

Duplin Times

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Contracts Granted For HUD Work In Kenansville

Six Kenansville homes will be rehabilitated this spring and summer with \$54,714 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Contracts were awarded by the Board of Commissioners last week.

During the same session the board voted to tape record future board meetings to avoid confusion over board actions. Mary Ann Jenkins, town clerk, was instructed to purchase a tape recorder for the purpose.

The action stemmed from the board's uncertainty over the status of a pickup truck that was sold as surplus. Some members believed they had declared a garbage truck and a pickup truck as surplus property last month so the vehicles could be sold. Others were not sure if the pickup had been declared surplus. Both vehicles have been sold.

Scheduled for rehabilitation are the homes of Gloria Johnson on Southerland Street, on a bid of \$6,256 from James Frederick of

Warsaw, and Vera Faison on Church Street, on a bid of \$8,880 from John Singletary of Kenansville.

Council Dixon Jr. of Warsaw was low bidder for repair of the homes of Levi Faison on South Main Street at \$9,028, Robert Grant Middleton on Church Street at \$10,919, Ernest Frederick on Seminary Street at \$10,690 and Retha Dunk on Fennell Street at \$8,941.

Univision Cable Television Co. of Richlands received a 90-day extension from April 7 to complete installation of

cable television service in Kenansville. The extension was granted because unusually wet winter weather delayed construction.

The board agreed to fill potholes on Lodge Street beside Jimmy Jackson's IGA Store. It re-appointed Jim Blanchard to the planning board and agreed to sell tax liens June 13. Liens will be advertised four times starting May 19.

A public hearing on use of revenue sharing will be held at 7:30 p.m. May 2.

Warsaw Stray Dogs Now Risk Trip To Pound

Stray dogs may claim "entrapment" in Warsaw in the future.

Dog traps will be set in areas where complaints about stray dogs originate. Town officials will call the county dog warden to pick up trapped animals. Owners will be able to claim mission dogs.

The town board last week heard several complaints about stray dogs and found the town dog ordinance did not cover strays. The ordinance covers only "ferocious" dogs and requires complaints about ferocious

dogs to be signed by three residents.

The board voted 3-1 to reduce to \$84,000 the amount it will retain from the contractor pending completion and approval of the sewage treatment plant; the original figure was \$168,000. Bill Prossner of Miller Building Corp. of Wilmington said the \$2 million project is about 95 percent complete.

Voting against the reduction was Commissioner Walter P. West. Voting for it were Commissioners John Weatherly, Frank Steed and

Walter Foster.

The system has been in use since February.

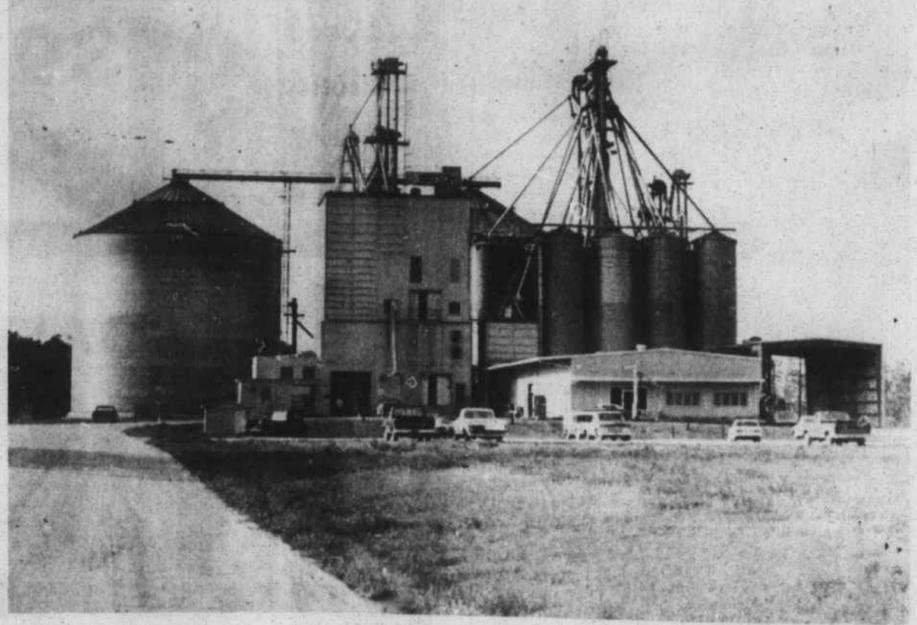
The board received a bid of \$1,300 from Rose Parker of Warsaw for the former Joe Smith property on the south-west side of town. If no upset bids are received after required legal advertisements, she will be named purchaser of the 40- by 200-foot tract.

The town condemned a dilapidated building and purchased the property for \$2,000 under a U.S. Housing and Urban Development rehabilitation program. The

purchase price included costs of relocating Smith. Demolition of the building cost \$372. The lot's assessed valuation is \$1,460.

The board denied the request of Beasley Cablevision Co. to delay its franchise tax payment from April 30 to June. The franchise calls for payments of 4 percent of the company's gross revenue from its service to the town.

The public works department was directed to correct a drainage problem in the yard at the home of Mat Vann Jr. at 202 Jordan Street.



Duplin Poultry Firm To Close Operations

Losses in jobs and potential income for chicken growers may exceed \$3 million a year because of the failure of Watson Seafood and Poultry Co. in Rose Hill.

A plan for voluntary liquidation of the company went into effect Friday following a creditors' conference in Rose Hill Thursday. Watson has debts totaling \$5.6 million, including \$2.5 million owed to Coastal Production Credit Association of Kenansville, PCA lawyer Richard Burrows said Friday.

Dissolution of the company eventually could mean the loss of 125 to 300 jobs in the Rose Hill area, depending on the production plans of other area firms. At worst, that could mean a loss of more than \$2.5 million a year in wages.

Burrows said few of the 125 company employees will be affected for the next six or seven weeks as feed and

transportation operations continue.

Without the company's production of 285,000 broilers a week, 200 workers — one shift — could be out of jobs at the Rose Hill Poultry Corp. processing plant, which has been buying the broilers, Burrows said.

The company's 125 contract broiler growers face a potential income loss of nearly \$1 million a year through lost broiler flock production unless they can obtain contracts from other broiler program operators.

Growers contract with program operators such as Watson to raise the chickens. The growers provide the poultry houses, utilities and labor; the companies supply the birds, feed and medicines. A flock matures in about seven weeks.

Growers who have raised flocks for the company in the past three weeks face a possible immediate loss of

\$135,000.

"My feeling right now is the growers will be paid, but there's no guarantee at this point," said Roy Houston, president of Coastal PCA. Plans for paying the growers were being reviewed, he said.

"We're guaranteeing payment to growers who now are growing-out flocks in their houses," Houston said.

Growers normally are paid within 10 days of sale of the flocks, Burrows said, but the company has owed payment to some growers for three weeks.

Modern poultry production methods emphasize the use of wood and plastic houses for feeding chickens. Many growers finance their \$40,000 to \$65,000 poultry houses with the PCA, which is a major agricultural credit source.

PCAs are farmer-owned cooperatives. Through the Federal Intermediate Credit

Banks, they sell bonds on the open market, lending the proceeds to farmers for operating and some capital expenses.

Houston said the PCA will do what it can to help growers who have worked for Watson make contracts with other poultry program operators. The broiler market, however, is depressed, which brought about the company's difficulties. He said some broiler houses can be used for turkey production, which is increasing in the area.

The value of the company's assets can't be determined until hatching eggs and broilers on hand have matured and have been sold, Burrows said.

The plan calls for a gradual "winding down" of operations over several months, Houston said. He estimated the process would be completed in July.

Houston said eggs and chicks in the company hatchery will either be sold to other producers or grown out by contract growers under PCA's guarantee of payment.

"We won't have any chick drowning here," he said, referring to sell-publicized chick drownings in Maryland several years ago to reduce surplus broiler production.

Houston called the broiler outlook "bleak" for the near future, with supplies large and the price of corn, the principal feed ingredient for the birds, increasing because of the federal payment-in-kind grain reserve program.

Houston blamed the three-year broiler price depression for the Watson company troubles.

Southern Duplin County is the center of a huge turkey and broiler chicken industry, with two of the largest turkey producers in the country — Nash Johnson & Sons of Rose Hill and Swift & Co. of Wallace.

Watson Seafood and Poultry, a Raleigh-based firm, bought the former Ramsey Feed Co. of Rose Hill in 1973. It later closed its Raleigh operation but maintained a headquarters there. Hebron Watson Jr. of Rose Hill is company president.

Houston said Dennis Ramsey of Rose Hill, founder of the Ramsey company in 1954, has been hired by PCA to manage the dissolution process.

Ramsey is credited with pioneering commercial broiler chicken production in eastern North Carolina with establishment of his feed mill in Rose Hill. The mill was damaged by fire in the late 1960s but remained in production until Ramsey built the present mill beside the railroad south of Rose Hill in 1970 and 1971.

Duplin 4-H Leaders Thanked

The 4-H volunteer team responds, said Duplin Agricultural Extension 4-H agent Ray Rhinehart. The 4-H leaders in Duplin County were honored with a recognition banquet at the Country Squire in Kenansville, April 14, featuring guest speaker Norfleef Sugg, executive secretary of the North Carolina Peanut Grower's Association.

"The philosophy, the goals and principles taught in 4-H today are as good in 1983 as they were when the organization was founded," Sugg said. "And, I try to live by the 4-H motto, dedicated to a better living for my community and the world, today and tomorrow."

"The purpose behind 4-H leaders is producing happy and productive citizens," Sugg said. "When I look at the 4-H flag, I see the green (clover) as a symbol of growth and the white as purity, just as 4-H leaders help young people build character and integrity."

The 4-H program, under the guidance of local volunteers, helps prepare young people to be useful and build toward a meaningful life, Sugg pointed out. Members of 4-H are individuals, and the program helps the person build an identity. Work with 4-H members and clubs helps the individual develop social responsibilities and relations through the guidance of dedicated leaders. In addition, Sugg added, 4-H leaders help club members develop an insight into the personal values of life and build an appreciation for our culture.

"In order to be a 4-H leader," Sugg said, "you have to know what 4-H is all about and be able to keep on learning. The leader must get an insight into the young person's world and teach for 1983 and the future." A leader has to believe in what they are doing and the young people in the 4-H program, Sugg continued. And, young people must be the leader's priority in order to succeed as a 4-H volunteer.

Duplin 4-H involves many people. Director of the Duplin Agricultural Extension Service Lois Britt pointed out the program receives government and private support. Each dollar donated to 4-H in Duplin by

federal, state and local government agencies is matched by four dollars from the private sector, Britt explained.

Sponsoring the annual leadership recognition banquet was the Duplin County Farm Bureau. Leaders from each Duplin 4-H club were invited. The Deca 4-H Club was represented by Laura Williams, Hattie Wallace, Fran Kohne, Lorraine Hankins, Marian Kelly, Lucy Pearsall and Carrie Carr; Oak ridge 4-H Club, Thurman and Mary Lou Alphin; Teachey 4-H Club, Doris Murphy; Warsaw-Shamrock 4-H Club, William and Edith Costin and Bill and Kathy Costin; FYC 4-H Club, Viola Moore, Carolyn Moore, Willie Mae Farrior, Sarah F. Jones, Margaretta Moore and Linda Farrior; New Horizons 4-H Club, Carol Moore and Rose Swain; Stanford 4-H Club, Geraldine Bryant and Mrs. Iva Brinson; Wallace 4-H Club, Walter and Thelma

James, Mrs. Charlie Robinson, Lisa James and Charlie and Shirley Barnes.

Recognized with the club leaders this year were volunteers from many Duplin fire departments which assisted with the 4-H fire safety program. This program was a special training session taught by Duplin firemen. More than 300 people attended the full program of six hours of instruction, Rhinehart, 4-H agent, said. And, he added, 400-500 people attended two to four hours of the fire safety training sessions. Concluding the training sessions, Duplin held a competition for the clubs. Teachey 4-H Club was the champion of the Fire Safety Bowl, Rhinehart announced. Fire department volunteers from the Teachey area were R.C. Jenkins, Mrs. R.C. Jenkins, Danny Jenkins and Donald Jenkins. Fire departments assisting with the program in Duplin were Community, Wallace, Warsaw, Pleasant

Grove, Oak Wolfe, Teachey, Chinquapin, Magnolia, Faison, Beulaville, Kenansville and Rose Hill.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Town of Magnolia will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Magnolia Depot. The meeting will be held in the Town Hall. All townspeople and concerned citizens are cordially invited to ask questions and voice their opinions at this meeting.

Man Found Dead Near Duplin Line

The body of a 34-year-old Selma man was found lying in a ditch off N.C. 24 in Duplin County near the Duplin-Onslow county line, according to Chief Deputy Glenn Jernigan of the Duplin County Sheriff's Department.

James Daniel Turner was found dead near his truck in

about one foot of water around 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Jernigan said. The truck had been parked on the north side of the road since Thursday when he was reported missing at the Selma Police Department.

Jernigan said an autopsy was to be performed in Jacksonville Monday.

Wallace To Resume Meeting Next Week

The Wallace town board was to continue its April meeting Tuesday in the town hall to consider means of buying a truck.

The board opened bids for the basic truck Thursday. Low bidder at \$64,910 was Atlantic Mack Sales of Wilmington.

The hydraulic lift mechanism and container will be transferred from the old truck. The equipment is used for emptying trash containers at industrial and commercial establishments.

Repair costs on the old

truck had become prohibitive and it was removed from service after a breakdown in late winter. Waste Industries of Wilmington picks up industrial and commercial garbage for \$5,000 per month.

The board planned to arrange with the company to make two equal payments, spread across two fiscal years. While money for the 1983-84 fiscal year payment can be appropriated in the new budget, money must be transferred from unexpended funds to cover the 1982-83 fiscal payment.



The former railroad depot was built about 120 years ago.

Magnolia Citizens To Discuss Depot

The fate of the former Seaboard Coast Line Railroad depot will go before the public again at a hearing at 7:30 p.m. April 28 at the town hall.

The building has been the subject of repeated discussions since the town of Magnolia acquired it about three years ago. The original intent was to use it as a library or community building. The hearing was set by the town board last week.

The railroad wants the structure off its property. If no practical plan for moving the depot can be developed, the town board plans to have it demolished. Several public meetings have been held on the subject.

Removal of the building to a town-owned lot near its current location would cost about \$20,000. Extensive repairs would be needed to make the brick building serviceable.

Some residents want to save the building for its historic value. Standing midway between Wilmington and Goldsboro, it was built about 120 years ago at a time when Magnolia was the trading hub for much of Duplin and Sampson counties.

In other action last Tuesday, the board granted Univision Cable Television Co. of Richlands a 90-day extension — to early July — to

complete cable service installation. Cable hookups have been delayed by weather and by a problem in making arrangements with Carolina Power & Light Co. to hang cables from its poles, John Fecteau of Univision told the board.

The town received \$988.67 from the Eastern Carolina Regional Housing Authority as payment in lieu of taxes for its 26-unit, low-rent housing project in Magnolia