

Boost In Tax Said Certain For Edenton

Property owners in the Town of Edenton can prepare for some increase in taxes this year and Mayor George Alma Byrum has asked the Law and Finance Committee not to shy away from planning for the over-all needs of the town in making budget recommendations.

Mayor Byrum, saying Tuesday night he is "very conscious" of taxes, outlined several areas for special study. They include:

1—Increased salary for councilmen. (Councilmen are now paid \$10 per meeting). He proposed a monthly salary in the \$30 to \$50 range, saying if councilmen involve themselves in the work of the community they deserve just compensation.

2—Purchase open land for parks and recreation to be paid for over a period of years.

3—Make provisions for purchase of waterfront property either through:

- a. Urban Renewal
- b. Piece meal
- c. Not at all.

4—Include \$15,000 for downtown sidewalk construction. There is \$15,000 in the 1970-71 budget and merchants have agreed to participate on the front footage basis.

And to the entire council, the mayor said he hoped they could plan now for the future, using vision. He noted that the town could not have surplus funds available for any need not planned for.

The committee will meet Monday night and present its findings to council at 8 P. M., Tuesday.

Council denied a request for loading zone parking spaces in the P&Q lot back of Elliott Cleaners and the Habit building. In a rare tie vote, Mayor Byrum was required to break the tie.

Town Administrator W. B. Gardner reported on progress of the water and sewer expansion project. He said it could be completed within 30 to 45 days. He also noted some difficulty being experienced with the contractor, Central Builders.

David White, head of the Public Works Committee, reported on the poor condition of buildings at Edenton Municipal Airport. He said there had been extensive vandalism at most buildings.

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Public Parade

Share In Action

Many who meander along the Public Parade can expect a taste of the better life as result of two federally-backed programs which will start next year. When we read so much about waste in government it is refreshing indeed to have people-oriented local programs.

On Monday, the first auction of the young season will be held at Chowan Cooperative Produce Exchange at Valhalla. And on Tuesday, Edenton Housing Authority will break ground for 100 units of low-rent public housing.

Both programs at times appeared to be questionable as to becoming reality. It is almost uncanny both are being launched within two days.

The produce exchange will give farmers, large and small, a market for their goods. It will bring in buyers from a wide area and the potential for growth is almost out of the realm of one's imagination.

The government didn't take over the exchange. The local, hard working people showed their need for temporary assistance and the need was met with a combination loan-grant.

Also, the road to construction of the low-rent housing units has been equally as bumpy. After more than three years in the mill, a \$1.8-million development program is going to the construction phase.

Edenton probably could have had low-rent public housing units sooner. Here again, people who have pride in the community and a dedication for the best, regardless of the time involved, were at the helm.

The local authority vowed from the start not to have a project if it was not of a design in keeping with colonial and progressive Edenton. After repeated road-blocks and landmark decisions, the authority has won another round.

There are other people-oriented local projects which have federal monies involved. Chowan Hospital, Albemarle Cooperative Association, Economic Improvement Council, and the newly funded Economic Development Association are but four. These point out the validity of a statement by a ranking member of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to a group here just Monday. He said if the people don't want something to happen, it won't.

We are fortunate to have people in responsible positions who want a piece of the action, not just for the sake of action, but for the sake of our people.

Back To Drawing Board

Chowan County Commissioners several months ago launched a study of local government. One commissioner went so far as to say there was a need to find ways of doing more things cheaper in order to maintain a reasonable tax rate.

In recent weeks, commissioners have had little time to devote to the study. They probably feel, and rightly so, that the roof has fallen in on them.

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History Awards

Martha Jo Hollowell, Kathy Wright and Tom Ward received the Hugh T. Lefler Award for excellence in North Carolina History.

The awards were presented at closing ceremonies at the Chowan Academy on June 2. Each received an award, a small replica of the Edenton Tea Pot, made by Carolista Fletcher Baum, granddaughter of Inglis Fletcher.

Dr. Lefler is author of the state adopted text of North Carolina History. He has taught state history at UNC for 45 years. He gave permission to the Chowan Academy to give the award annually in his name for excellence in North Carolina History.

Vote Backs Old County Patrol Plan

Chowan County Sheriff Troy E. Toppin and Lena Leary, Clerk of Court, appeared before the Chowan County commissioners Monday to ask for support in getting the State Highway Patrol in this county back to the Elizabeth City District. Until recently the patrolmen in the county were in the Elizabeth City District, when they were transferred to the Ahoskie District.

Mrs. Leary stated that every time she needed information about a traffic case coming to court involving the highway patrol, she has to make a long distance call to Ahoskie and before it was just a local call.

Sheriff Toppin remarked that in the past that there was always good relations with the Elizabeth City office and that he could not see any need for change.

The commissioners passed a motion that "strong" letters should be written to state officials that could change the situation back to as it was before.

Other business before the commissioners included a request from the Town of Edenton to be released of two years' taxes from U. S. Lumber Company properties. The commissioners granted one year's relief.

Mrs. Ross Inglis was reappointed to the board of Social Services for three years.

Roger Spivey with the Forestry Service

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Squad Stays Busy

Twenty-five emergency calls were answered by the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad in May along with 20 convalescences for a total of 185 hours spent in rescue duty with over 2,200 miles being traveled.

Included in the emergency calls were four traffic accidents and three water calls.

The squad also spent 2,382 hours on standby in case of an emergency.

A new unit has been added to the squad and is located at Earl Smith's Store and is headed by Marion Bunch, first lieutenant, with Carlton Dail as second lieutenant.

A total of 60 men have been certified by the State Board of Public Health to serve on the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad.

Winborne Cited

FT. BRAGG—The Bronze Star Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster for heroism and the Purple Heart have been awarded posthumously in honor of 1st Lieut. John H. Winborne, who was killed in the Republic of Vietnam, October 2, 1970.

The awards were presented to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Winborne, Jr., of Route 1, Edenton.

At the time of his death, 1st Lieut. Winborne was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 34th Armor, 25th Infantry Division.

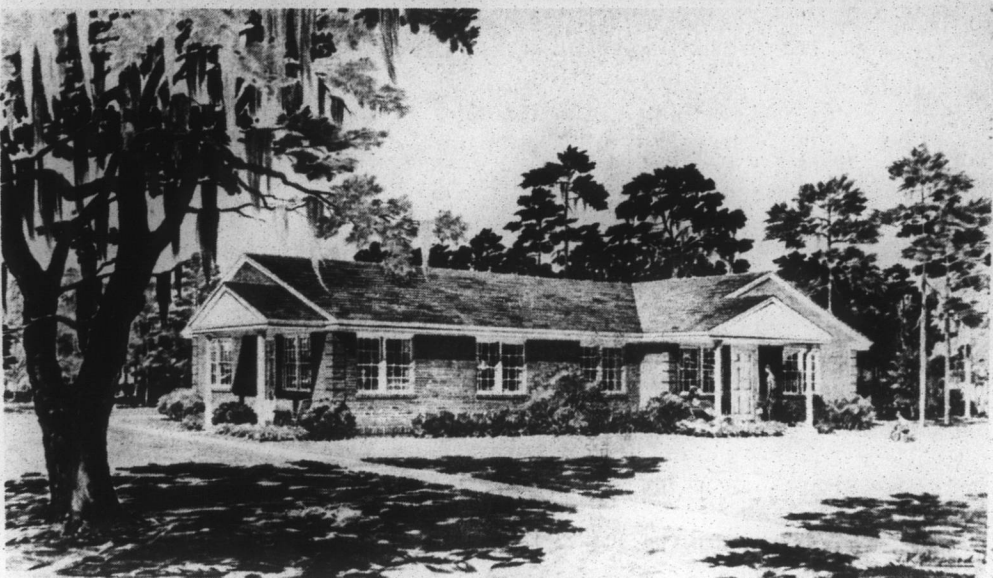
He was killed during a combat operation in an encounter with hostile forces.

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Bids Total \$1.3-Million

Public Housing Set

Low bids of \$1,282,655 have been received by Edenton Housing Authority for construction of 100 units of low-rent public housing. Contracts will be signed Tuesday morning with traditional groundbreaking on the North Oakum Street site to follow at 11 o'clock.

Jack Habit, chairman of the housing authority, said Mayor George Alma Byrum and members of the Town Council have been invited to join members of the local authority at the brief ceremony.

Bids were opened at 3 P. M., last Thursday.

Kirkpatrick & Associates, Inc., of Greensboro, was low bidder on general

construction with \$1,072,000. Federal Construction of Fayetteville was second with \$1,075,557.

Southerland Electric Company of Jacksonville was low for electrical distribution, interior wiring and heating with \$104,798.

Lenoir Plumbing & Heating of Kingston was low for interior plumbing, heating and air conditioning with \$105,857. The individual units will not be air conditioned; only the administration-community building.

Actual construction of the project is to begin June 28 and is to be completed in June, 1972.

The units will be built on four different sites throughout Edenton, with the prime site being north of D. F. Walker Junior High School on North Oakum Street.

The project, designed by Sheetz & Bradfield Architects, Inc., of Atlanta, Ga., is total electric.

The bids were approximately 3 per cent below estimates in the local authority's development program. Overall development of the project, which began three years ago, will cost nearly \$1.8-million.

L. F. Amburn, Jr., executive director, stated that although the authority spent \$40,000 in development of a mobile home park for relocation of seven families, cost of the entire project is nearly \$25,000 below estimates made two years ago.

Mayor Byrum, attending the bid opening, commended the authority for the hard work that had gone into development of a project to provide low-rent public housing in Edenton. He said he was aware of the obstacles the authority had experienced and appreciated the work which had been done.

Summer Program

The Edenton Recreation Department is having a girls' program again this summer and it started Wednesday. The program is for girls ages eight to 15 and those who wish to participate will meet from 9 A. M., to 12 noon and 1 P. M., to 3 P. M. at Holmes High gymnasium.

USDA Official Pleased With Aid Programs In Area

Dr. Henry Ahlgren, deputy under Secretary of Agriculture (USDA), was the guest of the Chowan County Farmer Cooperative Service on Monday at a luncheon.



Dr. Ahlgren was in the county to inspect the work that the cooperative had begun and to advise on what could be done to improve the services.

He commented that he detected

pride in the work of the service and that he was most impressed with the fact that the cooperative wanted to improve the economic situation here. He further remarked that nothing will happen unless someone wants it to and that everyone had worked together, respecting what the other had to offer, to make the cooperative service a success.

Other guests at the luncheon included J. Lamar Harrison, vice president of the service; George Lee Norman, board member; Joe Bolton, treasurer; Wayland Spivey, secretary; Melvin Howell, supervisor of Farmers Home Administration; Don Norman, district supervisor; George L. Chapel, associate director of N. C. State University Extension Service; Pete Thompson, Chowan County Extension Service; and Roy Harrell, field representative of Rural Fund for Development.

Also, Marcus McClanahan, manager of Albemarle Cooperative Association; Gene Sutton, rural services specialist for Farmer Cooperative Service; Raymond Williams, regional supervisor for Rural Services-Farmer Cooperative Service; Jack Parker, area livestock specialist of N. C. State Extension Service; and Bob Moore, secretary of the Edenton Chamber of Commerce.



Heavy Damage—This is the scene of an early Monday morning accident on U. S. 17 in front of Jeff White's Service Center in Bertie County. The car, driven by John Arthur Freeman of Route 3, Windsor, and his two companions was heading toward the United Piece Dye Works when it collided with a radar unit being pulled by a military trailer. The three passengers in the car received minor injuries according to investigating officer, State Highway Trooper Larry Overby. According to the patrolman's report, the driver of the unit had his turn signal on to turn left into White's store when the car attempted to pass. Charges are pending upon completion of the investigation.