

2 interim manager candidates interviewed

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Two prospective candidates for the interim county manager post have been interviewed as applications continue to come in.

No decision has been made on who will hold the reins as interim manager while a search for a permanent replacement also continues. After quickly narrowing a group of applicants for the interim job to two men, the Chowan County Board of Commissioners interviewed a

"We've had some very qualified candidates so far."

Eddy Goodwin

Chairman, Chowan County Board of Commissioners

first candidate Thursday and the second on Monday, according to County Clerk Susanne Stallings.

Chowan County Board of Commissioners Chairman Eddy Goodwin called the two interviewed as "excellent" candidates. He also indicated that additional candidates could be

called in for an interview.

"We're collecting resumes and deciding which ones to bring in for an interview," Goodwin said. "We've had some very qualified candidates so far."

Applications for the permanent job have also begun to come in for review, Goodwin added.

"There has been a good amount of interest in the position and I expect it to pick up once we get more advertising out there," Goodwin said.

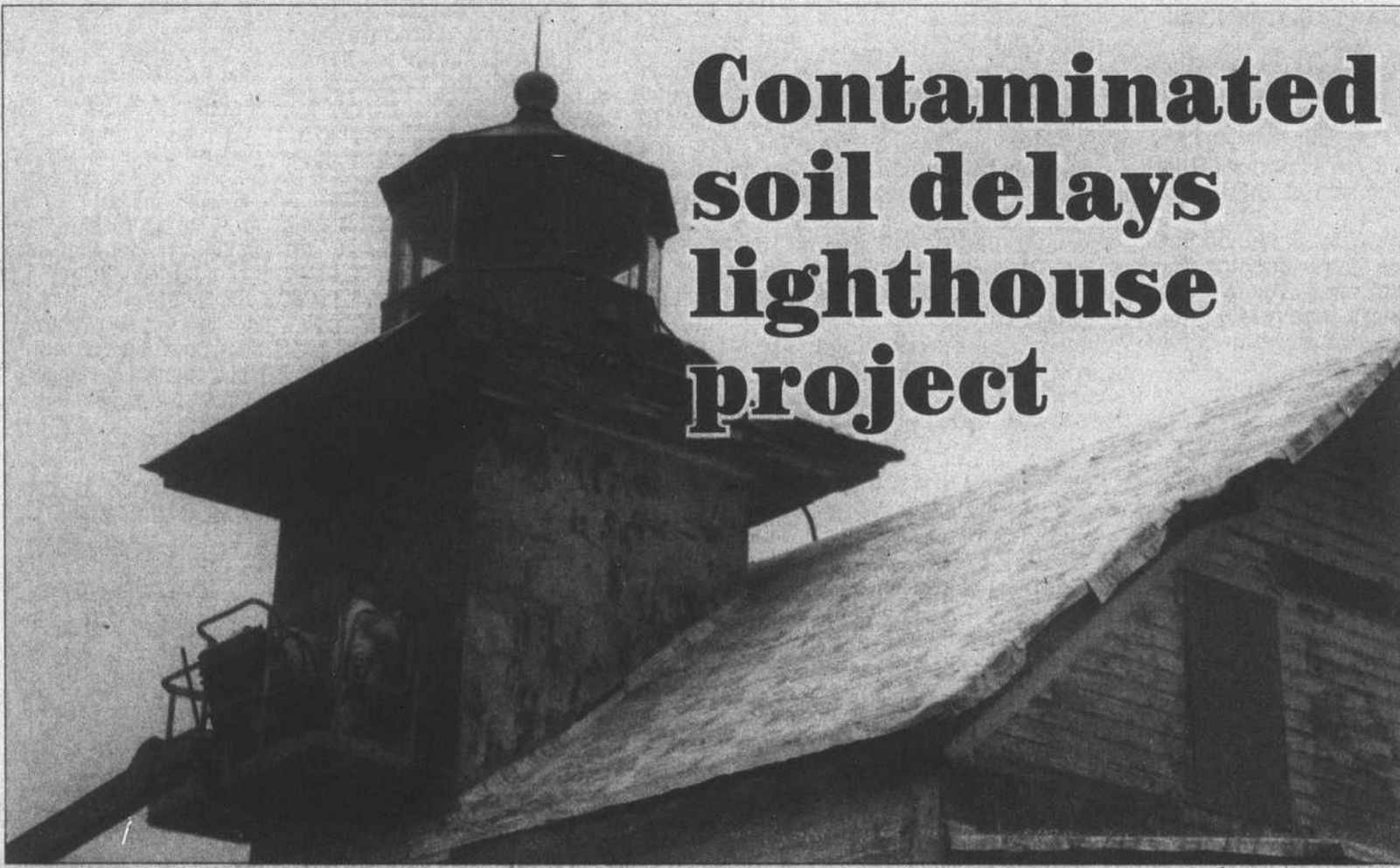
Meanwhile, the board approved June 8 that Carrie Byrum, human resources manager, serve as the county's point person until an interim or county

manager is named. Byrum will serve as both the contact for the public and department heads.

Goodwin said he expects the interim to be hired within the next 30 to 45 days. Once the interim is in place, the commissioners can dedicate more time with finding a permanent hire.

June 7th marked the final day on the job for County Manager Peter Rascoe. Having worked for the county since 1999, the last two as manager, Rascoe left to become town manager for Southern Shores in Dare County.

Contaminated soil delays lighthouse project



STAFF PHOTO BY REBECCA BUNCH

A.R. Chesson Construction workers wear protective clothing while working on the exterior wall near the top of the Roanoke River Lighthouse in Edenton, last week.

Structure could return to watery site

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

A recently discovered pocket of contaminated soil may delay completion of the Roanoke River Lighthouse restoration project. New plans call for the Lighthouse to be set on piles in the water.

Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that while employees of the A.R. Chesson Construction Company were preparing the site, they smelled an odor later determined to be petroleum.

Knighton said once she was notified of the discovery, she con-

"Funding has not been found to restore the interior of the lighthouse"

Nancy Nicholls
Tourism director,
Chowan County

tacted an environmental consultant, AMEC in Raleigh.

"They had helped the town with contaminated soil on the site when we expanded the parking lot in Colonial Park," Knigh-

ton said.

Town officials believe the contamination may have come from an oil company that previously occupied the land. But they believed the area where the lighthouse was to have been erected was clean, Knighton said.

A comprehensive soil assessment was performed in 2005 in conjunction with the parking lot expansion.

"We had taken soil samples all over the park, including some taken near the area of contamination," Knighton said.

Knighton said that section of the land came back under the level that would have labeled it

as contaminated soil. But now a pocket of contamination has been discovered within that section.

"So, we've got an issue, if we move forward with our plans and sit the lighthouse close to the water's edge," Knighton observed. "The contamination has to be dealt with because it (lighthouse) would be a permanent structure located over this (contaminated) area."

At this point, several other sites on the waterfront are being investigated, Knighton said.

"One site would be right in the

See **STRUCTURE**, 2A

Town rebukes 9-1-1 funding

Refers to fee as 'double taxation'

By **REBECCA BUNCH**
Staff Writer

At its June 28 meeting, the Edenton Town Council is expected to hear a finance committee recommendation that the town not pay the county for its use of the 911 central communications.

The finance committee — Sambo Dixon, chair, Bob Quinn and Steve Biggs — developed the recommendation at a June 1 meeting after a request by Chowan County that the town contribute funds for the service.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, who also attended the finance committee meeting, said the committee was "unified in its belief that a contribution from the town would constitute double taxation."

Town of Edenton residents, who pay town and county taxes, are already helping to fund 911 through their county tax payments, Knighton said.

There are no funds available in the town's 2010-11 fiscal year budget that could be used for that purpose, the committee noted.

See **TOWN**, 2A

Ex-assist. principal sues superintendent

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Editor

Less than two weeks after a former Edenton-Chowan assistant principal filed a civil lawsuit against the Board of Education, she filed a second suit aimed at the schools' superintendent.

Mary L. Felton filed the suit against Superintendent Allan Smith June 8, further alleging that Smith is directly responsible for her reassignment that resulted in a demotion and a loss of valuable administrative experience, court records show. The suit al-

leges that Smith abused his authority en route to derailing Felton's school administrative path.

On behalf of Smith and the school board, attorney Eva B. DuBuisson of Raleigh's Tharrington Smith LLP, filed a request Monday that she be given more time to respond to Felton's charges. Felton previously filed suit against the school board on May 25, demanding \$25 million in damages. She's seeking \$1 million for Smith's alleged actions, records show.

Although Felton had received favorable reviews for her job performance as an assistant principal at John A. Holmes High School, Smith transferred her to Chowan Middle School where she was to work as a guidance

Webcam video shows fiery plane crash

By **RITCHIE E. STARNES**
Chowan Herald

Chowan County Sheriff Dwayne Goodwin released a Webcam video Friday morning that depicts Monday night's fatal plane crash at Edenton's Northeastern Regional Airport.

The footage, taken from the airport's Webcam, shows the northbound

Online video

To see a video of the crash, visit our website at www.dailyadvance.com.

plane piloted by Joseph S. Konicki of Suffolk, Va. and William Thomas Jordan, 69, of Edenton veering sharply to the west seconds after takeoff and diving into a wooded area. Flames erupted from the plane's impact, followed by smoke billowing through the treetops.

Jordan perished in the

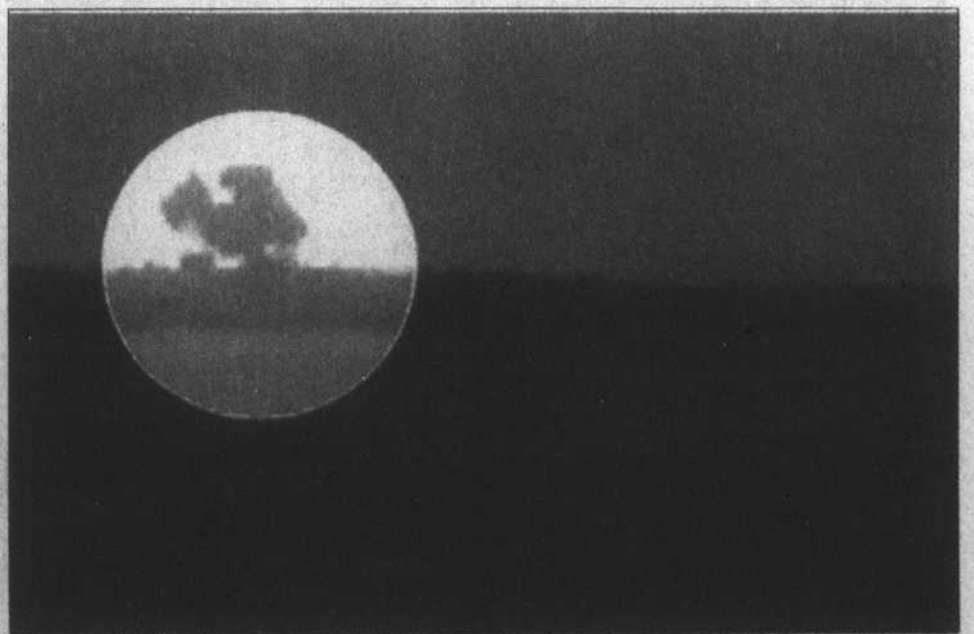


IMAGE TAKEN FROM VIDEO

Smoke from the crash of a plane that went down shortly after taking off from the Northeastern Region Airport on Monday, June 7 is seen in this image taken from an airport Webcam video.

crash while Konicki survived with burns to his body.

"Mr. Konicki managed to free himself and then tried to get Mr. Jordan out,

but was unable," Goodwin said Friday. He added that Jordan was pinned in the plane that was engulfed in flames. Goodwin had previously reported that the

pilots were simulating an engine problem at the time of the 7:30 p.m. crash.

The video recording

See **VIDEO**, 3A

