

Citizens still pushing for wind facility moratorium

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County citizens last week continued to ask county officials to impose a moratorium on the permitting of large-scale wind energy facilities.

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners adopted a moratorium earlier this fall and a number of Chowan residents have asked county officials here to follow suit.

Apex Clean Energy Inc., a company based in Charlottesville, Va., has proposed the Timbermill Wind Project along the Chowan-

Perquimans line. The proposed utility-scale wind energy generation facility would be located on Weyerhaeuser-owned timberland and adjacent farmland in the Bear Swamp area.

During the public comment period at the Nov. 16 meeting of the Chowan Board of Commissioners, Tyner resident Kristy LaLonde said she had been told by some of her neighbors that she lives in a small town and should keep her opinions to herself and keep her mouth shut.

But LaLonde was not keeping quiet. She mentioned having

heard about health concerns that had led county health officials in Wisconsin to declare a wind farm there a health hazard.

LaLonde asked Chowan officials to follow the lead of their counterparts in Perquimans County by taking time taking a rest period to do research on issues related to wind energy facilities.

The burden should be on Apex, as the developers of the proposed Timbermill Wind Energy Project, to demonstrate to the county that the project will be safe and beneficial, she said. "We don't need them,"

LaLonde said. "They need us."

Harriet DeHart said she and her husband had recently visited a wind farm in Wisconsin.

She said she would like to be on the agenda for the commissioners' next meeting in order to make a presentation on what they had learned.

James R. White, who lives on Sandy Ridge Road, said he believes the county commissioners should take time to learn more about the proposed wind energy facility.

He said his wife has health issues and he would

not want his wife's health, or the health of anyone else, to be negatively affected by a wind energy facility.

Mary White also asked that the county commissioners do more research on wind energy facilities. It seems there are hazardous things associated with the facilities, she said.

Earl Willis said that if he were seated where the county commissioners are seated, the proposed wind energy facility would give him room for pause.

Willis told the commissioners he was encouraging them to do just that

to pause and consider the matter thoroughly.

Ethel Copeland said she wanted the county to require a one-mile setback from an adjoining property line for the construction of a large-scale wind turbine.

A one-mile setback was one of the provisions of a proposed wind energy ordinance amendment that was put forward by the county planning board in the spring. The board did not adopt the proposed amendment, opting instead for a minor adjustment to the ordinance following a second planning board review in late summer.

Winborne to seek re-election

BY REGGIE PONDER
Editor

Chowan County Commissioner Emmett Winborne will seek reelection next year.

With filing for county and state offices slated to begin next week, Winborne, who represents the 1st District in the northern part of the county, is the first incumbent county commissioner to indicate he plans to seek reelection.

Winborne is a Democrat.

Incumbent Commissioners Keith Nixon and Alex Kehayes, both of whom are Republicans, have announced they will not be seeking reelection.

Commissioner Greg Bonner, a Democrat who represents the 3rd District, so far has not made a statement on the record regarding his plans for next year's election.

The Chowan Herald was unable to reach Bonner for comment on this story.

The Primary will be held March 15.

Filing for county and state offices begins at noon on Tuesday, Dec. 1. The filing period ends at noon on Monday, Dec. 21.

"I've been in this business a long time," Winborne said, noting at the

end of the current term he will have served 16 years as a county commissioner.



WINBORNE

Winborne said he wants to put his experience to use as the county confronts declining revenues.

"I don't think the county's financial crisis is over," Winborne said. "It is in check. But I want to continue my fiscal conservatism on the board."

He said he's proud of the Hotel Hinton project and of debt restructuring that will pay big dividends for the county. Chowan County is headed in the right direction but still has a ways to go, he said.

A lot of work lies ahead in coming up with a solution on the former D.F. Walker School building, he said.

Winborne acknowledged he might lose some votes because of his position on wind energy facilities. But he added that most of the time on any issue it's the people who are against something who will speak out on the issue.

"I'm not a politician," Winborne said. "I'm just a regular person out here trying to represent the people."



EDENTON CHOWAN SCHOOLS

Rocky Hock Ruritans presented a dictionary to every third-grader in the Edenton-Chowan Schools. Shown here with some of the student recipients are (back row, l-r) Carisa Copeland, third grade teacher; Michelle White, Principal; Asheton Smith, third grade teacher; Jack Perry, chairman of the Ruritan Social Concerns Committee; Keith Rollins, Ruritan president; and Marvin Hare, Ruritan president-elect. See more school news on pages 6A, 7A.

Third-graders receive dictionaries

From staff reports

For the third year, the Rocky Hock Ruritans delivered dictionaries to every third grade student at D.F. Walker Elementary School. Collectively, the Rocky Hock Ruritan Club has donated approximately 600 dictionaries to third grade students at D.F. Walker Elementary School. According to the Ruritan website, Ruritan National has

nearly 32,000 members throughout the United States who work to improve more than 1,200 local communities. Since the organization's beginning in 1928, Ruritan Clubs have served America with "Fellowship, Goodwill, and Community Service." Ruritan is a civic service organization made up of local clubs in urban areas, small towns and rural communities.

This national organization has

donated over 30,000 books. Nationally, they have been implementing the project since 2003-2004, with at least 69 clubs/sections participating in the project. They have donated to over 138 school(s) nationwide.

So far in 2015-2016, the Ruritans throughout the nation have donated 6,072 books, giving to students in over 62 schools, and with about 38 clubs participating.

Local student qualifies for Duke program

From staff reports

Christopher James Welch, son of Gerald and Angela Welch and a 5th grade student at D. F. Walker Elementary School, has been invited to join the prestigious 4th-6th Grade Talent Search for gifted students sponsored by Duke University's Talent Identification Program.

Each year, a select group of students in the United States are identified as academically gifted based on their exceptional standardized test scores in school and are invited to participate in the Duke TIP program. Participants are then invited to take the above-grade-level EXPLORE test designed for eighth

graders so that their academic abilities and potential can be more accurately evaluated. They also receive a variety of support services and gain access to research and other information about using their academic abilities more effectively.

For more on Duke TIP talent searches, visit tip.duke.edu.

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Edenton Police

ARRESTS

- Nov. 14 - Darnell Lannar White, 19, of Johnston Street, was arrested on one felony count of possession with intent to manufacture, sell or distribute a Schedule VI controlled substance and one misdemeanor count of possession of drug paraphernalia.
- Nov. 14 - Monyae Johnson, 18, of East Albemarle Street, was issued a citation

for driving without a license and driving without proper headlights.

- Nov. 14 - Mary Jo Hawes, 47, of Cabarrus Street, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of begging.
- Nov. 13 - Brandon Scott Squires, 24, of North Broad Street, was charged with one misdemeanor count of communicating threats.

INCIDENTS

- Nov. 18 - Larceny on Virginia Road.

CRIMEWATCH

- Nov. 17 - Forgery, counterfeiting and obtaining money by false pretense at Gateway Bank on South Broad Street.

Chowan Sheriff

ARRESTS

- Nov. 19 - Corey Scott Venters, 25, of Center Hill Road, was arrested on one felony count of breaking and entering, one felony count of larceny after

breaking and entering, and one felony count of possession of stolen goods.

- Nov. 17 - Seth Craig Mabry Williams, 29, of 223 E. Queen Street/108 South Oakum Street, was arrested on one felony count of possession of stolen goods.

INCIDENTS

- Nov. 21 - Larceny on Tip-Toe Road.

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