

Town, County Budgets Require More \$'s

Absence Of Rock

There are those who would say most fishermen are puzzled; it is just a matter of degree. We ran into an extremely puzzled fisherman earlier in the week.

He apparently loves to fish for rock. He recalled the days when he could catch a mess early in the morning and still get to work by 8:30 o'clock. Later he could fish from his back yard on the Albemarle Sound and still catch a mess.

Now the rockfish are gone. Why?

Not being an avid fisherman, we couldn't help him solve the puzzle. Later in the day, however, we ran into Carlton Nixon, who is paid to know all about the fishing laws if not the habits of fish. We asked about the rockfish. He related that the theories are about equal to the number of specialist who are asked.

Even if Carlton had produced a satisfactory answer to where the rockfish have gone, it would not have solved the big puzzle. That is why the National Fish Hatchery along the Public Parade produces so many rockfish fingerlings only to stock distant waters?

Will someone out there please help us help Bill Easterling solve his puzzle? Then we can go back to talking money with him instead of listening about the absence of rockfish.

Time Has Come

Some agencies talk about being cost effective. Other agencies do something about it. The N. C. Agricultural Extension Service is now gearing up to make funds available stretch the furthest.

Dr. T. Carlton Blalock, director, threw out such words as "multi-county assignments" and "consolidation of administrative units" in a matter-of-fact speech last Thursday night at the quarter board meeting of Albemarle Area Development Association.

Dr. Blalock was not speaking in an unknown tongue. He was speaking to people who enjoy the benefits of multi-county assignments of specialists and in an area where consolidation of administrative units could expand an already successful program.

Northeastern North Carolina has been the testing grounds for programs which require a specialist to travel the circuit in as many as 15 counties. In every case it has been proven that the citizenry benefits.

Any consolidation of administrative units will be new in Tar Heelia. In fact, we proposed it 10 years ago but it has not begun to catch on until now. The assignment of one extension chairman as administrator of two or more counties would result in greater use of talents and greater chances of every person with a problem having that problem addressed by a specialist.

The time has come for serious consideration of the concepts Dr. Blalock is developing in the Agricultural Extension Service. But his agency doesn't have a monopoly on a need for cost efficient operation. Local governments along the Public Parade need to go to school on this subject.

Different Flags

The proposal by Pitt County Memorial Hospital to construct a 144-bed tower and convert 20 existing beds to intensive care unit status has been approved by the Eastern Carolina Health Systems

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Copeland Named Manager

Luther C. Copeland, Jr., has been employed as Chowan County manager, effective July 9. He succeeds Eddie Dick who held the position for a year before accepting a similar position in Craven County.

"Cliff" Copeland, 27 and single, was chosen from some 75 applicants. County commissioners reached the decision Monday night following a public hearing on the budget for fiscal 1979-80.

The manager's starting salary was placed at \$16,000 plus a car allowance.

Copeland is coming to Chowan County from Albemarle where he has been assistant county manager since October, 1976. Earlier he worked as a Department of Finance intern with the Town of Chapel Hill, was a programming assistant for the N. C. Community College System, and for two summers was an intern with the N. C. Department of Corrections.

A native of Woodland in Northampton County, Copeland graduated cum laude from Duke University in May, 1974, with a degree in political science. He has since studied public administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Volume XLV - No. 25

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, June 21, 1979

Single Copies 15 Cents.

Veeco's Foes Keep On Heat; Increase Asked

As "Operation Overcharge" continues to put the "heat" on Veeco, the electric utility has "pancaked" a rate increase in North Carolina. Veeco announced earlier this week an intent to file for \$18.7-million worth of wholesale rate increases by July 31.

This filing will be in addition to a \$10.2-million wholesale rate increase imposed last September and being protested by Tar Heel municipalities. The newest request would average 7.4 per cent for municipalities and 12.8 per cent for cooperatives.

The Town of Edenton and Albemarle Electric Membership in Hertford would be affected by the increase.

A Veeco vice president said the increases would help defray the cost of constructing the second unit at the North Anna nuclear power station.

Meanwhile, Stanley W. Hege of Chowan County, chairman of the N. C. Utilities Commission Committee of "Operation Overcharge" said Monday the Three Mile Island incident "must not cause us to let up on them (Veeco)."

"We will continue to keep the heat on them at every level," he continued.

In a report today (Thursday) to Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce, Hege predicted that the N. C. Utilities Commission will "roll back" the 19.7 per cent retail rate increase granted in September by 6 per cent.

Bridge Hearing

The Division of Highways of the N. C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a public meeting concerning replacement of the Highway 32 bridge over the Albemarle Sound in Chowan and Washington counties.

The meeting will be held June 28 in the Perquimans County Office Building on South Church Street in Hertford at 7:30 P.M. NCDOT representatives will present preliminary work accomplished and will hear suggestions from the public.

Alternative bridge locations have been identified. Movable and fixed span bridges now are being evaluated.

The bridge is listed in the Transportation Improvement Program and has high priority for replacement as federal aid funds become available.

Transportation board member Marc Basnight of Manteo said, "This bridge replacement meets a significant transportation need for the area. I'm delighted we've reached the public meeting stage, and I encourage residents to ask questions and voice their opinions on the proposed alternatives at the meeting."

For more information, contact T. L. Waters, manager of planning and research, Division of Highways, P. O. Box 25201, Raleigh, N. C. 27611 or telephone him at (919) 733-3141.



ELECTIONS BOARD — Mrs. Lena M. Leary, left, is shown administering the oath of office to the three members of the Chowan County Board of Elections. They are: E. N. (Pete) Manning, Mrs. Opal Kehayes, and Mrs. Novella Wilson. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)

Board Gets 2 New Members

Two Democratic Party nominees to the Chowan County Board of Elections were sworn in at noon Tuesday. E. N. (Pete) Manning and Mrs. Novella Wilson took the oath along with Mrs. Opal Kehayes, the Republican member who was renominated.

The oaths were administered by Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of Chowan County Superior Court. Manning and Mrs. Wilson replace Robert Harrell and Mrs. Sadie Hoskins.

At a brief meeting later, Mrs. Corrine Thorud, director of elections, submitted her resignation.

The appointment of the Democratic Party members by the State Board of Election created confusion and controversy. It was not until Monday afternoon that Mrs. Thorud finally learned who officially had been elected by the state board.

J. Clarence Leary, Jr., former chairman of the Chowan County Democratic Executive Committee, submitted Harrell and Mrs. Hoskins for re-election. Leary did not seek another term in the party post and N. J. George was elected chairman.

A complaint was registered with state party headquarters about the manner in which Leary reached the decision to provide

Change Coming

HERTFORD — The winds of change are growing in the N. C. Agricultural Service and the direction is toward more citizen involvement, consolidation of programs and personnel as well as development of multi-county units.

Dr. T. Carlton Blalock, director, said last Thursday night that he feels what will come from immediate changes and long-range planning will be a stronger mechanism to enrich the lives of the citizens. He said also that the agency must become more cost efficient.

Speaking at the quarterly meeting of the 10-county Albemarle Area Development Association, Dr. Blalock said he has a commitment to expand and improve the use of private citizens at the policy making level. Because of this he has encouraged the development of the N. C. Agricultural Extension Advisory Council.

The speaker said his agency is in the "people business" and people have to be more involved at all levels. He pointed out that a 10-member state council, headed by L. F. Amburn, Jr., of Edenton, is now organized and has already begun to make a contribution to the agency. "We are excited about this state council," he noted.

"We have some tough problems facing us in this nation," he continued. "We must involve as many people as possible in seeking to solve these problems."

Dr. Blalock said not everyone

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Chowan County commissioners Monday night adopted the budget for fiscal 1979-80 which carries a 11-cent tax increase. Meanwhile, Edenton Town Council has accepted for public hearing a budget for the same period which requires a six-cent increase per \$100 valuation in ad valorem taxes.

Both local governments have adopted job classification pay grades. The county budget reflects a 7 per cent across the board increase above the pay grades while the two proposes a 7 per cent cost of living salary increase with a 3 per cent merit increase.

Meanwhile, the town proposes a minimum annual salary of \$7,000 for all employees who have completed 12 months satisfactory service. Specifics in the two budgets follows:

County

Chowan County commissioners Monday night adopted a \$2,525,255 budget for fiscal 1979-80 as presented earlier by Manager Eddie Dick, but agreed to continue to provide an employee for Edenton-Chowan Airport Commission.

The Airport Commission had requested \$8,500 from the county and a similar amount from the Town of Edenton. The Finance Committee, composed of J. D. Peele and George Jones, included \$4,000 in the budget, the first time for such a budget item.

At the public hearing Monday night, Capt. Alfred Howard, chairman, said full funding is needed since the commission can no longer retain an employee in the CETA position. Rather than amend the proposed budget at this time, commissioners agreed to find means of providing an employee.

After detailing operations at the airport, Howard was questioned about rentals. He said the commission now receives \$6,600 per year in rent on property.

Warren Twiddy, an airport commission member, pointed out that the county receives \$63,000 per year in taxes from property developed at the airport.

Frank Sellers questioned county commissioners about money for future capital projects.

Chairman C. A. Phillips said no funds are included in the current budget for this. There are funds, however, to finish some things

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Notes Are Sold

Chowan County last week sold \$46,000 in water bond anticipation notes through the Department of The Treasurer. State Treasurer Harlan E. Boyles said the bonds were purchased by First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company at an interest rate of 5.44 per cent.

This was one of six transactions on June 12. One was \$60-million highway bonds by the State of North Carolina. Wachovia Bank & Trust Company, NA and Associates were the successful manager for the bonds with a bid of 5.1343 per cent.

Mrs. White Changing Role

Mrs. Gladys White recently was described by R. M. (Pete) Thompson, Chowan County Agricultural Extension chairman, as one of the finer home agents with whom he has worked. She retires this month after 20 years with the agricultural education agency—12 of those years in Chowan County.

Mrs. White is a 4-H and

Town

A public hearing will be held at 8 P.M. June 28 in the Municipal Building here on the Town of Edenton's proposed \$5,692,705 budget for fiscal 1979-80.

The tentative budget was accepted by Town Council in a called meeting last Thursday night which was conducted in executive session brought about by discussion of the new job classification pay grade plan.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said while the budget provides across the board increases in salaries, some employees have been granted additional increases in order to meet the minimum pay grade established for their job classification.

In the current fiscal year the town tax rate was 68 cents per \$100 valuation, based on \$48.5-million valuation. The new levy would be 74 cents on a valuation of \$50-million. The levy will bring in \$351,500, based on 95 per cent collections.

The Finance Committee has transferred \$265,358 from the Utility Fund to balance the budget with a six-cent tax increase. This is up from this year's \$233,513 transfer.

The Electric, Water-Sewer funds exceed \$3.7-million in the budget.

Highlights of the budget include:

Capital Improvements
\$500,000 has been included for capital improvements in the waste-water treatment plant. The expenditure of this money will depend on the receipt of Federal Grant funds.

\$180,000 has been included for electric capital improvements consisting mainly of continuing the conversion of the distribution system.

\$100,000 has been included for construction of a transfer station for solid waste.

\$20,000 has been included as matching funds for a Bureau of Outdoor Recreation grant for the construction of a softball complex.

Funds have been provided for a study and cost analysis for drainage improvements in East Edenton.

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AGENT TO RETIRE — Mrs. Gladys White retires from the staff of Chowan County Agricultural Extension Service this month, after more than 20 years of service in two counties. She is shown here with R. M. (Pete) Thompson, county extension chairman.

A native of Richmond County, Mrs. White graduated from High Point College and took a teaching position in Oriental in 1942. Her

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