

County Loses Round In Try For Facility

Warren County lost its second round in its effort to have Warrenton selected as a site for a 90-bed nursing home at a hearing held at Durham at 6:30 p. m. by the Capital Health System Agency.

Leland Gottschalk, of Warrenton, a member of the Board of Directors of the Capital Health Systems Agency, said yesterday that the vote was extremely close. Also attending the meeting from Warren County were John Hawkins, Project Review Board member, J. B. Martin and W. P. Jones, chairman of

the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

Gottschalk said that the Agency was very much impressed with the large number of citizens present from Warren County who attended the hearing in Henderson on Tuesday night of last week in support of the bid of J. B. Martin to erect a nursing home at Warrenton. At the hearing in Durham Monday night, Granville County got the nod to have the nursing home established at Oxford.

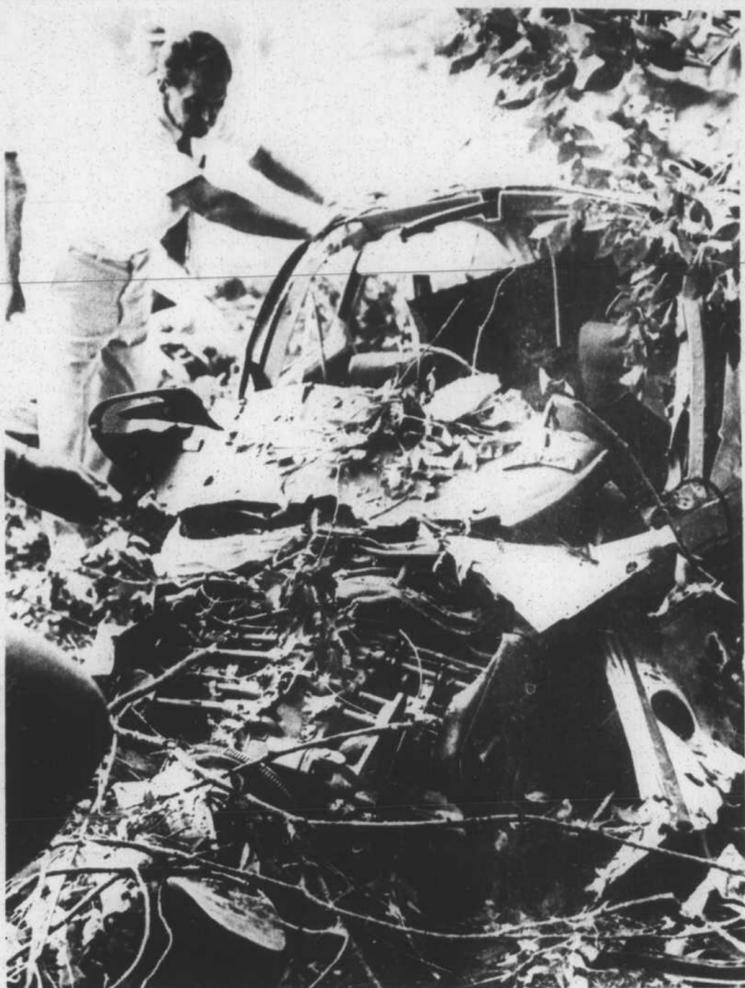
Affecting the decision, Gottschalk said, was the larger population of Granville, its nearness to larger hospital facilities, and perhaps, the overriding consideration was the fact that six physicians, mostly from Henderson, were investing in and backing the establishment of the home on the Oxford site.

Warren County will have one more chance, Gottschalk said, when the full board of the Capital Health Systems Agency will meet in Jordan Hall in Cary at 2 p. m. on Wednesday, July 6, when the Durham decision will be reviewed. Gottschalk said that it is vital to Warren's chances that a large delegation from Warren County attend this meeting.

Holiday

Warrenton and Warren County will come to a virtual halt on Monday as businesses and offices close to observe the Fourth of July.

A poll authorized by the Warren County Chamber of Commerce revealed that most all stores, with the exception of two retail grocery chains, convenience markets and service stations, will be closed.



Warren County Sheriff Clarence A. Davis inspects the wreckage of a four-passenger airplane which crashed here Friday afternoon. Three Pennsylvanians were fatally injured in the accident bringing the total to seven persons killed in airplane crashes in less than a year in Warren. Last November four New Jersey businessmen were killed in a crash near Oakville. Another view can be found on Page 3.
[Staff Photos by Don Stith]

Services Restored As Tax Rate Set

Most of the items cut in the proposed county budget by the commissioners were restored following a public hearing in the county courtroom on Thursday of last week when some 75 or more persons told the commissioners that they preferred vital public services to a cut in the tax rate.

The protest was sparked by reductions in funds for fire protection, ambulance service, the public schools, the arts, and for failure to provide adequately for public recreations. These were restored in the main by the commissioners, who after the restoration set the tax rate at 59 cents.

A score of those present spoke for both fire protection and public schools. William Brauer of Ridge-way, a charter member of the Warrenton Rural Fire Department, was an effective speaker for the restoration of rural fire companies, but he also spoke of the need for public schools, although he had no children. Lew Myers of Soul City, also childless, was listed as those speaking for the firemen but he also spoke for better county support of public schools.

Mrs. Eva Clayton, chairman of the Warren County Democratic Executive Committee, who emphasized the need for the commissioners to support the public schools, also spoke out strongly in support of more money for the firemen. Mrs. Clayton said that she attended private schools in Georgia, and had no fight on private schools. One, she said, should have a choice as part of the Democratic system. "But there is no way," she added "for a private school to educate the people of Warren County."

T. T. Clayton, attorney, who spoke strongly for schools, also addressed his remarks to other subjects in addition to fire departments and schools. He stressed the need for more money for public recreation, and described the one effort, a couple of tennis courts "under the railroad tracks" as a disgrace.

Roger Peeler, superintendent of Warren County schools, was among the early speakers. He told the commissioners that he had only a few hours before the meeting learned that the commissioners had reduced funds for operational purposes as well as taking out funds allotted for purchase of a site for a proposed consolidated high school. He told the commissioners that unless they restored the funds for operational ex-

penses the "Board of Education will have no recourse except to bring suit against the board of county commissioners."

The commissioners later were to restore the operational items, but failed to put back into the budget the \$25,000 allotted for purchase of the school site.

Peeler said that while the schools had gone through

two years in which keeping the schools open was a touch and go affair, that since that time the schools had been making steady progress.

During the course of the meeting, the commissioners justified their action by stating that at a public hearing held the previous Thursday, only seven persons appeared before the

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Warrenton Rate Is Set At 60 Cents

The Board of Town Commissioners on Monday night following a public hearing adopted the town budget calling for total expenditures of \$426,097 and a tax rate of 60c.

The budget, based on a valuation of \$13,000,000, and a total tax of \$78,000, with a one-cent tax rate bringing in \$1,300, was adopted by a four to three vote. Voting to approve the budget were Commissioners Sam Massey, Norfleet Cliborne, Bill Leary and Anna Butler; opposing were Commissioners B. G. White, Billy Lanier, Jr., and Gordon Halthcock.

The budget adoption followed a suggestion by Massey that the budget could be cut by reducing \$18,000 "in fat" from the police department and a statement by Town Manager Bill Davis that he had no control over the Police Department but was confident that he could reduce police department expenditures if given such control.

Later his contract was amended to make him zoning supervisor and to change his title from town administrator to town manager, with charge over all departments of the town. The vote to make him town manager was unanimous.

The budget is broken down into the following allocations: General fund, \$234,140; debt service, \$19,181; water and sewer fund, \$132,950.

Town Manager Bill Davis was the center of protest, with some protesters opposed to a town manager, others protesting an increase in his salary to \$16,000, as too much of a jump at one time. He was not without his defenders but those who opposed the increase were in the majority. The commissioners, after hearing the arguments, voted to increase Davis's increase to \$12,500 and pay him \$3,500 for his added duties as

Zoning Supervisor. The vote was three against, four for, following the same line as budget adoption.

Some two hours of the three hour session were spent in hearing pleas for a cut in the tax bill.

Frank Ballance appeared in behalf of his clients who wanted the budget reduced, saying that he too, would like a tax cut. He said that he couldn't feel that the \$16,000 proposed for the manager's salary was any great salary in these days. Also appearing before the commissioners was Ballance's law partner T. T. Clayton, who appeared without discussion with his partner. Clayton not only asked that Davis's salary be increased to \$16,000, but that the tax rate be increased if necessary in order to pay town employees, particularly unskilled labor, a decent wage.

Ed Hendricks spoke briefly.
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Inez Merchant Robbed, Beaten

Kearney Thompson, elderly Inez merchant, is recovering in Franklin County Memorial Hospital at Louisville from injuries received when he was assaulted and robbed at his store on Saturday at 6 p. m.

According to a report from the Sheriff's Department, Thompson was assaulted from behind, pulled behind the counter, choked and robbed of papers and a small amount of cash from one of his pockets. Sheriff Clarence Davis said that Thompson described his assailant as a black man about 6 feet tall and wearing a stocking over his head and face.

Thompson's injuries were described as a fractured hip and a bruised elbow.

Sheriff Davis said yesterday that his department was continuing the investigation.

Black-White Teacher Ratio Subject Of Report To Board

The faculty of John Graham High School is composed of 17 white and 13 non-white teachers, J. Roger Peeler, Supt. of Schools, told members of the Warren County Board of Education in a called meeting held here last week.

The division of teachers by race in the other schools of the county were revealed by Peeler, as follows:

Norlina High School—15 white, 12 non-whites.

Hawkins, Jr. High School, Warrenton—8 whites and 22 non-whites.

Mariam Boyd—12 whites and 14 non-whites.

North Warren Middle School—9 whites and 18 non-whites.

Northside School, Rt. 1, Norlina—8 whites and 11 non-whites.

South Warren Elementary School, Rt. 2, Warrenton—2 whites and 15 non-whites.

Vaughan Elementary School—nine whites and 9 non-whites.

The total number of teachers in the Warren County schools is 80 whites and 114 non-whites.

Aircrash Kills Three

A dry gas tank may explain the cause of a tragic plane crash near Littleton last Friday afternoon in which three members of a Pennsylvania family were killed, Sheriff Clarence Davis said yesterday.

He said that Richard G. Rodngui, supervisor of safety investigation at Dulles Airport at Washington,

D. C., and A. J. Abernathy, Federal Aviation Authority, of Raleigh, spent Saturday in Raleigh examining the plane. He said they took the motor apart and reported no signs of malfunction in either motor or plane. He said they found the gasoline tank of the plane empty.

The three persons were killed when this light private

plane crashed into some trees in an apparent attempt to land in Warren County.

The dead were identified as Dorothy Leona Linsenback of Lemoine, Pa., and Greenville, S. C., Richard H. Linsenback of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and Margaret L. Linsenback of Camp Hill, Pa. No ages were given.

The plane, a Rockwell Commander 144, crash landed about 4:10 p. m. into trees along a pasture one mile south of US 158 and one mile west of Littleton.

Witnesses reported hearing the plane's motor go on and off and backfire several times as the craft circled the area twice before crashing. There was no fire and no odor of fuel at the crash site. The plane was reportedly heading west at the time of the crash.

Sheriff Davis said yesterday that he was grateful for the assistance given the Sheriff's Department by the Warren County Rescue Squad.

Pedestrian, Bike Rider Hurt In Warren

A pedestrian and bicycle rider were injured in separate accidents during the weekend, according to Trooper W. C. Palmer of the Highway Patrol.

Palmer reported that Ralph Carroll, 57, of Rt. 2, Norlina, was apparently run over by a truck operated by Walter Anderson Royster, Jr., 23, of Rt. 2, Norlina. The accident occurred about 9:30 p. m. Friday night about six miles south of Warrenton on State Road 1131. Carroll was injured and hospitalized at Maria

Parham Hospital following the mishap.

Trooper Palmer said that Royster was driving west, momentarily blinded by lights of an oncoming vehicle and failed to see the pedestrian in the highway in time to avoid the accident. An eyewitness reported that Carroll was lying in the roadway in the path of the truck.

David Scott Phillips, 13, of Rt. 1, Warrenton, was injured and carried to Warren General Hospital after he was struck by an

auto driven by George Clark Robinson, 67, of Rt. 1, Macon.

The bicycle-auto accident occurred on U. S. Highway 158 bypass about six miles north of Warrenton.

Trooper Palmer reported that young Phillips and the Robinson vehicle were both travelling west on the highway when Phillips on the bike suddenly swerved left to the center of the road in the path of the auto.

Robinson reportedly carried the youth to the hospital in his car. Damages were

listed at \$75 to the bicycle and auto.

Damages were set at \$250 to an auto operated by Mansfield Cheyenne Russell, 19, of Warrenton following an accident on the Henderson-Warrenton road just west of the city limits on Saturday morning.

According to Trooper V. R. Vaughan, Russell advised that an unidentified vehicle entered the highway from a private drive in his path. He applied brakes and veered off the highway to the right into a ditch.

Figures Show Warren With Tax Valuation Of \$177 Million

By BIGNALL JONES
Warren County's total valuation following a revaluation of the entire county is \$177,632,652. Mrs. Janice Haynes, tax supervisor, announced Tuesday. This valuation, she said, includes real property in the amount of \$128,137,031 and personal property in the amount of \$31,693,387. Excluded by law is property in the amount of \$3,042,055. This includes homestead exemptions for the elderly with combined incomes of less than \$7500. Valuations are also reduced many millions by a change in revaluation which exempts timber from taxation until harvested.

Last year real estate was valued at \$62,030,190, less than half the valuation placed on it in 1977; taxable personal property was valued at \$28,586,665 and exclusions totalled \$2,809,199.

While real property doubled in valuation, personal property only increased by \$3,107,722. A large part of the personal property valuation was on automobiles, which must be listed at a value set by the state.

In addition to township valuation, Wildwood Point was valued separately. In 1976 the total valuation of Wildwood Point was \$2,102,

163, with exclusions of \$3,000, compared with a valuation in 1977 of \$3,496,650 and exclusions of \$207,013.

Utilities were valued at \$17,802,234 in 1976 under special formula, and the same valuation was accepted in 1977 as an estimate.

Based upon valuations Warrenton Township remains the richest township in the county, more than doubling in valuation since 1976. Smith Creek was in second place with \$19,205,068. Sixpound township was in third place with a valuation of \$14,194,946. This increase reflects developments on Gaston Lake.

TOWNSHIP	1976 Values				1977 Values			
	Taxable Real	Taxable Personal	Total	Exclu.	Taxable Real	Taxable Personal	Total	Exclu.
RIVER	3,960,250	1,544,156	5,504,406	126,590	10,525,300	1,644,330	12,169,630	181,413
SIXPOUND	5,099,740	1,461,025	6,560,765	197,178	12,540,693	1,654,253	14,194,946	196,441
HAWTREE	4,657,047	1,748,666	6,405,713	202,812	9,616,485	1,782,043	11,398,528	238,937
SMITH CREEK	7,081,526	6,360,873	13,442,399	452,684	12,945,121	6,259,947	19,205,068	499,841
NUTBUSH	4,897,344	1,939,757	6,837,101	171,494	10,123,639	2,265,772	12,389,411	176,226
SANDY CREEK	4,125,001	1,684,873	5,809,874	233,375	8,688,330	1,946,401	10,634,731	231,615
SHOCCO	2,550,479	1,105,638	3,656,117	156,250	5,641,153	1,390,495	7,031,648	185,825
FISHING CREEK	3,570,404	1,565,445	5,135,849	138,226	7,324,759	1,845,548	9,170,307	134,311
JUDKINS	3,736,138	1,091,674	4,827,812	137,330	7,510,840	1,189,385	8,700,225	147,590
WARRENTON	16,114,477	8,610,752	24,725,229	913,722	28,296,011	9,855,285	38,151,296	943,130
FORK	2,055,433	813,770	2,869,203	61,138	4,785,220	930,744	5,715,964	76,688
ROANOKE	2,287,201	453,023	2,740,224	15,400	6,642,830	615,901	7,258,731	21,920
WILDWOOD POINT	1,895,150	207,013	2,102,163	3,000	3,496,650	313,283	3,809,933	8,118
UTILITIES			17,802,234				17,802,234 (Est.)	
TOTAL	62,030,190	28,586,665	108,419,089	2,809,199	128,137,031	31,693,387	177,632,652	3,042,055