

Power Rate Jump, Board Merger Talks Slated

Mayor Calls Joint Meeting Tuesday

Electric power customers of the Town of Edenton face a rate increase of about 10 per cent. The increase, probably in the form of a temporary surcharge, is expected on bills going out May 1.

Edenton Town Council Tuesday night received a recommendation from the Board of Public Works that a compromise 9.24 per cent rate increase from VEPCO be accepted. VEPCO earlier had requested a 22 per cent increase.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner said the increase, the same as accepted by REA and other members of Electricities in North Carolina, would be retroactive to July 1, 1970. However, the town would not have to pay the estimated \$25,000 in back charges until fiscal 1971-72.

Mayor George Alma Byrum suggested a joint meeting be held between the council and E&W board to discuss the increase as well as "possible merger" of the two elected boards.

Mayor Byrum said a merger of the boards, defeated in a municipal vote four years ago, deserves consideration again at this time.

"We would like to have a meeting of the minds on this subject," the mayor said in asking for the meeting next Tuesday night.

In reporting on the E&W recommendation, Gardner said the merger would be necessary because it will not allow necessary studies for a finite rate structure. He said the increase would probably be around

per cent. "The REA and Electricities are working together on VEPCO's request for a rate increase," he noted. "We are trying to hold the increase down to where we can handle it."

"We have been advised this increase is our best deal at this time."

Council approved an application for comprehensive planning assistance with the Division of Community Planning, Department of Local Affairs which calls for a two-year program which will cost the town \$2,600 annually. Other funds are available from the federal government.

Graham White, chairman, Edenton Planning & Zoning Board, presented Robert C. Hinshaw, planner, who ex-

plained the reconnaissance survey for Edenton which will be completed. The town has used the services of the state agency for more than six years.

Gardner urged approval of the assistance saying the sub-division section of the local ordinance needs immediate attention and this is one phase of the proposed work.

Councilman Leo Katkaveck, chairman of the finance committee, reported that proposals are being collected from insurance firms relative to a retirement plan for town employees. He said figures would be available for consideration when the 1971-72 budget is compiled.

Katkaveck also reported his committee's favorable vote on finishing the

second story of the municipal building for the police department. Law & Order funds are available to assist with the work.

Council voted to enforce the no left-side parking ordinance. Warning tickets are to be given for 30 days.

Fire Chief Luther C. Parks said as soon as inspection is completed of structures in the downtown fire district, he and Building Inspector Sam Long will compile a report of their findings.

Gardner reported that the Corps of Engineers is working on plans for work on Pembroke Creek to make an eight-foot channel. The Coast Guard has agreed to mark the channel once the

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Public Parade

Togetherness

Edenton's Town Council and Board of Public Works will sit down together next week to discuss two very important issues—rates and merger. There is little that can be done about the rate increase. There is a lot that can be done about the merger.

While this is a community of bigness, in planning, action and progress, we are constantly reminded of being "little ole Chowan"—all 10,764 of us. Yet we have as much or more duplication of government than anywhere in North Carolina.

Chowan County has five elected commissioners; the Town of Edenton has six elected councilmen and a mayor, and the Board of Public Works has five elected members. Count them up. There are 17 elected officials tending to the business of 10,764 people.

In our opinion the first step toward better government is merger of the two elected town boards. Should they come to grips, because of the legislative authority of each, one could ruin the other. But more tragic, either could ruin the Town of Edenton.

Fortunately, harmony, to a great extent, has been enjoyed. It is, however, not guaranteed. There are unnecessary duplications within the two elected boards which breed discontent in some quarters.

We must all be about moving ahead in an orderly, progressive manner. Before we start crossing town and county lines to realize economies available in the computer age in which we live, we must first cross agency lines.

Togetherness is the word for not only today or Tuesday night, but forever.

'Phooey' On SHC

The State Highway Commission several months ago accepted an invitation from the highway-conscious Albemarle Area Development Association to hold its August, 1971, meeting in Nags Head. By coming to the Outer Banks it was felt the commission members could view first hand the highway needs of Northeastern North Carolina.

Acceptance of the invitation was rightfully hailed as an asphalt victory for this area. Plans were well along to make the commissioners comfortable as well as better informed about our area.

Now, by political maneuvering, the commission has again turned its back on Northeastern Tar Heelia. It has been claimed that a site committee of the commission was not aware of the earlier acceptance of the AADA invitation. This, while hard to swallow, could be understood. The highway commission, like most bureaucratic agencies, doesn't let the right hand know what the left hand is doing.

But now comes J. Arch Laney, public information officer, who places the blame on the General Statutes of North Carolina. Time and again it is pointed out that ignorance of the law is no excuse. With a stable of attorneys such as the highway commission enjoys ignorance of the law is even more ridiculous.

If the State Highway Commission doesn't want to breathe the fresh air of Northeastern North Carolina and the Outer Banks, they have the right to meet elsewhere. If the politicians of North Carolina, and all SHC members are Democrats, want to love us only every four years, that is the responsibility of party leaders.

But let's be men about it. It is not fair to Commissioner Joe Nowell of Winfall, would-be host commissioner for the defunct August gathering. And it is equally unfair to plead ignorance of the law. Picking only the laws you want to obey is a tactic used by those well below the caliber of men serving

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New Hospital Services — A card file of blood donors was presented to Chowan Hospital this week and a Hair Care Shoppe for patient use was opened. In the picture at left, Mrs. W. J. P. Earnhardt, Jr., seated, president, Chowan Hospital Auxiliary, is shown in the Hair Care Shoppe in Unit B (old hospital building) with Mrs. Marion Thrower and Administrator Thomas M. Surratt.



Mrs. Thrower responded to the auxiliary's request for assistance in designing and supplying the facility, unique in hospitals in this state. Presenting the blood donor card file to Frank Pierce is Jack Parker, left, chairman of the Jaycee blood program. Others are Surratt and E. C. Toppin, secretary of the blood program. (Story on Page 4)

Group To Meet On Watershed Hollowell Seeking Term Joint Planning Efforts Proposed

There will be an important meeting of all people interested in the Bear Swamp Watershed on March 19. Archie T. Lane, Sr., Chairman of the Bear Swamp Drainage Commissioners, states that the meeting will be held at the Center Hill Community Building at 7 P. M.

The people in the Bear Swamp Watershed have been working to get this project started for several years. The administrator of the Soil Conservation Service authorized planning assistance for the Bear Swamp Watershed on January 25. Planning assistance will be scheduled to the sponsoring local organizations in the very near future.

This watershed covers 20,300 acres, of which about one-third is in Chowan County and two-thirds in Perquimans County.

Present channels are shallow and do not have enough capacity to carry off water from the heavy rain storms quick enough to prevent flooding. Poor drainage of cropland increases costs of producing crops and low crop yields. In addition, it provides good mosquito breeding areas that increase health hazards.

Damage caused by poor drainage is estimated to average nearly \$20,000 annually.

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Two Court Terms

Judge Elbert S. Peele, Jr., of Williamston, is scheduled to preside over two Spring terms of Chowan County Superior Court.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, clerk of court, announced that a criminal term will convene March 29. Solicitor Herbert Small is now preparing the calendar which is expected to be released next week.

Judge Peele is scheduled to return to Edenton on April 26 for a term of court designed to hear civil cases. The calendar for this session has not been compiled.



W. H. Hollowell, Jr.

Fayton Is Chosen

CHAPEL HILL — Charles Earl Fayton, 210 East Hicks Street, Edenton, has been named a Morehead Scholar to study at the University of North Carolina here. Fayton was among 102 young men named Tuesday to receive the coveted honor.

Sixty-one of the recipients are from North Carolina, according to Hugh G. Chatham of Elkin, chairman of the board of trustees of the John Motley Morehead Foundation.

The awards are worth \$9,000 to North Carolina residents for four years of study at UNC.

A total of 895 students were nominated for the awards. Fayton, a senior at John A. Holmes High School, is outstanding in his academic work as well as in athletics. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Linwood Fayton.

Finalists, including six from District I, were interviewed here March 5-8.

W. H. Hollowell, Jr., of Edenton, is Chowan County Morehead chairman.

W. H. Hollowell, Jr., First Ward Councilman, Tuesday filed for re-election to a full term on Edenton Town Council. Hollowell is the first of three councilmen, whose seats are up for election, to reveal his plans.

Last week incumbent Mayor George Alma Byrum said he would seek re-election to a two-year term. Councilmen are elected for four years.

Second Ward Councilman Leo Katkaveck and Councilman-at-Large J. D. Elliott have not made public their intentions. Neither has James M. Bond, town treasurer or three members of the Board of Public Works—Chairman Jesse L. Harrell, J. H. Conger, Jr., or T. C. Byrum, Jr.

The deadline to file for any town posts is March 26, according to Mrs. George Hoskins, chairman, Chowan County Board of Elections.

Hollowell, representative of the council to the Board of Public Works, stated: "If re-elected to the Town Council from the First Ward, I pledge that I will serve in this position to the best of my ability."

"I will exert every effort, as I have in previous years by my vote on the council and other activities to promote a progressive Edenton."

"An issue before the council will receive my vote if (it is) an advantage for the majority of (the) citizens."

"I am interested in retaining the lowest possible tax rate and receiving full value for each tax dollar."

Hollowell, president of Hollowell's, Continued on Page 4

Jaycees Will Stage Festival Parade

Ray M. Midgett, parade chairman of the Northeastern N. C. Memorial Day Air Festival, states that the Edenton Jaycees are very interested in having civilian participation in the festivities.

He stated that in regards to the Memorial Day Parade, people can participate by submitting floats, mobile displays, bands, marching units, etc.

Cash awards will be given for the best float. To be eligible for the cash

The chairman of Chowan County Planning Board has suggested more multi-county activities. And the State Board of Health has been asked to survey Chowan and Perquimans counties to see if a joint solid waste disposal system is feasible.

At a recent meeting, George W. Lewis, planning board chairman, told county commissioners "any agency level survey or study, where feasible, should be on a multi-county basis."

Lewis also questioned the need for a county and town planning board. "I see no reason why we can't revert to a joint board," he stated. He called the duplications in planning bad.

Commissioners agreed to call for the solid waste disposal system study.

Melvin Howell, representative of Farmers Home Administration, said this area had been put on the processing schedule for the waste disposal program. He said it was recommended by

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District Meeting

Mrs. Dallas Waters of Plymouth, state department president, will be the keynote speaker at the First District meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary on Monday night.

The meeting will be held at Edenton Restaurant beginning at 10:30 A. M. All members are urged to attend.

Awards for Float

Midgett stated that if anyone is interested in joining "the effort to show some good old enthusiastic patriotism and help to counteract some of the adverse publicity created by less democratic groups," should write the Edenton Jaycees, Inc., P. O. Box 388, Edenton, or call Ray Midgett at 482-3666.

The deadline for entering the parade is May 15.