County Budget Gets Approval; Commissioners Slash Tax Rate

Chowan County commissioners Monday approved a record high budget for fiscal 1966-67 while cutting the tax rate.

The budget amounts to $741,683.71.

The tax rate is $1.55 per $100 valuation. An additional five cents was levied for fire protection for those residing outside the Town of Edenton.

This amounts to a three cent reduction in taxes for citizens of Edenton and a six cent decline for others. The 1965-66 rate was $1.58 in Edenton, plus eight cents for those living outside.

Commissioners appeared extremely pleased with the increase in property valuation which brought about the tax cut, although the budget is higher than this year.

Chairman W. E. Bond said there was a good increase in valuation due to changes in land classifications and new construction. He said while the actual valuation is about $27,300,000, the levy will be on $26,000,000, or $2 million more than this year.

Chowan County has 37 employes on the monthly payroll and they are paid $7,172.33.

Of the 1966-67 budget, $338,683.71 is anticipated from sources other than ad valorem taxes. The bulk of this comes from surpluses, ABC income and state and federal funds.

While the budget is based on an estimated levy of $403,000, the 1965 levy amounted to $433,193.41.

The 1965-66 budget was $693,364.27, or $48,319.44 less than the new one, and anticipated funds were $314,164.27.

Mrs. Pansy Elliott, county accountant, said a breakdown of the $1.55 tax rate showed:

Bonds, 14 cents; charity, four cents; health, seven cents; schools, 84 cents; welfare, 10 cents; capital improvements, four cents; revaluation, two cents; agriculture and economics, seven cents; civil defense, one and one-half cents; accountant, one and one-half cents; and general fund, 20 cents.

Chowan County schools have a budget of $70,259.51 while the Edenton city administrative unit has a budget of $189,190.55. The new budgets include supplements for every teacher in the two school systems.

The welfare budget amounts to $240,820.53 but the commissioners anticipate $209,820.53 from state and federal funds.

A five cent decline in the levy for bonds allowed the commissioners to include the four cents for capital improvements, which is a new item in the budget. Previously the accountant's office budget has been in the general fund, which is limited to a maximum of 20 cents of the levy.

The commissioners also received a report from Glenn Perry, jailer, which showed 44 persons confined for from one to 31 days at a cost of $378.38.

The board agreed to postpone their regular July meeting from Monday until Wednesday due to the fact that the first Monday falls on a legal holiday.

PLEASED COUNCILMEN—Two of Edenton's Town Councilmen who are exceptionally pleased with plans for a new fire station are shown conferring on the grounds at the corner of North Broad Street and Park Avenue. Luther C. Parks, left, chairman of the finance committee and an active volunteer fireman, goes over some figures with J. D. Elliott, fire station building committee chairman. Edenton Construction Company has begun work on the structure which will cost $85,000.

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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The Public Parade

STILL BEDFELLOWS—There is one matter of business which didn't appear on the agenda of a brief meeting of Chowan County commissioners Monday. That is the question of a U. S. 17 by-pass of Edenton.

This question has been smoldering here for several years. While the local blaze never got hot, other towns were obtaining by-passes and enjoying the type of growth we need.

It is ironical the county commissioners brought the by-pass question out into the open and then retreated when the flames began to lick at their boots.

At a March 21 meeting of the board with State Highway Commissioner Don Matthews and district road officials, Matthews was asked about the status of the by-pass. He replied it had not been discussed since he took office.

Matthews asked if the commissioners wanted him to look into the situation. While no formal vote was taken it was generally agreed a by-pass would be desirable and Matthews should look into it.

Apparently before Matthews got back to Hamilton there was some mind-changing by at least one commissioner. The brakes were then applied.

The highway commission has many, many places to spend money and doesn't usually go around throwing up a by-pass here and another one there. The communities have to go after them if the highways are to be placed in such a manner as to be of maximum benefit.

Matthews told a local group in May if the people "down there" want a by-pass let's hear it.

The Edenton Town Council then passed a resolution favoring the by-pass. The merchants committee of the Edenton Chamber of Commerce asked the chamber's board of directors to do likewise. All three votes were reported as unanimous.

That raises the question: What happened to the commissioners?

They stand to gain the most by such a road as it will open up hundreds of acres for future development. Yet they remain silent.

Yes, politics and highways have been bedfellows for as long as the two have existed. It now appears there is no exception to this rule in Chowan.

BRING HOME BACON—May we be among the first along The Public Parade to congratulate Herb Hollowell upon his election as district governor of the Lions Club?

He was the first local Lion endorsed for the District 31-J position. Through hard work, his campaign resulted in Edenton Lions Club getting the governor's banner.

Once he got the ball, Herb Hollowell ran with it, demonstrating the same tireless effort, attention to duty and zest which has made him a valuable member of this community. He can be expected to compile an outstanding record in his new office.

The entire community can take pride in the fact that this high Lions Club position has come to Edenton.

FROM THE PILE—Everyone's desk needs a little attention from time to time. Ours is no exception.

Digging down through one of many piles of communications, we ran across a note from Murray D. Ashley, Civil Defense director here.

Murray submitted the following facts about the American Red Cross. We found them interesting and pass them on for your information. Here 'tis:

"During the past 12 months the Chowan Hospital has used 266 pints of blood from the American Red Cross Tidewater Blood Center. This blood has been free to all patients needing blood at the hospital.

"At a minimum value this blood would have cost $6,650. Local donations to the Red Cross last year came to $1,200. Is this the value you place on life saving blood? It's your decision! Do we keep the blood bank? We have to pay our fair share. When will you need blood?

"Last year more than 500 young people in Chowan County received training by qualified American Red Cross water safety and swimming instructors. Who knows how many drownings or water sport accidents this training might prevent.

"How much value can you place on training that might save a life?

"If you want this program continued you must support your Red Cross."

SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Jim Kinion, director of the summer recreation program, says any club or organization wanting to enter a team in the softball league should contact him by Friday.

Governor, District 31-J

Lions Post To Hollowell

WINSTON-SALEM — W. Herbert Hollowell of Edenton Tuesday was elected governor of District 31-J, Lions International.

Hollowell, a member of Edenton Lions Club for 19 years, defeated Bob Hollar of Wilson for the district's top office. The conventions of Lions Club members from across North Carolina was held at Robert E. Lee Hotel.

W. HERBERT HOLLOWELL, JR.

The election of Hollowell ended more than seven months of extensive campaigning. Over the past months the candidate has carried his campaign to every club in the spacious district, and meant more than one visit to some of them.

It was on Hollowell that Edenton Lions Club pinned their hopes for their first native son district governor in the club's 29 year history. And he carried them to victory—the first time they sought the top office for an Edentonian.

A host of local club members were at the convention to secure votes for Hollowell in the hotly contested race.

Hollowell, a pharmacist, is a native of Chowan County. He is a graduate of Edenton High School and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has been president of Hollowell's Drug Store in Edenton since 1957.

The new district governor is married and the father of two daughters.

He has been active in the Edenton Lions Club and has 10 years of perfect attendance. He has served in various local and district offices and was deputy district governor in 1964-65.

Hollowell has also been active in numerous other community activities.

County Opposes Summer School

Chowan County Board of Education has failed to approve a summer school program for pre-school children in the county.

Supt. Hiram J. Mayo presented the program at the board's meeting Tuesday night, but it did not gain approval.

The summer school was originally set up for White Oak Elementary School and funds placed in the Economic and Secondary Education Act budget for its operation. However, revised federal guidelines said such programs must be held in white schools.

County school board members decided to ditch the proposal rather than have it operate at Chowan High School

Mrs. Elizabeth Byrd, ESCA director, and Mrs.

Continued on Page 6

Northeast Area Health Seminar Set Here June 24

Edenton has been chosen as the location for one of six venereal disease clinics being planned by the State Board of Health.

Dr. Isa Grant, district health director, will host the one-day clinic scheduled for June 24 at Edenton Restaurant.

Dr. Jacob Koomen, state health director, said other clinics will be held in Dunn, Winston-Salem, Wilmington, Franklin and Morganton. Each seminar program will open at 9:30 A. M., and close at 4 P. M.

"In view of the enormity of the venereal disease problem and the broad spectrum of topics to be covered (at the seminar), it is hoped that members of the educational field and civic leaders as well as public health personnel and private physicians will attend," Dr. Koomen said.

Penalties Accrue On Unpaid Taxes

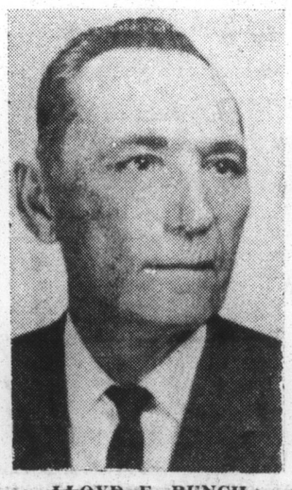
The collection of taxes on the 1965 levy during May by Sheriff Earl Goodwin amounted to $18,761.48, of which $535.15 was in penalties.

In a report filed Monday, Sheriff Goodwin reports the collection of $1,904.14 in delinquent taxes. Of this amount, going back to 1955, $347.11 was in penalties.

The sheriff also picked up taxes back to 1950 on one piece of property with the tax being $31.26 and the penalties amounting to $24.02.

NEW BANK HOURS

Peoples Bank & Trust Company will be open Monday through Friday from 9 A. M., to 1 P. M., and 2:30 P. M., to 4:30 P. M., and Saturday from 9 A. M., to 12 noon.



LLOYD E. BUNCH

Lloyd E. Bunch Taken In Death

Lloyd E. Bunch, 202 East Queen Street, died suddenly Sunday morning at Chowan Hospital. He was 60.

He became ill Saturday night and was taken to the local hospital where he died a short time later. Death was attributed to a heart attack.

He was owner of Chowan Storage Company, a business he had operated since 1933.

Lloyd Ethriam Bunch was born in Chowan County, a son of Mrs. Lizzie Saunders Bunch, and the late W. E. Bunch. His marriage was to the former Ruth Davenport, who survives.

In addition to his mother and wife, survivors include a daughter, Miss Marian Bunch of the home; two brothers, J. Haywood Bunch and Henry Allen Bunch, both of Edenton; three sisters: Mrs. Elizabeth Pierce of Edenton; Mrs. Herbert Hollowell of Portsmouth, Va.; and Mrs. Jeff White of Merry Hill.

Mr. Bunch was a member of Edenton Baptist Church, Edenton Rotary Club and the Improved Order of Red Men.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 11 A. M., at Edenton Baptist Church. Rev. R. N. Carroll officiated. Burial was in Beaver Hill Cemetery. Williford Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

BENEFIT SUPPER

The Chowan Ruritan Club benefit supper for Nola Bass will be held Saturday at the Cross Roads-Center Hill Fire Department.

5,200 Signed Up In Labor Survey

The comprehensive labor availability survey which ended here Saturday has been acclaimed as a big success.

Alton Elmore, general survey chairman, reports that approximately 5,200 survey forms have been sent to the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina in Raleigh. The ESC will compile information given on the survey forms and make it available to industry interested in locating in the area.

Elmore said the final ESC report should show that Edenton can more than staff two industries now considering locating here.

"I wish to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people who worked on this project as well as those who took the time and effort to complete the survey forms," Elmore said.

"I believe something good will definitely come from it (the survey) in the very near future."

The survey was conducted in the seven-county area by the Edenton junior and senior chambers of commerce in cooperation with ESC. It ran for 10 days.

Elmore said thousands of survey forms were distributed through area schools and had it not been the last week of the 1965-66 school term he is confident more response would have been received from the area.

Robert W. Moore, executive vice president of Edenton Chamber of Commerce, said today survey forms were continuing to arrive in the mail and they would be sent to Raleigh as soon as possible. He reported receiving forms from Texas, New Jersey, New York and many other states.

The ESC report is expected to be completed within 10 days, according to a Raleigh official.

City's Summer School Program Now Assured

A summer school for pre-first graders in the Edenton City schools has been assured with 100 children registered by noon Tuesday.

Supt. Hiram J. Mayo said the summer school project would be financed by federal funds and it was anticipated that 120 students would attend.

Although he had requested parents of pre-school students to express their desire for the school by last Friday, Supt. Mayo said students would be accepted up until opening day, June 20.

The school is being operated on a voluntary basis and will be fully integrated. Three of the teachers will be from Edenton Elementary School and three from D. F. Walker School.

Although Supt. Mayo said the exact cost of the summer program had not been determined, he said 16 people will be employed.

The budget set up in the overall program to improve the language arts of the economically and educationally disadvantaged pupils in the school system listed the following for the summer program:

Kindergarten teachers, six at $600 per month, $6,400; school technicians, two at $210 per month, $560; janitor and maid servicee, $1,000; food and labor, $2,800; and transportation, $1,500. The total of $12,260 does not include materials, guidance and testing, and the librarian.

The school will operate five hours a day, from 9 A. M. to 2 P. M., Monday through Friday, for eight weeks. Free lunches, as well as necessary books, pencils, paper and other items, will be provided without cost to each student attending regardless of their ability to pay.

Supt. Mayo said the only criteria for admission is that the child shall enter the first grade this fall and have reached his or her sixth birthday by October 15.

Attorney General's Opinion On Handling Of Profit From Utilities Gives Nod To Councilmen

Edenton's Board of Public Works Tuesday were asked to operate within the framework of the town charter and leave financial matters up to the Town Council.

Mayor John A. Mitchener, Jr., said it has been the custom for the council's finance committee to ask the utilities department for money to put in the budget to maintain a certain tax rate.

At a joint meeting of the two boards, Mayor Mitchener said this was started many years ago and became a custom. "This is no longer necessary and will no longer take place," the mayor said.

Over the years the town's profits from the utilities department have been kept separate from other income. This money has been controlled by the utilities board.

Mayor Mitchener read an attorney general's opinion that this should not be the case. The opinion stated utility revenue "should be procedurally handled as other municipal revenues and their disposition and expenditure should be governed by the appropriate laws regulating municipal expenditure of such revenues."

"These powers would be exercised by the Board of Councilmen and not by the Board of Public Works," it stated.

Mayor Mitchener asked the Board of Pubic Works to submit a budget in the same manner as does every other department in the town. He said publication of the next town budget will not only show the expenses of the department but the anticipated income.

The mayor went on to say by requiring a budget the Council was in no way trying to tie the hands of the department. He said the department can expect the fullest cooperation from the council when it becomes necessary to change the budget to meet pressing needs.

Jesse Harrell, chairman of the Board of Public Works, assured the councilmen of his board's willingness to comply with the request.

Speaking of the utilities department budget, Harrell called it "unusual" because it varies so greatly. He said it is impossible to anticipate far in advance some of the reuirements of the department.

However, Harrell said: "We'll do the very best we can."

During the discussion Harrell asked the council if the utilities department was to include capital improvements in the budget. Mayor Mitchener replied: "No. When it is necessary (to have capital improvements) you should present it to the council and it becomes the responsibility of this board to raise the money."

Thomas Byrum, public works board member, asked the councilmen if there had ever been any doubt about them not getting "what you wanted" from the utilities board. Mayor Mitchener said this was not the question, "This situation has developed as custom," the mayor said.

It is stated in the town charter that the Board of Public Works "shall have no power to expend any money or incur any debt for any purpose, by contract or otherwise, beyond the appropriation made by the Board of Councilmen for that purpose."

The attorney general's opinion was that this sentence "clearly places control of the purse strings in the hands of the Board of Councilmen."

The two boards agreed to hold joint meetings quarterly on the third Tuesday.

Councilmen present for the meeting were: Leo Katkaveck, Henry Quinn, J. Edwin Bufflap, Luther Parks and David White.

Members of the Board of Public Works, in addition to Harrell, are: Byrum, James Ricks, W. J. P. Earnhardt, Sr., and Joe Conger, Jr. All were present.

Following the joint meeting the council received a request for re-zoning a lot next to Hardee's for the establishment of a car wash. It was sent to the zoning board.

Also, they received a letter from the Cupola House Association giving a firm bid of $12,500 on the old fire station property.