those appointed by the Town Council to serve on this vital committee are: Glenora Austin, Richard R. Blankenhorn, Evelyn Collins, George Jordan, Byron Kehayes, April Lane, Willis Privott, Jimmy Yates.

The purposes of the committee are to establish and keep open lines of communications between all citizens of the town of Edenton, and to assist the council in recognizing problems, both real and potential, and to suggest possible solutions to these problems. The committee will be strictly advisory in nature, but it is probably one of the most important that the Council appoints.

The officers elected to head up the committee are George Jordan, chairman and Mrs. April Lane, secretary.

## COA Proposes Committee

The Board of Trustees of College of The Albemarle in Elizabeth City are asking commissioners in six counties in its service area to name one person to an Advisory Committee to strengthen communication between local government and the institution.

Dr. Parker Chesson, president, told Chowan County commissioners Monday morning that while state legislation prohibits appointment of board members from certain counties in the seven-county service area, the trustees recognize the need for the free flow of information between COA and local government.

In answer to a question, he said it is hoped that the Advisory Committee would meet regularly with the trustees as well as hold special meetings when it is deemed advisable. "The board wants to establish some communication channel with all the counties served," he said in a brief appearance.

At the present time, COA board members are appointed this way: four by Pasquotank County commissioners; four by Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education; and four by the governor. He said in the past there had been a breakdown in communication with Chowan, Gates, Perquimans, Camden, Currituck

## County Budget Proposal

Chowan County commissioners have set a budget which cuts the tax rate eight cents per \$100 valuation and uses \$192,841 in fund balances. Tentative approval of the record \$3,354,279.49 budget was given May 31.

The budget is based on a valuation of \$124-million.

The Budget Committee, composed of Alton G. Elmore and Lester Copeland, recommended

cuts of \$109,596.91 in expenditures. The request from Edenton-Chowan Schools was cut \$15,000, to \$683,842.72.

Also, the request from Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library for \$26,500 to finish the second floor of the building on West Water Street was cut from the budget. Another \$50,000 was cut from the capital reserve fund balance.

One of the biggest items in the budget is Medicaid, funded by the state and federal governments. It goes from \$594,630 this year to \$854,762 next year, a 44 per cent increase.

Commissioners increased taxes from 75 cents per \$100 valuation to 93 cents in 1977 in order to cover expenditures from existing funds for the purchase of the courthouse-detention facility site.

The budget does not include a specific item for charity cases at Chowan Hospital. Mrs. Pansy A. Elliott, budget and finance officer, has said this is included in other sections of the budget.

The fire district tax will be five cents per \$100 valuation, based on an assessed valuation of \$73-million.

Mrs. Elliott estimated that the reduction in the rate will amount to some \$95,000 less revenue from property tax. This would be made up through the use of fund balances or reserves.

The county anticipates \$186,406.49 from revenue sharing and \$250,000 from the 1 per cent local option sales tax. More than \$567,000 is anticipated from state and federal funds other than Medicaid.

The 1978-79 budget includes \$40,000 for the County Manager's department. It reflects generally a 6 per cent cost of living salary increase for county employees.

The budget ordinance is published elsewhere in today's newspaper.

## First Graduate Lauds Program

"The Alternative School was my third chance at an education and first chance at a job." This statement, made by Denise Brown in a student evaluation report, summarizes simple that purpose for which the Edenton-Chowan Alternative School was formed.

In an informal ceremony Tuesday, followed by a reception, the Edenton-Chowan Alternative School staff and students honored its own. Denise had become the school's first graduate, having formally received her high school diploma at Monday nights commencement exercises for the 1978 graduating class of John A. Holmes High School.

In recognizing Denise's accomplishments during her enrollment at the school, Mrs. Clara Boswell, director shared with the class other thoughts which Denise had written in her report:

"I will say that God blessed someone to come up with the thought, and the love, to care and want to help those people looked down on as society's trouble-makers."

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**"THE GRADUATE"**—Proudly donning the traditional cap and gown symbolizing graduation from high school, Denise Brown receives an attendance certificate from Mrs. Clara Boswell, director of the Edenton-Chowan Alternative School. The daughter of Mrs. Arthur Brown, Denise received special recognition by her teachers and classmates as the Alternative School's first graduate.