

Committee Fails To Meet

Mayor Roy L. Harrell said Tuesday night a committee from Town Council he appointed a month ago to explore the merger of local governments has not met. The committee, which included the mayor and Councilmen Harry Spruill and J. P. Ricks, Jr., was formed at the suggestion of Councilman Gil Burroughs.

The mayor's comment was in response to an inquiry from the audience at the conclusion of a 40-minute council meeting. There was no mention of designation of a similar committee from the county at the meeting of Chowan County commissioners on July 2.

At the June meeting, Mayor Harrell expressed opposition to a merger of the local governments after some councilmen agreed with Burroughs that it should be explored.

Burroughs touched another sore spot Tuesday night when he recommended that the Recreation Committee study expanding the local program to include water sports.

Councilman Jesse L. Harrell, a staunch conservative, said the council must set priorities. He pointed out that there are a lot of open ditches and other town improvements which the council has not seen fit to provide money. "Someone has to work; everyone can't play," he observed.

Earlier, while expressing some reservations about what "Operation Overcharge" might be able to accomplish in its rate

battle with Veeco, as a member of the Utilities Committee Harrell recommended that the town contribute \$500 to the cause. The group sought \$1,000.

"From what I see...it is more of a political push," the councilman said of the organization which functions in 22 counties in Eastern North Carolina served by Veeco. "If they do any good at all our

contribution will be worthwhile," he added. "Maybe we will get some results from the political end."

Stan Hege, representative of Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce on the Operation Overcharge board, pointed out that the move has the 100 per cent support of Electricities, which

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Stall And Kill

Mayor Roy L. Harrell almost got through Tuesday night's 40-minute monthly meeting of Town Council without being asked about activities of a three-man committee to explore merger of local governments. When the question came from the audience, the negative reply was in keeping with the mayor's position when it was raised a month ago.

"No, we haven't met," he said of the committee composed of himself and Councilmen Harry Spruill and J. P. Ricks, Jr.

Councilman Gil Burroughs proposed discussions with Chowan County commissioners as a means of seeking out cost effectiveness in local government. His two colleagues on the committee owe him the courtesy of seeing that an honest attempt is made to obtain a dialogue with the commissioners.

Mayor Harrell represents but one-third of the committee he appointed. It is highly questionable if he represents close to that ratio of the local citizenry who in the past month saw their taxes increase 17 cents per \$100 valuation.

If councilmen, like the self proclaimed conservative Jesse L. Harrell, are serious about cost effectiveness in local government administration they must move to establish the forum Mr. Burroughs suggested. To allow one person--namely Mayor Harrell--to stall and ultimately kill any serious consideration of the issue causes one to question their desire to provide the most government at the least cost.

The brunt of a town-county tax increase is felt more by the taxpayers of the town since they also pay county taxes. The votes to instill cost effectiveness in administration of government are found in the municipality which only a few years ago voted overwhelmingly to put the county in the water business.

There are obvious obstacles to overcome. Progress in this regard cannot be made until an honest, good-faith effort is made to address the obstacles. To allow a negative--if not a minority--voice to rule by appointing a committee which he won't allow to function is not the American way.

The question is a difficult one. However, in spite of what Mayor Harrell might believe, it is a question with which locally elected officials must come to grips. If a Proposition 13 is in the wings it would at least save face to be able to tell the citizens our elected officials are honestly engaged in dialogue to take out some of the sting of increased tax bites.

Shopping List

A \$14-million "shopping list" greeted Cliff Copeland when he arrived along the Public Parade to become Chowan County's second manager. It was in the form of a 10-year projection of public improvements, which had been prioritized by county departmental heads and various boards.

There is a wide spread between the less than \$3,000 projected by the tax department and more than \$11-million from Edenton-Chowan Schools. Both, however, should be accepted as legitimate figures within the framework of 1979 dollars.

Dan Tew of Albemarle Regional
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LANDSCAPE WORK BEGINS — Landscape work around the new Edenton United Methodist Church on Virginia Road is now in progress. Mrs. Mary Peele has designed a master plan and the first official planting took place late Monday afternoon. Rev. Richard R. Blankenhorn, left, conducted a brief service in which members of the Landscape Committee and other volunteers participated. Among them were Erwin Griffin, Dr. A. F. Downum, Sr., and Mrs. Joy Oborn with her two grandchildren, Benjamin and Michelle Davies.

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Improvemental Program Is Discussed

A 10-year prioritized public improvements program for Chowan County ranges from \$2,095 for the tax department to more than \$11-million for Edenton-Chowan Schools.

The program was recently compiled by Dan Tew of Albemarle Regional Planning & Development as a "shopping list" to provide local government an insight into what they can expect in capital expenditure requests over the next decade.

Tew told county commissioners he would complete the project by providing a forecast of funds to be needed.

The tax department, for instance, needs \$1,095 in 1980-81 to purchase a blueprint machine and in 1983-84 will need \$1,000 for the purchase of a digital plotter.

On the other scale, however, the schools will need \$2-million between 1979 and 1986 as Chowan's share of a Tri-County Career Education Center and \$6.5-million in (\$4.6-million in local funds) to

construct a new 900-pupil high school in 1980-81.

Renovation of existing buildings which are suitable for long-range use would require an additional \$2-million in 1986-87. An additional classroom at Chowan School that same year would call for another \$500,000.

In the health department, the big item is \$520,000 in 1983-84 to construct a new center "to be located near medical center". The other items center around needs of the Chowan-Perquimans Landfill.

The water department would install 20 miles of water mains in 1983-84 at a cost of \$320,000 and in 1985-86 would construct a treatment plant, two wells and a 300,000-gallon capacity overhead tank.

Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad wants \$150,000 in 1980-81 for a new building for Unit 1, then the same amount in 1981-82 for a new fire-rescue building for Unit 2.

Recreation department requests show the county's one-third share

of the budget of the Town of Edenton and funds needed generally center around the conversion of National Guard Armory on North Broad Street to a recreation center.

All estimates are at 1979 dollars.



WEEK-END SKI SHOW — Pembroke Water Ski Club is sponsoring competition in slalom, tricks and jumping Saturday and Sunday. Club members pictured here will be among officials and participants in the event. Left to right are: Bob Partin, Ken Kinion, Bruce Jones, Jr., Martin Cross and Brent Griffin. (Staff Photo by Luke Amburn.)

Ski Competition Scheduled

Water ski competition in slalom, tricks and jumping will be featured in the 1979 Pembroke Open, to be sponsored by Pembroke Water Ski Club at Pembroke Creek Saturday and Sunday.

Skiers in all age divisions will be taking part in the action which will begin at 8 A.M. each day. Much of the local attention will be focused on Bruce Jones, Mike Partin, Bob Partin, Brent Griffin, all in Men I, and Henry White in the Boys Division.

Entries have already been received from 100 skiers from three states, including Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The entry list will be closed after the first 125 are received by the tournament chairman, Mike Partin. Chief judge of the tournament will be Bruce Jones.

The slalom event involves running a course of six evenly spaced buoys. The contestants continue through the course at predetermined speeds and shorter towline until the skier with the most consecutive buoys without a miss is declared the winner.

In trick skiing, the competitors are scored by the judges on the number and difficulty of maneuvers performed during two 20-second passes through the trick course.

In jumping, the skiers attempt to attain winning distances by leaping off a ramp that is set at five feet, five and a half feet or six feet, depending on the division of the contestants.

Grant Approved

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District announced today the approval by the Community Services Administration of a grant in the amount of \$16,715 to Economic Improvement Council, Inc., which serves 10 Northeastern North Carolina counties.

These funds are to be used to provide recreational opportunities for disadvantaged youth

Soil Scientist Begins Work

Robert Ranson, soil scientist, reported for duty on the Chowan-Perquimans soil survey on July 2. He is a graduate of N. C. State University. Robert began his career with the Soil Conservation Service in 1976. He worked previously in Raleigh and Lillington before his assignment here.

He is a native of Huntersville

and his wife, Terri is a native of Raleigh. They have one daughter, Stacy. They are members of the Presbyterian Church.

Ranson joins a staff of two other soil scientists who have been working on the soil survey since October of 1976. They will make soil maps of every acre of land in Perquimans and Chowan counties, according to soil texture, structure, drainage and other physical properties. This map along with interpretations can be used to determine the suitability of the soil for almost any use.

It can help home buyers or developers determine soil related hazards or limitations that affect homesites. It is, also, useful to planners in determining the suitability of areas for housing or on-site disposal systems. It can help a farmer estimate the potential crop production of his land. It can be used to determine the suitability and limitations of soils for pipeline buildings, landfills, recreation areas and many other uses.

The soil survey was requested and supplemented by the Chowan and Perquimans Counties Boards of Commissioners. It is an important tool in achieving wise land use for the future



SOILS WORK CONTINUES — Phil Tant, soil survey party leader, left, brings Roger Ranson, new soil scientist, on various aspects of the on going detailed soil mapping program.



NEW MANAGER ARRIVES — C. A. Phillips, right, Chowan County commissioner, is shown here with Luther C. (Cliff) Copeland, Jr., who Monday assumed his role as county manager. Copeland comes here from Albemarle where he served as assistant manager in Stanly County.

Copeland Takes Position

The new Chowan County manager assumed his duties Monday by telling county employees he practices an "open" style of management that requires honesty, commitment and courtesy.

Luther C. (Cliff) Copeland, Jr., talked briefly with a number of employees who gathered with county commissioners in the Fourth Floor conference room of the County Office Building. After being introduced by Chairman C. A. Phillips, the 27-year-old manager said he is looking forward to the job. He said he considered himself fortunate to have

been chosen for the position.

"Everyone in this room knows more about Chowan County than I do," he said. "If I say that a year from now I'm in trouble."

Copeland, who succeeds Eddie Dick, resigned as assistant manager in Stanly County to take the \$16,000 post. He will reside at 215 West Eden Street. He was chosen last month from among some 75 applicants.

He is a native of Woodland in Northampton County. He graduated cum laude from Duke University and has studied public administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Project Review Set July 26

The Project Review Committee of Eastern Carolina Health Systems Agency is scheduled to review a Rural Health Initiative continuation application from Northeastern Rural Health Development Association.

The review is set for 7 P.M. July 26 when the committee meets in the Willis Building on First and Reade streets in Greenville.

Other agenda items include discussion of the following Section 112-Certificate of Need Reviews, and Proposed Use of Federal Funds: Ronald and Christina Pack - acquisition of New Bern Health Care Center; Atlantic Healthcare, Inc. - lease of New River Nursing Home, Jacksonville; N. C. Dept. of Human Resources - Toward A Child Health Strategy; Onslow County Mental Health Center - initial operations grant; N. C. Dept. of Human Resources - improved child health; East Carolina University School of Nursing - nurse practitioner grant; and Goshen Medical Center - first year operations grant.

Firm Relocates

J. H. Conger & Son, Inc., local Texaco distributor, has moved from Dock Street to North Broad Street, next to Northside Shopping Center.

J. H. Conger, Jr., announced that new office and warehouse facilities have been completed since the Edenton Bay site was purchased by the Town of Edenton.

W. B. Gardner, town administrator, said it would probably be fall before tanks and other materials are moved from the site. Shortly thereafter the town will begin renovation of the office building and development of another waterfront park area which will actually be an extension of Colonial Park.