



Boards Reach Decision

Site To Be Retained

By JACK GROVE

The question of the location of a new Chowan Middle School to replace the present Chowan Jr. High School was settled by the Chowan County Commission Board and by the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education Monday. The site of the school will be the present campus of the junior high school.

School board member John Mitchener, III had suggested earlier that the new school be located nearer Edenton, perhaps on the U.S. 17 Bypass. This met with opposition from board members Alice Jones and J.M. Parrish, III at an early morning meeting on February 26.

That meeting was to consider an application to the state for critical needs funding from a pot of \$95 million set up by the General Assembly last summer. The application has to be endorsed by both boards with a filing deadline of March 15.

The application also had to be based on a long-range school construction plan previously submitted to the state. That plan called for demolition of the two-story building at Chowan, construction of a new middle school there and renovation of the present cafeteria, gym, auditorium and ten classrooms. The cost was set at \$5.6 million.

The school board endorsed

revision of the plan on the application. It deleted the specified location of the middle school and added \$200,000, needed if the school was sited elsewhere.

Commissioners Monday morning strongly took exception with any other location than the junior high campus. It was pointed out that the "super-sub" committee, composed of two commissioners and two school board members had come up with the original recommendation for the middle school at the Chowan campus.

"I'd like to stand on the original recommendation," commissioner Alton Elmore stated. He is a member of the super-sub. "It ought to be done at the present site," he continued. "I just think that the people in the northern end of the county deserve a piece of our school system."

Commissioner Al Phillips agreed. "I think the best interest of the county is to put it exactly where it is."

The board unanimously endorsed changing the application by deleting the \$200,000 and restoring the Chowan location and building and renovation plans. Commissioner Clara Boswell abstained from the vote. Mrs. Boswell is currently principal at Chowan Jr. High School.

At a marathon meeting Monday night, the school board voted six to one to endorse the critical needs application as changed by the county commissioners.

The application will now meet the March 15 deadline.



ARBOR DAY-Mayor John Dowd signed a proclamation at Tuesday night's council meeting naming March 18 as Arbor Day in Edenton to protect the town's tree heritage and urging citizens to plant new trees. With Dowd are Dee Phillips, chairman of the tree committee and Steve Karl, committee member.

Rezoning Is Denied

On a vote of four to two, Edenton Town Council turned down the request of Judy Earnhardt Adams for a rezoning of her property to CH, highway commercial, from R-20, agricultural-residential. The ten acre parcel lies on the southeast corner of the intersection of U.S. 17 Bypass

and N.C. 32. The Planning Board had unanimously approved the request Monday night.

That the CH designation could allow construction of businesses that might be unsightly, worried town officials. Councilman Livingstone T. Goodman observed, "I see this as a major issue. It's a major entrance to the town."

He also cited the property's proximity to the Golden Corral, hospital and church. He said the property might be needed in the future for professional offices associated with the hospital.

Bob Adams told the council that they were only asking for rezoning "for approximately 25 per cent" of the 40 acres owned there by Mrs. Adams. He said that 20 to 30 acres behind the ten acres could be used for the medical arts. He also pointed out that, in meetings with the adjacent church, they received approval.

Mayor John Dowd said that he couldn't see any other use for the property other than commercial. "Any growth in the 1980's has to be in that area."

"Mr. Mayor, I think we're showing a good growth west of the bypass," Councilman Allen Harless responded.

Council members Marina Crumme and Jimmy Alligood said that the majority of their constituents supported the rezoning. "To this day, I haven't heard a whole lot of opposition. My gut feeling is I'd like to see that property remain the way it is but, realistically, I believe it will change," said Councilman E.N. (Pete) Manning.

Just prior to the vote, Goodman added, "I'm not voting for it because its ten acres."

Council did approve a request to rezone the old A&P property on No. Broad Street from industrial-warehousing to highway commercial. The property does not include the nearby Western Gas Co. Plans by owner Al Cox include an attended car wash.

In other matters, council:
• Revised upward the fee schedule for building permits;
• Authorized funding of \$250 for the Highway 17 Association;

Continued On Page 4

Continued On Page 4

Report Is Issued

The Edenton-Chowan Board of Education had a full agenda Monday night that stretched their meeting from 7:30 p.m. until midnight.

One of the major topics under consideration was the approval of a crucial needs application to the state. (See accompanying article.) The school system is listed as 33rd in ranking for school construction needs.

While no guidelines have been announced for dividing a \$95 million critical needs fund by a special state committee, Schools Superintendent John Dunn has said that Edenton-Chowan could get as much as \$1 million from the fund under one recent proposal.

The board began their meeting with a look at the computer curriculum of business teacher Penny Jo Powell at Holmes High School. Students John Nixon and Bryan Waff demonstrated computer program that they had each written recently.

The report of an architect selection committee was received by the board. Some 30 architects have expressed interest in working with the school system on plans for the new Chowan Middle School.

Among agenda items, the board:

- Discussed plans for six board members to attend a National School Board Assoc. meeting in New Orleans;
- Heard a presentation from Jill Jordan on the new AIDS curriculum that will soon be taught to students in grades 7 through 12. A meeting for all interested parents on this subject has been scheduled for tonight at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria at D.F. Walker School;
- Considered a new policy on adult school bus drivers that would require employment in

the schools as a prerequisite; and

- Considered use of the school van for activities transportation.

Photos Needed By Dept.

The Edenton Fire Department is in the process of restoring their 1923 Reo fire truck. The truck is being taken apart, sanded, cleaned and repainted.

Firemen request that anyone having old pictures of the truck loan them to the department as an aid in the restoration work.



NEW BOOKMOBILE-The Pettigrew Regional Library has added a \$42,000 bookmobile to its resources, providing two bookmobiles to cover routes in four counties. Shown inside the new unit are (from left) Victor Eure, Outreach Coordinator, Anne Jones, Librarian at Shepard-Pruden Library and Martie Smith, Regional Director of Pettigrew. The new bookmobile carries 2,000 books as well as video tapes.

System Expansion Plan Presented

County commissioners heard a presentation on expansion of the county water

system at their Monday morning meeting. The presentation was made by consulting engineer Bill Diehl and Graham Farless, supervisor of the system.

Diehl explained that the 200 gallon per minute capacity of the Yeopim treatment plant in the southern end of the county is totally inadequate during periods of hot weather.

He also said that the elevated storage tank, of riveted construction and built for the air base in the 1940's, was inadequate for drinking water and fire fighting. Diehl pointed out that the tank was 25 feet too low to provide water pressure to areas on higher ground. He said the best solution was replacing it with a 250,000 gallon tank of welded construction.

Two alternatives were given in expanding water capacity. The first would be construction of a new plant with a 600 GPM capacity behind the present Yeopim plant and addition of the new raised water tank. Diehl cited the need of the Bayliner Boat

Co. for adequate fire fighting pressure. "In an industrial area, you can never have too much overhead storage," he commented.

The second alternative would connect the system in the northern part of the county with the southern, add to the Valhalla plant, capacity for an additional 600 GPM and build another elevated tank and booster station near the intersection of N.C. 32 and U.S. 17 bypass.

Either alternative would cost \$2 million.

Diehl recommended the second alternative of connecting the systems. He said that an added benefit would be the single plant for treating water. New federal regulations require many new tests for water quality the engineer said and it would be better if they could all be done at one location.

Commissioners were told that there were two possible sources for grants to fund the expansion. A maximum of

Not A Public Purpose

Gov. Jim Martin's 16-year-old son, Arthur Benson Martin, wrecked a state-owned car near his home in Iredell County one afternoon last week. Fortunately, he and his young companion, Thomas Sears, 16, of Raleigh, escaped serious injury although the car was damaged an estimated \$5,000.

Investigating officers reported the car swerved back and forth across the road until it turned over into the ditch-line. Young Martin was charged with exceeding a safe speed.

The Governor's press secretary, Jim Sughrue, explained that the Governor has agreed to pay property loss and damages resulting from the wreck.

Mr. Sughrue should have left it at that, but he didn't. He went on to explain that the Department of Administration provides a car for the Governor and his family to use.

"The vehicle was being used for its intended purpose," he said, "but regardless, the Governor has decided to pay expenses."

We doubt that the Department of Administration has authority to make a publicly-owned vehicle available to the Governor or anybody else for use other than for a public purpose.

There is a line in our constitution which says that no person is entitled to "separate emoluments or privileges...but in consideration of public service."

It is difficult for us to understand how pleasure driving by a teenager on Saturday afternoon falls into the category of public service.

We commend the Governor for his willingness to make the state whole again, but we would suggest that if he wants his son to have a car for his own use he should buy one for him. After all, Jim Martin is the second highest-paid governor in the country.

Room To Experiment

There is, of course, a limit to the amount of co-operation Edenton and Chowan County officials can efficiently carry out. But we do not believe they are near that limit yet.

For that reason, we endorse the initiatives by Mayor John Dowd and County Manager Cliff Copeland in setting up a joint committee to study the problem.

A first step was taken a year or so ago when the city agreed to let the county collect city taxes for a fee. As it turned out, collections increased more than enough to

Continued On Page 4



BLUE RIBBON-Governor Martin's Blue Ribbon Commission on Coastal Initiatives met in the Edenton Town Council chamber Tuesday and Wednesday to summarize results of six public hearings on the governor's plan. Former Lt. Gov. Jimmy Green (left) listens as a panel member makes a point. Other panel members attending the Edenton meeting included Dave Flaherty, Secretary of Dept. of Human Resources, Jim Harrington, Secretary of Dept. of Transportation, Tommy Rhodes, Secretary of Dept. of Natural Resources and Community Development and Ella Bengal, Mayor of New Bern. The initiatives are aimed at economic development and improvements in coastal water resources.