

Commissioners review budget, but make no tax reductions

By Ed Miller
In a special budget work session Monday night, members of the Hoke County Commission took no action to cut a budget which will raise ad valorem tax rates by 7 cents.

Hoke County Manager William Cowan spent most of the meeting explaining why some budgetary line items were raised or lowered.

In a letter in the preface of the budget, Cowan told commissioners that there was a \$4.6 million tax base reduction last year.

The loss comes from a "significant reduction in industrial inventories, state-recommended changes in the depreciation schedules of textile manufacturing equipment, anticipated reduction in corporate excess assessments and a very slight growth in real property assessment," Cowan said in the letter.

The budget came to commissioners already trimmed as Cowan and County Finance Officer Charles Davis had already taken the requests of the various county departments and cut them to within limits.

According to Cowan, if the county had funded all requests as they came in, over \$1.26 million would have had to be taken out of the county's \$1.3 million fund balance.

Cowan's cuts will reduce the amount to be taken out of the fund balance to \$400,000, he said.

Over \$578,000 has been cut from the requested budget, said Cowan.

Members of the commission discussed a request from Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips that would release the Raeford City

Council from paying 25% of the costs of the county dog pound.

According to Phillips, the 4,000 residents of Raeford pay a disproportionate share of the cost of maintaining the pound.

There are 22,000 residents in the county, but 4,000 of them pay 53% of the costs to run the dog pound, said Phillips.

"The dog pound itself is a county function," he said.

Phillips also said city taxpayers pay 30% of the county dog warden's salary and also pay 100% of the city warden's salary.

"We have no qualms with the city residents' county taxes going to pay for building the pound," Phillips said.

According to Balfour, the city should help pay a share of functions like the pound because Raeford gets 15% of the county's revenue sharing money and part of the one-half cent sales tax. "That's where I have always justified the city putting money into the landfill or anything like that," Balfour said.

In another clarification of the budget, Cowan told commissioners that \$79,500 to be used for maintenance for schools is listed under the line item "current school expense."

According to Cowan, new money being budgeted for the first time includes that for economic development.

There is \$23,500 budgeted for that line item, said the manager.

Cowan has recommended a rise in the Hoke County Sheriff's Department budget of over \$49,000.

That will pay the salaries for three new deputies, their vehicles

and uniforms, said Cowan.

The manager said \$4,000 has been budgeted for hiring a person to work part-time as an inspector for the garbage sites in the county.

For next year, the county will be contracting with a collection service for a driver and a truck to pick-up sites in the county.

Which collection service has not been decided yet, said Cowan.

The driver will empty all the sites in the county according to a schedule made up by the county which will have the more frequently used sites emptied more often.

The county will be charged a flat amount for each cubic yard of garbage emptied.

That rate has not been determined yet, he said.

The county will police the sites behind the driver.

With the help of the part-time person, persons sentenced by the courts to perform community service and an inspector that will travel the county looking for trouble spots, members of the commission hope to have the sites cleaned totally in six months.

"If we can ever get them (the sites) clean, we can keep them that way," Balfour said.

According to Cowan, the most economical way for the county to gather trash is to do it themselves and not contract a full service.

Recently, Cowan's staff contacted 50 North Carolina counties about sanitation.

About 95% of the counties contacted do their own pick-up, he said.

Seven out of seven counties he talked to with comparable sizes and populations with Hoke County do their own pick-ups, he said.

...Nursing home faces delays

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dinal Health Board of Directors overturned that decision.

Officials and representatives from Raeford and Hoke County attended that meeting and endorsed Britthaven.

Both Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips and Hoke County

Manager William Cowan have said that Britthaven promoted themselves well while Autumn Care did not.

"I, along with everyone else, had never heard of Autumn Care until the day before the public hearing," Cowan said.

"We didn't do a good job with

public relations. I recognize that," said Doug Suddreth of Autumn Care.

Hoke County Commissioners were taken on a tour of a Britthaven facility last year.

When the certificate of need was sent to the state level, the award was again made to Autumn Care.



Helping literacy

Over 500 plates of fish were sold last Friday to help the Hoke Reading and Literacy Council. About \$1,200 was cleared by the group from the annual

Fish Fry sales. Coordinator Brbara Buie said Tuesday. Here volunteers serve plates to ticket holders during the day-long event.

...Around Town continued

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forecast is for thundershowers on Wednesday.

The Turkey Pickin scheduled for the new National Guard Armory on Thursday night is the first ever for Hoke County. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will continue until 8:30 p.m. Besides the picking, a meal will be served and the price for a ticket is only \$4.00. These can be purchased at many local business places or at the door Thursday night.

The meal, of course, will consist of barbecued turkey, sweet potatoes, marinated salad, Clara Pope rolls, apple crisp for dessert and a beverage. There will also be boxes to go if you want to purchase a meal to take home.

The proceeds of this event will go to support the first Hoke County Turkey Festival, scheduled for Raeford Sept. 18-21. I believe this is an event that you will not want to miss. Besides where can you get a turkey dinner for \$4?

During the evening the tickets purchased on the John Deere lawn

mower will be placed in a box and a winning ticket will be drawn. Besides the mower more than 20 prizes will be given away during the evening. If you should win a prize your stub will be returned to the box and you will still have a chance on the mower.

Tickets will be sold during the evening up until the time for the drawing. The price of these tickets is \$10 and all proceeds from this drawing will go to the Depot Restoration Fund. So buy your ticket or tickets today and help beautify Raeford.

When subscription envelopes are opened at the office to get out a check for the paper, every once in awhile there will be a note in the envelope. Usually it is from some native of Hoke County wanting to say hello to old friends. Another person who writes a note each time is Bill Williamson, a Parkton native.

Bill went to summer camp with the National Guard unit from Raeford, Bty "F" before World War II. He was a bugler and I hate to admit, a good one. He served

with the Parkton company during World War II and lived in Hamlet after the war.

The following was in his subscription renewal; Greetings:

Please start my Journal again, however, this time please send it to Bill Williamson, Route 1, Box 376 "A" Supply, N.C. 28462.

Please start it June 5th. If you should see "Sam Morris," then please tell him I said hello; the same thing goes for Colonel Dickson.

Sincerely,

Bill
Hello to you Bill, but what are you doing in the town of Supply?

I didn't realize how many places were closed for Memorial Day, Monday until I went to play golf early Monday morning. After 13 holes our foursome decided it was better to return to the cooler place, home. Holiday crowds are not for me on the golf course.

Only two weeks until the Classes of 1934 and 1935 celebrate their class reunions.



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1985 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

June 1, 1985 - Arabia Golf Course

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Low Gross Closest To The Hole On Four Holes

RAFFLE: Golf Bag

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- Jackson's FMA
- Western Auto
- Dr. Larry Bullard
- Raeford Farm Supply
- Teal Oil Company
- A & G Construction
- Raeford Oil Company
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- McNair Cleaners
- Wagon Wheel Restaurant
- Calico Corner
- Hoke Cotton Warehouse
- Dan's Hair Design

- Bratcher Barber Shop
- C.P. Kinlaw Jewelry Store
- Hoke Realty Co.
- Raeford Lumber Company
- Crumpler Funeral Home

- Barbee Pharmacy Inc.
- Gingham Edition
- Vardell Hedgpeth Insurance Agency
- Raeford Salvage Co. Inc.

To participate, contact a Lions Club member or Arabia Golf Course (875-3524). For Raffle Tickets, contact a Lions Club member or Arabia Golf Course. All proceeds used to assist the visually impaired.