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# Council awards contract for new station to AR Chesson

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

The town council voted 4-1 Monday night to award the contract for the new police station to A.R. Chesson Construction of Williamston.

Councilman Steve Biggs voted "no" and Councilman Sambo Dixon was absent from the special meeting, which was held prior to the council's May work session.

Biggs said that he could not in

good conscience vote for Chesson to receive the contract due to the tardiness of other work the company had performed. He cited a recent newspaper report concerning a Hertford County project that went 239 days past its completion date as well as a project Chesson had worked on upstairs at Edenton's Town Hall that also had encountered delays in being completed.

Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton said that in the case of the

Edenton project there were delays due to an elevator required to complete the project and other unforeseen circumstances.

But Biggs said he did not feel the \$100 a day penalty for tardiness that the town was attaching to the police station project was sufficient. He noted that Hertford County had a \$250 a day penalty in place.

"I just don't think \$100 a day is going to even cover the interest," Biggs said. "I think we need to change

that."

Knighton replied that she had talked with the architect for Edenton's police station project who said that the \$100 a day charge was in line with what other communities were requiring.

"He couldn't believe they had a rate that high," she said.

Knighton also pointed out that the project had already been bid and that the town would have to begin the entire process again should

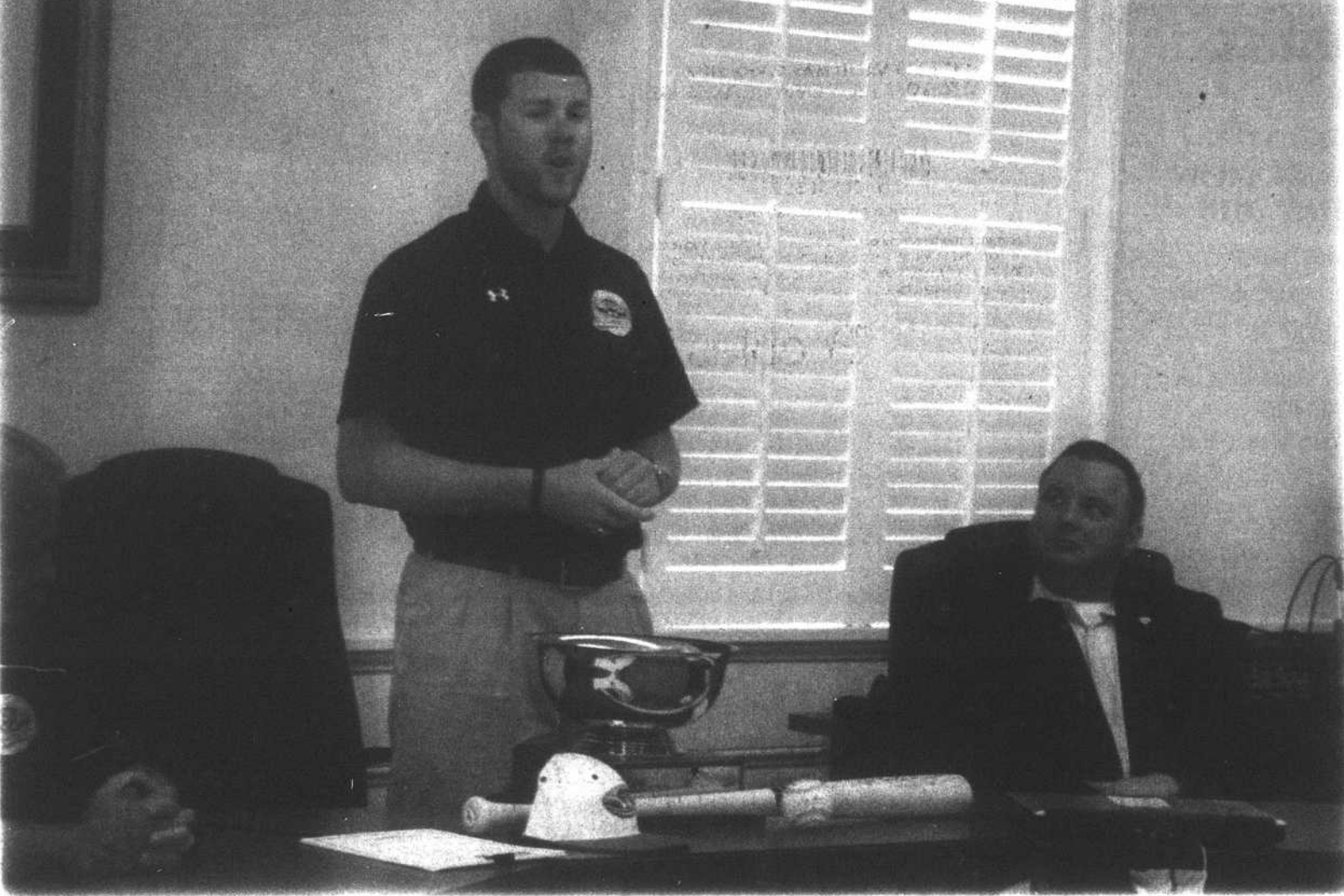
Chesson balk at paying a higher late fee than the already agreed upon \$100 per day.

"Chesson would have to agree," she said. "If he didn't we'd have to rebid the project."

Biggs countered that while he didn't think the town's police station project would be likely to incur the kind of delays seen with the costlier Hertford County project, "you just

See STATION, 2A

# READY FOR THE NEW SEASON



STAFF PHOTO BY REGGIE PONDER

During a press conference April 28 announcing the new ownership of the Edenton Steamers, (l-r) General Manager Tyler Russell speaks as a Coastal Plain League Commissioner Justin Sellers listens intently. The Steamers, who are the defending Pettit Cup champions, open their season at home May 31 against Petersburg. See story, photos 8A and 9A.

# Officials seek to trim budget

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

A majority of the Chowan County Board of Commissioners is seeking to trim the recommended county budget for 2016-2017 in order to avoid at least part of the four-cent property tax hike required to balance the budget.

County Manager Kevin Howard said major cuts identified during the commissioners' May 18 budget work session included \$14,500 for a driveway at the Emergency Medical Service building and \$80,000 from Information Technology capital outlay.

Howard said that in preparing the recommended budget he was torn between aging equipment and salaries.

The budget as recommended calls for a four-cent

See BUDGET, 4A

# Museum Trail of Edenton Historic Sites ribbon cutting tomorrow

BY REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer



NANCY NICHOLLS PHOTO/CHOWAN COUNTY TOURISM

Lincoln Adams, left, and William Davidson, right, of the town's Public Works staff, install a historic marker near The Homestead, home of Frances Inglis.

Tomorrow (Thursday) at 5 p.m. a ribbon cutting will be held at the Penelope Barker House Welcome Center for the town's new Museum Trail of Edenton Historic Sites.

Town councilman Bob Quinn, who along with a small group of other citizens undertook the project in 2011, said he was pleased to see the project completed with such satisfactory results.

"It is open to everyone," he said of the trail. "We want people to come. The signs are really there for people to enjoy the town and appreciate our history."

Markers documenting significant places and people in the town's history include: the 1782 Penelope Barker House Welcome Center; 1905 Edenton Tea Pot Sculpture; 1767 Chowan County Courthouse and Jail; 1800-1827 James Iredell House; Kadesh AME Zion Church; 1736 St. Paul's Episcopal Church; 1758 Cupola House; Josephine Leary Building; 1886 Roanoke River Lighthouse.

Quinn said the walking museum trail will help tell the 300-year history of the community that includes its architecture, its original downtown, its waterfront park and allow visitors to experience the friendly smiles and waves with

which locals will greet them.

The opening of the trail coincides with the anticipated release of a new edition of the guidebook published by the Edenton Woman's Club that features walking tours including that of the new Museum Trail. Quinn said the timing could not have been better as the signs have now been erected by the town's Public Works staff and are already attracting notice from those who pass by them.

"These signs will engage visitors to our community and tell them why these sites are important to our history," he said. "Each sign contains historical information

See MUSEUM, 4A

# Biggs to speak at Memorial Day service on Monday

BY REGGIE PONDER  
Editor

A well-known local preacher will be the featured speaker for Chowan County's annual Memorial Day service on Monday.

The service is organized by the Edward G. Bond American Legion Post 40. It will be held



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at 11 a.m. at the Chowan County Veterans Memorial at the corner of Queen Street and Court Street.

This year's speaker is the Rev. Thomas Biggs, who serves as pastor of Cape Colony Church of Christ and as volunteer lead chaplain at Vidant Chowan Hospital. Biggs, who served in the U.S. Air Force from 1951-1955, has previously spoken for a Veterans Day, but this will be his first time as the keynote speaker for the community's Memorial Day program.

Biggs plans to challenge citizens to remem-

ber the sacrifices of those who have died in service to the country.

"My main focus is going to be on the theme of not forgetting what all our service people died for," Biggs said this week.

The pastor said too many people fail to remember the price paid by fallen service members.

"I think somewhere along the line we have lost our sense of true patriotism," Biggs said.

Biggs is a Washington County native but came to Chowan in 1973. Most of his 58 years of Christian ministry have been

at Cape Colony Church of Christ.

He has served as Cape Colony's pastor for 37 years. In addition, he has been the hospital chaplain for more than 25 years.

Biggs also has been active in the Kairos prison ministry and Walk to Emmaus.

Biggs is married and has four children, nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

The Memorial Day program also will include patriotic music, prayers and a number of solemn acts of remembrance.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Rev. Thomas Biggs, pastor of Cape Colony Church of Christ, will speak at the community Memorial Day program Monday.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY JUNE 3, 7-10PM • JUNE 4, 10AM-7PM



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