

Williams Expresses Displeasure With Warren Budget Decisions

Warren County Schools Superintendent Michael F. Williams had harsh words for county commissioners Monday night when he learned that the \$140,000 capital outlay appropriation in the proposed 1984-85 budget for Warren County Schools would be funded entirely from the proceeds of the recently enacted one-half percent sales tax.

Contending that the General Assembly's "intent" in authorizing counties to enact the additional sales tax was to provide funds for capital construction of schools, Williams told the commissioners their action was "unconscionable."

"This board has taken the one-half percent sales tax and funded the total capital outlay needs of the school system...throwing out the window the notion and possibility of the funds being used for seed money for capital construction."

Last year, \$100,000 from federal Revenue Sharing funds was budgeted for capital outlay, and almost \$910,000 was budgeted from the General Fund for current expenses.

The 1984-85 proposed budget calls for all school appropriations to come from the General Fund, with \$903,807 earmarked for current expenses and \$140,000 for capital outlay.

By state statute, at least 40 percent of the proceeds from one-half percent sales tax, which is distributed on a per capita basis among all the counties participating, must go to the schools for capital outlay. Warren County's projected proceeds for 1984-85 are based on current participation of 95 counties.

Williams told the commissioners that the proceeds from the tax represented the "last glimmer of hope" for meeting the long-term building needs of the public school system.

"What you're doing is permissible," he charged. "But it is against the intent of the legislation. It defies what anyone on the Board of Education thought the sales tax was intended to do."

Williams also voiced objection to a decrease of more than \$6,000 over last year in the current expense appropriation of the proposed budget. More than \$1,023,700, a \$120,000 increase, had been requested by the schools.

"We're not talking about expanding services," Williams said. "We're going to be \$120,000 short in providing what we did last

year....For two years, I've thanked you (for the school system's appropriation) and it is with all regret in my heart that I cannot say that tonight."

Williams related that in 1981, the schools had to cut nurses, counselors and such items as field trips in order to make ends meet after budget cuts brought the schools up short by about \$96,000.

"This year, we're \$120,000 short and I don't know what the cuts will be."

Board Chairperson Eva M. Clayton told Williams that she would not "allow the public to be under the delusion that this board is not committed to public education."

"The schools are to receive \$117,000 that is not reflected in this budget," she said, referring to the proceeds from the sales tax yet to be received for the three quarters of 1983-84. "You have some restraint with those funds, but you also have some flexibility."

"Last year, 60 percent of the one-half percent sales tax was earmarked for schools. We were unsure of the total amount that pot would have in it this year. Now 95 counties are participating, but you will have \$117,000 within the next few months over and above this year's (allocation)," she said.

Of that amount, two-thirds must be spent for capital outlay (40 percent), but the remaining one-third is not earmarked.

Citing the current financial crisis at Warren General Hospital, including a \$181,000 debt to the federal Medicare program, Mrs. Clayton said the county was forced to significantly increase its appropriation to that facility.

"We had no option," she commented. "We had to respond to this emergency."

The hospital's appropriation was increased from \$111,172 to \$185,770, funded both by the General Fund and Revenue Sharing.

"We have put you in a difficult situation," Mrs. Clayton told Williams. "But how can we relieve that? You cannot retrieve \$120,000. I would be dishonest to let you think that."

Williams told the board that he would have to confer with the Board of Education before making recommendations to the board, which is scheduled to vote on the proposed budget at its mid-monthly meeting tonight (Wednesday).

Mrs. Clayton indicated that the board would look into the possibility of providing the schools with additional funds through the county's contingency fund or the 1983-84 sales tax.

The schools' appropriation represents 22 percent of the county's \$4,803,365 budget, a decrease of one percent from last year.

Also appearing before the commissioners during the hearing were Warren County Sheriff Theo Williams and department secretary Betsy Frazier.

Mrs. Frazier thanked the commissioners for the addition of a deputy, which has been requested each year since 1977.

"We are constantly criticized by landowners in the lake areas who want more protection for their tax dollar," Mrs. Frazier said.

She was joined by Sheriff Williams in requesting merit raises for department employees whose salaries, they indicated, were below those for surrounding counties.

Mrs. Clayton expressed appreciation to the department for its work, but noted that no merit raises had been budgeted for 1984-85.

Allen Adcock, president of the Warren County Firemen's Association, also appeared before the commissioners to thank the board for the \$130,000 appropriation from Revenue Sharing for the county's volunteer fire department. The increase was 25 percent more than allocated last year.

"Firemen risk their lives for their departments and then have to sell stew and barbecue to raise funds," Adcock said, noting the high cost of equipment and firefighting gear.

"We thank you for this year's increase and for working with us," he said.

The proposed 1984-85 county budget calls for the property tax rate to remain at \$1 per \$100 valuation. It includes revenues of \$4,424,365 from the General Fund and \$379,000 from Revenue Sharing.

The overall budget, if approved, will increase 7.9 percent and will provide a six percent across-the-board cost of living raise for county employees.

Silkworm Guide
Ancient Chinese guidelines for raising fragile silkworms warn against barking dogs, crowing cocks, and foul smells. In Hangzhou, women caring for silkworms must not smoke, wear make-up, or eat garlic, National Geographic reports.



MRS. HORNER

Mrs. Horner Is Given New Post On Paper

Kay Horner, staff writer of The Warren Record for the past 2½ years, has been named news editor.

Announcement of the promotion was made this week by Editor and Publisher Bignall Jones.

A former employee of The News and Observer in Raleigh, Mrs. Horner is a graduate of the University of Richmond. She is the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. M. K. Roberson of Richmond, Va.

Mrs. Horner and her husband, Clarke, a senior marketing representative with DuPont, are residents of FernCliff on Lake Gaston. They are members of the Warrenton Baptist Church.

Farm Family

(Continued from page 1)
Tobacco Farmer of the Year finalist for the Middle Belt, sponsored by the Production Credit Association and the Federal Land Bank Association of N. C.

He is the son of Peter and Gladys Seaman of Axtell.

Courthouse Squares



MY WIFE AND I SPENT ABOUT HALF OUR TIME WONDERING HOW OUR KIDS WOULD TURN OUT, AND THE OTHER HALF WONDERING WHEN THEY WOULD TURN IN!

For Better Living

Talk With Customers

By MARGARET J. WOODS

Associate Home Economics Extension Agent
If a leaky faucet or a leaky roof has you heading for the yellow pages to look for a professional repairman, the tips I'm about to give you may be very useful.

The best way to select a competent repairman is to talk with people he has already done work for. This will give you an idea of the type of work the repairman has done and whether or not the quality of his workmanship is up to your expectations.

If you live in an urban area, check with your better business bureau. Find out if the repairman or his company has had legitimate complaints logged against them and if they've taken steps to correct them.

Well established repairmen and companies normally do the best work since a lot of their business is repeat business. Since unsatisfied customers can affect their business directly, they try to keep their customers happy.

If a repairman is unknown in your community, ask him for several references and check them out. Then, when you do select a repairman, be specific about the jobs you want him to do.

Decide on a method of determining costs, and tell him not to perform any additional tasks until the cost has been determined and you've given him your "OK."

By using these precautions, you and your repairman may both be pleased by a job well done.



Mosquitoes are attracted to the color blue twice as much as to any other color.

Maria Parham Intensive Care Unit Is Sought

Maria Parham Hospital of Henderson has notified the state health planning agency of its intent to develop an intensive care-coronary care unit in the hospital.

Hospital plans call for the renovation of an area on the fourth floor to house the special care unit. The seven-bed unit will be equipped with specialized equipment and personnel to care for patients with critical coronary problems and patients who need more intensive care than is offered currently in the hospital.

A certified cardiologist is also being recruited by the hospital to provide care and services to persons with cardiac-related problems. This physician would be qualified to conduct tests and procedures and provide treatment not currently available.

"There has been speculation in the community recently that the hospital is in danger of closing," said administrator Samuel T. Waddell in announcing the hospital's plans. "We hope that by making this announcement at this time we can reassure the people of Vance County and the surrounding areas that we are looking to a future of continuing, more complete health care services," he added.

"With this new unit, Maria Parham Hospital will be able to care or more seriously ill patients so they will not have to be transferred out of the community."

A certificate of need has to be obtained from the state's Division of Facility Services before the unit can be built. A formal application, citing justification for the unit, is being prepared for review by the state and by the Capital Health Services Agency in Durham. This review should be conducted in October and, if the certificate of need is issued, work on the special care unit would begin after that. It is hoped that the unit will be operational in early 1985.



Having roles in an area extension homemaker meeting here last week were, from left, Miss Johnnie Cunningham, Granville County home economics extension agent; Mrs. Phyllis Stainback, Vance County home economics extension agent; and Miss Margaret Woods, associate home economics extension agent in Warren County. (Extension Photo by Glenn Woolard)

House Doctor Event Is Held

"House Doctor" was the title of the June Extension Homemaker Area meeting held Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12 and 13, in the Agricultural Extension Building in Warrenton.

The program was presented by Miss Margaret Woods, associate home economics extension agent; Miss Johnnie Cunningham, home economics extension agent of Granville County; and Mrs. Phyllis Stainback, home economics extension agent of Vance County.

The program enlightened the audience on a few of the simple home repairs. Mrs. Stainback (Doc Stainback) started the program by showing the audience the basic tools (instruments) needed for the job (operation).

Miss Cunningham (Doc Cunningham)

demonstrated how to examine a single handle and two control faucet and toilet for leakage and running water. Doc Cunningham's prescriptions were simple and painless.

Miss Woods (Doc Woods) performed minor surgery on a broken window pane and torn screen. Doc

Stainback ended the program by sharing with the audience safety tips that should be used in the home, so that it will be a healthier and happier place to live.

If you would like more information about Home Repairs, please contact your home economics extension agent at the Agricultural Extension Office.

HELD OVER	STARTS FRIDAY
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