

February Is Target Date Set For 911 Emergency System Implementation

By JACK GROVE
The Town of Edenton and Chowan County are one step closer to having a 911 emergency response system after the county commission adopted a proposal Monday that was worked out in a series of meetings between town and county officials.

After implementation, targeted for February 1, 1988, a local resident with an emergency would dial 911 and the appropriate agency would be immediately dispatched to the scene.

Benefits would include quicker public access to emergency agencies, quicker response time and would provide coordination of agencies in the event of a disaster.

The system would be quartered in the present utility collection office at the Edenton Municipal Building, with the town providing any needed renovation, utilities and janitorial services. An emergency operations center might also be located in the building.

The county will purchase the equipment (\$38,000 was budgeted) and the town and county will jointly fund the operation of the system, 75 percent from the county and 25 percent from the town. County Manager Cliff Copeland said the funding was based on a county population of around 14,000 to the town's 6,000.

Copeland pointed out that the 911 system would not replace existing departmental communications systems. The new dispatch system would have five dispatchers, one of them in a supervisory capacity.

An advisory committee is envisioned for the system to establish procedures, training and assist in any other needed areas. Members would include the sheriff, Edenton police chief, EMS director and the chiefs of the Edenton and Center Hill-Crossroad Fire Departments.

The proposal now goes to the town council for ratification. Council must also approve plans for the renovation of the old People's Bank Building for use as town office space.



Voodooism In Action

In one of those piddling little changes so dear to their hearts, Congress decided that, effective with the fiscal year beginning October 1, military personnel would be paid on the first day of the next month instead of on the last day of the current month.

On the face of it, this would have given service personnel a modest tax break by pushing one month's pay into the next calendar year. But the budget makers didn't leave it there; they provided that, in order to avoid conflict with a holiday, the payment day could be shifted back to the last day of the month.

So, for December, 1987, military personnel will receive two checks, one on the first of the month and the other on the 31st.

Explaining this, the Associated Press said:

"By directing those in the armed services to wait an extra 24 hours to get paid this month, Congress was able to shift that pay roll from the end of the government's fiscal 1987 to the start of fiscal 1988, which begins October 1."

"That, in turn, allowed Congress to shift almost \$3 billion in Pentagon salary expenses to the next fiscal year — providing a relatively painless means of cutting the Pentagon's budget request without really cutting it."

We submit that is what is wrong with our government. What we have come to in both the executive and legislative branches is government by legerdemain, a sort of now-you-see-it, now-you-don't. It's an economic newspeak appropriate to the times. It substitutes finesse for fortitude, fiscal appearance for reality.

Congress did not have the guts to cut the defense budget by \$3

Continued On Page 4

School Policy Is Adopted

Edenton-Chowan Board of Education has met state requirements with the adoption of a corporal punishment policy even though the policy may be temporary.

Board members adopted an updated policy last week after several changes were made in old guidelines to meet state mandates.

N.C. General Statutes allow authorized school personnel to use reasonable force including corporal punishment, to maintain discipline. Reasonable force may be used to calm a threatening disturbance, obtain possession of a weapon, to defend one's self from injury and to protect person or property.

One change in the undated punishment policy says that corporal punishment may be used only as a last resort after other methods of discipline have been exhausted.

Rosemary Lewis, a teacher who helped draft the updated policy, says no substitute teachers will be allowed to administer corporal punishment, since they may not know if all other avenues have been explored.

Each student and parent must be notified in advance of infractions that could result in corporal punishment. The notification may be through student handbooks, parent meetings or classroom discussions.

Continued On Page 4



THE CHOWAN HERALD

Published In The Most Beautiful Little City On The North Carolina Coast

Volume LXXXIII - No. 37

Edenton, North Carolina, Thursday, September 17, 1987

Single Copies 25 Cents

Transportation Officials Offer Suggestions For Enhancing Airport

Recommendations to enhance Edenton airport were made Tuesday evening by two officials of the N.C. Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation.

Bruce Matthews and Marshall Sanders met with the Airport Advisory Board and town officials to discuss projects that would ultimately impact local economic development.

Edenton has added capital improvements, such as repaving main runway 119 and contracted for an automated runway lighting system, which would activate lights when an approaching pilot keys his microphone.

Cost of the lighting is \$12,300, with \$8-\$10,000 coming from the state.

Advisory board members Bill Myers, Ben Rinhart and Marvin Shaw, along with E.N. (Pete) Manning, town council liaison, John Cuthrell, president-elect of the chamber of commerce and Edenton Town Manager Phillip Whitaker, heard that some basic cosmetic work is needed at the 40-year-old terminal building.

The airport has a visual aid tower, VASI, which was recommended for a new paint job and more general maintenance to improve appearance of the site.

DOT officials suggested that the board look at contracting someone to work at the airport 24 hours daily, which would provide refueling and other services to planes coming into Edenton.

Hours of operation have been increased from eight hours daily during the week to include the same number of hours on Saturday and Sunday.

Officials said the advisory board had started taking the right steps, but needed to advertise in aviation magazines and a monthly state bulletin.

Other contracting services suggested were a part-time mechanic, maybe someone retired from the military, and implementation of a flight instructor. The town previously considered an instructor and DOT officials thought one might be found in the local aviation community.

Suggestions were made to expand the advisory board from four to at least five to eight members, bringing in local businessmen, with liaison with the chamber of commerce, Historic Edenton and other local groups.

DOT employees suggested such public relations events as a "Business-Aviation Appreciation Day," using pilots to sell low-cost flights over Edenton as a drawing card.

Matthews and Sanders said the board should concentrate heavily on promoting the airport and local aviation, since it is such an asset to commerce.

For instance, while the meeting was underway one pilot landed at the airport, went to Bayliner and purchased a boat.

The two men used the airport at Wilson as an example of one which pulled itself up by its bootstraps after revitalized interest of the town council and the airport advisory board pulled in local businessmen to point out how the facility promoted growth.

DOT said local runway 119 is in good condition after resurfacing, but a decision needs to be made soon about improvements on run-

way 523. The only long-term capital improvement suggested was construction of a new terminal.

The advisory board was told that very few small airports are self-sustaining and must depend on federal and state assistance for

capital outlay. The town must decide the extent to which it will subsidize improvements and operations at the aviation center.



OLDEST LEGIONNAIRE—Geddes Potter, 92, cuts a ribbon officially opening American Legion Post 40's newest building addition. Looking on are Bill Manke, Post Commander, (center) and Jack Revels (right). Potter, a World War I Navy veteran, participated in reactivating the post's charter in 1922 and has been an active member since. Special guests at the Sunday afternoon dedication were Department (state) Commander Jerry Hendrix and Division Commander John McNair.

Bell Ringing Planned This Afternoon

All churches, schools and individuals are invited to ring bells at 4 p.m. September 17 (today) to celebrate the signing of the Constitution in Philadelphia on the same date in 1787.

Bells are to ring 200 times and the observance is a project of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The observance is planned across the nation as a part of "Bells Across America".

The Chowan Bicentennial Committee met September 10 in the old courthouse to discuss other plans made as part of the celebration Sept. 17 and November 8.

The plans this week include exhibits, a book fair at Shepard Pruden Memorial Library and activities for students throughout the school system.

Winston Dail will announce the winners, today, of the contest carried in the Chowan Herald, which asked questions about the Constitution.

On November 8, drama

students from Holmes High School will reenact the 1787 meeting in the old courthouse when grand jurors urged the legislature to ratify the Constitution.

Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan has been invited to speak and Chowan Arts Council is sponsoring a speech contest.

The special day will also include a band and chorus, window displays, advertising spots on the radio and town attorneys are buying copies of the Constitution for county students.

The just released 1988 calendar of events from Historic Edenton includes on April 25 "Freedom or Tyranny: A Town Meeting to Discuss Our Proposed National Constitution". The meeting will be conducted as if the year was 1788 and N.C. Federalists and Anti-Federalists debate a ratification.

Admission will be free, but space is limited so reservations will be given on a first-come first-serve

basis. Other events are planned next year.

On September 10, the Cupola House was the site of an end-of-summer party with admission charged to benefit the 1725 house. The party is an annual fundraiser.

The 214th anniversary celebration of the Edenton Tea Party is planned October 22. The party was the first political activity by women in the American colonies. The day will sponsor reenactments, crafts, music, food, games and an annual awards program. Admission will be free.

December 4 is the date for the "Iredell House Groaning Board", featuring eighteenth century Christmas decorations, music, refreshments and a holiday groaning board with food from late 18th century and early 19th century recipes. No admission will be charged.

December 4 is also the planned date of the Cupola House Wassail Bowl.



PICTURES FROM THE PAST—David and Denise Iredell of London, England, donated these pictures to the James Iredell Association of Edenton. The Rev. Arthur Iredell (left) was James Iredell, Sr.'s, brother and lived in England. Thomas Iredell (center) was an uncle and president of the Council of Jamaica. Mrs. Margaret McCullock Iredell was the mother of James and Arthur. The pictures are photos of painted miniatures.

Iredell Descendant Visits Town

The James Iredell Association rolled out the red carpet yesterday when descendants of the famous judge visited Edenton.

The association welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Charles Iredell Ralfe of England to town with a luncheon at Edenton Bake Shop.

Ralfe, a descendant of James Iredell, Sr.'s, brother, Arthur, visited Edenton in the spring of 1986 and brought six original letters written by the famous judge in 1795 and 1796. The letters were donations to the association from Ralfe's mother in Australia.

At the time, Ralfe was living in Australia and on his way to England to research his ancestors, but detoured to Edenton for presentation of the letters.

The original letters were written by Iredell to his brother, the Rev. Arthur Iredell in England, and his uncle, Thomas Iredell in Jamaica.

Ralfe said that his family had carefully preserved the letters and much other family documentation through the centuries. The

letters were written in brown ink and were clear and legible.

Iredell's descendants had known about the Iredell House in Edenton for years, but had learned of the association just prior to Ralfe's delivery of the letters.

Recently Ralfe has been instrumental in securing for the association three small authenticated photographs of the Iredell family. The reproductions show Arthur and Thomas Iredell and Margaret McCullock Iredell of London, James Iredell's mother.

The three photographs were sent to Cornelia Privott, chairman of the descendant's committee, by David and Denise Iredell of London and will be loaned to the Historical Society of the U.S. Supreme Court for the third volume of a book on U.S. judges.

James Iredell Sr. of Edenton was appointed by George Washington as an associate judge of the first U.S. Supreme Court. The three photos will be used in Iredell's section of the publication.



HEAD GOOBERS—The leaders of this year's Peanut Festival, also known as "Head Goobers," are (l. to r.) Eddie Rountree, festival chairman, Geraldine Hill, president of band parents and Otis Strother, band director. Events include a parade on Saturday morning, Oct. 3 and band competition at Hiecks Field in the afternoon.