

Town Officials Seek Tax Split On Population

The Town of Edenton's case for the local option sales tax to be split on the basis of population was presented Monday to more than 30 people at a meeting in Municipal Building. Chowan County commissioners met privately at 5 P. M. Monday to discuss this and other matters.

A public hearing will be held in the Municipal Building at 10 A. M. Monday on the sales tax question.

Commissioners are expected to immediately following this hearing decide on one of two methods of splitting the money—population or ad valorem levy.

A tax split based on population would give Edenton an estimated \$149,351 while the county would receive \$149,351. If the ad valorem basis is favored by

commissioners the town's share would be \$24,679 and the county's share \$113,321.

Mayor George Alma Byrum explained the split at Monday's meeting, attended by businessmen in Edenton. N. J. George, a county commissioner, and Don Tabeau of The Carter's Ink Company, was among those attending. Mayor Byrum said on the basis of

existing assessed valuation (\$15.3-million in Edenton against \$36.2-million in the county) a tax increase necessary to replace the \$18,000 difference in the way the tax is split would require a 12-cent tax increase in town and a five-cent tax increase county-wide. "The council feels very strongly the five-cent county-wide tax increase would be fairer rather than putting an increase strictly on the

town people," he noted.

He added that an estimated 85 per cent of sales taxes are collected in Edenton.

"I can't see any reason, except need for money, how the commissioners can split it on the ad valorem basis," he continued. "I see no valid reason," he added in asking interested citizens to express themselves.

It was pointed out that on the ad valorem split, should taxes be increased to make up the difference, taxpayers in Edenton could see tax bills increase as much as \$800.

Mayor Byrum said the water and sewer bond issue was sold to the people on the promise of no increase in property tax due to the sales tax and increased water rates. "We will have to increase taxes about \$10,000 if we can't cut expenses," he explained if the sales tax is not split on the basis of population. "We will be forced to do something we have promised the people we wouldn't do."

Alton G. Elmore said the sales tax involves people and he sees no other way it can logically be done (divided) except by population.

James Blount asked what effect a town tax increase would have on industrial expansion. Mayor Byrum responded that anytime taxes go up it is a hindrance.

George pointed out since this is involved with next year's budget the difference is \$9,000 to \$10,000 rather than \$18,000. "I believe we can work this thing out," he stated but added: "I must be candid with you. The county has no other way but to split the tax on the basis of ad valorem levy. The money can be worked out."

When questioned later by John A. Mitchener, Jr., on restricted use of the money if such an approach is taken, George said money from other than sales tax funds could be used.

George stated efforts have been in the mill for years to remove the barrier between the town and county. "I certainly hope this doesn't stall this progress," he stated.

In a prepared "fact sheet" distributed at the meeting the town put forth the following points:

1. Town receives NO ABC funds. Reported to be the only Town with a liquor store within the corporate limits not receiving funds.
 2. Without Town's initiative sales tax would have never passed.
 3. Most of the sales tax revenue is generated within the Town of Edenton.
 4. The Town has and will continue
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Library Meeting

A reorganizational meeting, including election of new officers, will be held today (Thursday) by Friends of the Library. The meeting begins at 4 P. M., at Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library.

Friends of the Library will sponsor National Library Week, April 18-24, and plans for this observance will be made at the meeting.

"Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library has served the community well and all people interested in supporting the library are requested to come to the meeting," a spokesman stated.

Court Term Slated Here

Nineteen persons are scheduled to be tried for drunk driving during the March term of Chowan County Superior Court which convenes Monday with Judge Elbert S. Peele, Jr., of Williamston, presiding.

Also on the calendar is the case of Ralph Fay Nixon, charged with two counts of manslaughter.

Others scheduled to be heard include Thomas Lloyd Forehand, breaking, entering, larceny and receiving; and Naylor McCall, receiving stolen goods.

Other offenses include speeding, trespassing, non-support, post conviction hearings, failure to move mobile home, and no operator's license.

Solicitor Herbert Small of Elizabeth City will prosecute the docket.

Jurors drawn to serve during the session include:

Hattie Jones Norman, Ella Twiddy Mitchell, Nolan Bunch Toppin, James

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Clinic Explained

An oral cancer detection clinic, staffed by Edenton dentists on a voluntary basis, will be conducted April 3 at the Municipal Building. The clinic will be operated from 10 A. M., to 4 P. M., and there will be no charge for the service.

Dr. Allen Hornthal, president, Chowan Unit, American Cancer Society, related that Drs. J. H. Horton and R. N. Hines, Jr., have agreed to assist him in the clinic — a first in this area.

"The clinic will represent a concentrated, one-day effort at detecting oral cancer," Dr. Hornthal said. "Oral cancer is one of the most easily detectable cancers, but it is also one of the most dangerous."

This clinic is primarily aimed at the 80 per cent of the people who don't visit a dentist regularly but regular dental patients are also urged to visit the clinic.

Each patient will receive a visual examination at the clinic. If a suspicious case arises, that patient will be given an appointment for a more detailed examination later.

Sandy Rose Dies

Isaac (Sandy) Rose died suddenly March 17, at Chowan Hospital. He was 45.

He was a co-owner of Rose Bros. Construction Co., Inc., since 1951, a veteran of the U. S. Army and World War II, and a member of Edenton Baptist Church.

Mr. Rose was the son of Mollie Sturdivant and Gene Rose of Jonesville, and the husband of Ruth Caudle Rose.

In addition to his parents and wife, survivors include three sons: Larry Rose of Edenton, and Mark S., and Eric Rose of the home; a daughter, Beverly Ann Rose, a student at Western Carolina University, Cullowhee; a brother, Walter F. Rose of Ahsokie, and a sister, Mrs. W. L. Martin of Winston-Salem.

A funeral service was conducted at Colonial Community Chapel on Friday at 3 P. M., with Rev. Robert Gray officiating. Burial followed in Beaver Hill Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Caswell Edmundson, Bernice Penny, J. T. Hall, Reggie Bonner, Clarence Rose, Jack Rose, Corbel Morris and Willie Farmer.

Colonial Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Benefit Event Set

The Edenton Jaycees are sponsoring a fish fry, beginning at 11 A. M. Saturday at the Boy Scout Hut on North Broad Street.

The proceeds will go to the reconstruction of their building which was destroyed by fire.

Robert Dail, president of the Jaycees, urges anyone interested in helping the Jaycees to please do so by purchasing a fish plate.



Thomas M. Surratt

Roy L. Harrell

D. F. Walker

Harrell Files, Withdraws

By Patricia M. Arnold

Roy L. Harrell filed Friday as a candidate for councilman-at-large and withdrew Wednesday morning. He made this statement: "I will not be a candidate for the office of councilman-at-large in this election."

When asked about future political plans, he stated: "No comment at this time."

Harrell ran unsuccessfully for mayor three times.

Two more hats were thrown in the ring for councilman-at-large. On Tuesday morning Hospital Administrator Thomas M. Surratt and D. F. Walker

filed. Walker was the principal of D. F. Walker High School for 36 years.

The deadline to file as a candidate in the May 4 municipal election is 12 noon Friday. Those who desire to run can file with Mrs. George Hoskins, chairman, Chowan County Board of Elections or her assistant, Mrs. Joseph M. Thorud.

Gilbert Johnson filed last week for the Council seat.

Surratt, a native of Salisbury, has been the hospital administrator here for over three years. He lives in Morgan Park.

He and his wife, the former Mary Herlocker, have three children, one at East Carolina University, one a junior at John A. Holmes High School and the other is one year old.

He has been active in church and civic affairs and has served in various posts on three official boards including the Edenton Methodist Church, where he serves as chairman. He has participated in Jaycee groups in three towns and now is an active member of the Edenton Rotary Club and currently serves as president.

Surratt has been active in professional associations, having served as president of the Hospital Financial Management Association and for the

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Chowan Schools Contest Winners

Chowan High School and Chowan Academy won a majority of the prizes in the annual seventh grade history contest conducted by the Museum of the Albemarle. The contest ended March 12 with the following winners:

Community, Social and Industrial Life: First Place — Ballard's Bridge Church by Chief Rockahock Junior Historical Society, Chowan Academy. Second Place — Hog Killing by Chief Rockahock Junior Historical Society, Chowan Academy.

Lost Colony: First Place — Baptism of Virginia Dare by Becky Harrell, Chowan High School. Second Place — Clue to Lost Colony by Poanne Hall, Chowan High School.

First Flight: First Place — Model of Wright Brothers' plane by Herman Jones, Hertford Grammar School, Perquimans County.

Civil War Battles: Battle of Sandy Point — Chief Rockahock Junior Historical Society, Chowan Academy. Second Place — Battles of Sound Region by Cindy Miller, Hertford Grammar School, Perquimans County.

Dismal Swamp: First Place — Surveying the Dismal Swamp by Clay Madry, Chowan High School.

Public Parade

Something New, Something Old

Yes, those are new street signs going up throughout Edenton — all 144 of them. They cost \$3,500 and are being installed by the Street Department.

The new blue and white signs help the appearance of the town as preparations are made for the biennial Pilgrimage of Colonial Edenton and Country-side.

Even at such a cost of money and effort, the new signs can't blot out the unsightly trash cans which line our streets six days each and every week. It is only human to tidy things up when company is coming. It is therefore something which Edenton must do continuously since we are becoming more and more a mecca for tourists.

But so long as town officials ignore the trash cans we can only hope that during the tour days the wind won't blow, tops will be securely placed on the cans used, boxes, paper bags, etc., won't be used and all dogs along the Public Parade will be locked up.

What To Feed A Nag!

Those meandering along the Public Parade interested in more efficient and effective municipal government must be disappointed at the attitude of the Board of Public Works members in a recent joint meeting with Town Council.

Mayor George Alma Byrum, a strong advocate of a single elected board to carry on the affairs of Edenton, called the meeting to discuss the matter of abolishing the E&W Board. Except for a few needles applied to this writer by J. H. Conger, Jr., the story of the joint "discussion" could have been written before the meeting was called to order. It was a rehash of the same pros and cons with the cons who won a 33-vote victory four years ago hanging on.

Chairman Jesse L. Harrell set the tone when he advised councilmen he is no more in favor of the one-board concept now than four years ago. He ran through the council members once again his opinion that the job was too big for one board to handle adequately.

Maybe Mr. Harrell isn't aware that Commodity Credit Corporation, the world's largest with \$14-billion, has but five members on its board. Edenton has two elected boards with a total of 12 members. Are things that difficult along the Public Parade?

Of all the people one would expect to favor parking the horse and buggy of the past age and filling up an engine tuned for high test gasoline is Mr. Conger. His interests lie in the gas business. He has found it necessary to program his own business for the computer age but hasn't used the same yardstick in the operations of the town.

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Fire Service Radio Network Sought

Albemarle Area Development Association has adopted a resolution seeking assistance in planning and implementing emergency fire service communications in this area. The request came from Albemarle Firemen's Association.

At a recent meeting of the AADA board of directors in Elizabeth City, C. T. Skinner, Jr., secretary of AADA and liaison for AFA, presented a resolution signed by Frank V. White, Jr., president.

AADA acted on the resolution for assistance which is aimed at receiving some help from the forthcoming Economic Development Administration staff in the area.

Skinner said it is hoped that EDA staff members will make a survey of the fire departments in this region as to existing radio communications now be-

ing used and then come up with some type of plan for every fire department to monitor one single emergency frequency.

He noted that at the recent Butler Lumber Company fire in Tyrrell County, only assistance was rendered by Creswell since there was not rapid way to get help from other areas. He said an emergency frequency would have solved this problem.

The AFA resolution noted there are 30 volunteer fire departments, of which only two have paid personnel, in the region. These departments render emergency fire service to some 80,000 citizens in Northeastern North Carolina.

Also, there are four U. S. government facilities and one state agency available to render fire fighting assistance on a mutual aid basis. There also is an active organized Civil Defense program in the area.



Supporting Red Cross — Women's organizations throughout the area are joining hands in an effort to meet the goal of the Chowan County Chapter, American Red Cross in a funds campaign now underway. Shown with Carlton Jackson, chairman, are, from left, Miss Mary Lee Copeland, BPW; Mrs. Hattie Byrum, Chowan Hospital Auxiliary; and Mrs. Dianne Dail, Jayettes. This is the first organized funds solicitation to be conducted by the Red Cross in Chowan County in the past several years.