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Covers All of Northampton's Towns and Communities

12 PAGES

-From Welfare Dept., Development Committee-

Commissioners Feel Pinch At Budget Time

By BOB FRINK

JACKSON — Budget time is just around the corner for Northampton County and the county's board of commissioners have already felt the pinch. The budget meeting is set for May 16 at 8 p.m.

Two groups presented budgets for the betterment of the county's citizenry and left the board pondering about just where the money would come from.

The recently appointed Industrial Development presented a proposed budget of \$26,950 for organizational purposes and operational expenses for the first year and stressed to the group the importance of getting a program started.

Sam Motzno asked the commissioners if it would be possible for the county to budget the committee \$700 for operational expenses at this time and the remainder of the budget later.

Liverman asked Holmes how much non-tax revenue the county had and he (Holmes) said that there was more than \$700.

All agreed however, that if there was not enough money to successfully back the program then it would not be logical to put up \$700.

It was also agreed on by all that the only answer to the situation is ABC money.

Other than ABC money, clerk of court and register of deeds collections are the two largest sources of non-tax revenue, according to Holmes. Holmes told the board that neither of these

offices were paying operational expenses, which apparently ruled out any chance of receiving money from those two sources.

The possibility of a referendum being attached to the upcoming primary as ruled out by the board since it is too late at this time.

Mrs. Jeanette Brown, county welfare director, requested that the board give "much consideration"

to a 1966-67 budget that will include an \$8,000 increase over the past year's.

Another request for money was also heard by the board. Sheriff E. Frank Outland asked the board to consider funds for an additional deputy sheriff in the upcoming budget.

In other business conducted by the board at its regular monthly meeting Monday, the state welfare

department was granted permission to mail county welfare checks directly from Raleigh.

The action was taken after Mrs. Brown said that she could see no danger to the county by the action and that it would mean less expense to the county. It was also noted that recipients would receive their checks earlier in the month.

A resolution was adopted at the request of the Farmers Home Administration to stagger the terms of the Water-Sewage Planning Board. The board was recently appointed by the commissioners to spearhead a survey of the county water and sewage needs.

Members of the planning group and their appointed length of service are as follows — B.R. (See Commissioners, Page 12)

Industrial Development Group Seeking Funds From ABC Board

JACKSON — The recently organized Northampton County Industrial Development Committee Monday presented the county board of commissioners with a proposed budget of \$26,950 and stressed to the board that it is "time the county quit dragging its feet."

Although no promise of funds was made, the board did offer the organization its backing and after a long discussion agreed to have the county ABC board at the budget meeting May 16.

It is hoped by the board that there will be enough ABC money to back the development group, since tax revenue cannot be used without a favorable referendum.

The board also pondered on the possibilities of using other non-tax revenue but it was informed by County Manager Melvin Holmes that there is "very little" non-tax revenue collected in the county.

With all other possibilities studied and no solution uncovered the board agreed to request ABC Board Chairman Bart Burgwyn and members of the ABC board to attend the commissioners' budget meeting May 16.

William merchant Sam Motzno who has been named chairman of the development group, spoke for his committee and in the beginning sought revenue from the sale of beer in the county.

The commissioners informed Motzno that this was impossible since the only money received by the county for the sale of beer is a beer tax.

There was some question raised by acting board chairman John Boone, who asked Motzno "is the county as a whole willing to accept industry now?"

Motzno told Boone and the board that he felt that "people are beginning to realize that we are losing our people because of lack of industry."

Several members of the development committee offered their opinion to the board including Representative J. Raynor Woodard, who is co-chairman.

Garland Barnes of Sevier offered the opinion that "there is opposition in county but it is about time we got out and preached that it is time to do something."

Barnes' statement came after several questions were raised concerning the desire of the county's people to accommodate industry.

"We are losing our sons and daughters," continued Barnes and then he asked the board "how can we expect a boy to marry a girl outside the county and bring her back here and her be satisfied when we don't have a country club or even a place to eat."

O. B. Spaulding, Negro principal of a county high school, warned the commissioners that "this (industrial development) is a serious problem" and that the county is "losing the cream of the crop."

Spaulding called on the commissioners to "figure out some way to get industry in this county."

In response to the questions about the people and whether or not they are ready for industry, Spaulding commented, "They have just got to be led."

The possibility of using beer tax money for project was definitely ruled out by the board unless a referendum is held.

Motzno cited to the board that AMPAC is paying the county taxes estimated at \$20,000 a year (See FUNDS, Page 12)



TOOL OF THE PAST—A hoe is a farm implement of the past. Few farmers use the instrument for anything other than killing snakes or burial of a dead chicken. But small garden plants still get a lot of use out of the ground breaking hand tool. Mrs. Lokie (Essie) Johnson of Milwhee is one of the family garden workers, who is a master at using the hoe. Although her husband has been in bad health as of late, Mrs. Johnson still maintains the family garden that is an annual project for her family.

Welfare Heads Ask \$8,000 Hike

JACKSON — While the Northampton County Commissioners are attempting to find funds for financing the county's industrial development committee, they must also consider a raise in the welfare department budget of \$8,000.

Mrs. Jeanette Brown, director of the county welfare department, told the commissioners that the increased budget included the county's portion of the cost of hiring additional employees in the department.

It was stated by Mrs. Brown that her department needed another general case worker and a clerical staff member.

Mrs. Brown said that the clerical worker would relieve the case workers from the duty of making out of county trips for transporting welfare beneficiaries to and from hospitals and clinics.

Commissioner John Henry Liverman expressed concern over the fact that "we are dealing with fewer people and paying more money." He also stated that the county is "taxing fewer people and providing more benefits."

Liverman questioned the food stamp program and asked if that doesn't relieve some of the burden on the welfare department's budget.

Mrs. Brown said that the program was never meant to take the place of welfare payments but is designed to allow the needy to eat better.

In support of her increased budget, Mrs. Brown told the board

that county case workers are greatly over-loaded with cases and cannot adequately do their job with the individual families.

She cited the fact that several families are a third generation welfare cases and know no other way to live.

It was pointed out by Mrs. Brown that with fewer cases to work with that the case workers would be able to help the individual to learn to help himself.

According to Mrs. Brown, 194 cases are handled by each of her four case workers when no more than 100 should be carried.

Mrs. Brown also reported to the board that a special effort is being made in working with dependent children in hopes of preventing the young from remaining dependent on welfare in later years.

The board told Mrs. Brown that they would like a copy of her proposed budget for study prior to the May 16 budget meeting.

She said that each would be mailed one.

Burgwyn Says: 'No ABC Money For One Year'

JACKSON — From month to month one organization, committee, county department or another presents its proposals for use of the funds to be received by the county from the ABC stores.

ABC Board Chairman Bart Burgwyn indicated to "Your Home Newspaper" Wednesday that it will be a long time before any group gets to sink its teeth into the financial cake being baked by whiskey drinking residents of the county.

At the monthly meeting of the County Board of Commissioners the commissioners agreed to call the ABC Board and Burgwyn before the budget meeting May 16 to determine how much, if any, money could be used from ABC funds to promote the recently appointed Northampton County Industrial Development Committee.

Burgwyn called the commissioners' and development committee's desire to receive money from the ABC Board at this time "foolish."

When asked to report on the financial standing of the ABC Board Burgwyn issued the following statement:

"Northampton ABC Board is making a net profit of approximately \$3,800 per month before depreciation or any amount is set up for law enforcement. Law enforcement requires a minimum of five per cent and a maximum of 10 per cent of the net profits per quarter.

"As much as the board (ABC) would like to turn money over to the Northampton County Commissioners if does not seem likely that any will be available for at least a year as it is necessary that an operating fund of at least \$70,000 be available either in cash or stock."

Burgwyn also told "Your Home Newspaper" that only "a mir-

rored" (See ABC, Page 12)

Honest Man Buys Freedom Like Car

JACKSON — Regardless of the offense, honesty is the best policy in Northampton County Recorder's Court.

This was the experience of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Hobbs Wednesday as they were brought before Judge Ballard S. Gay.

Hobbs was charged with driving drunk and not having an operator's license and his wife was facing charges of appearing in a drunken state in an automobile and possession of non-tax-paid whiskey.

When asked if he was drunk when the officer arrested him, Hobbs stated quickly and without batting an eyelash, "I was drinking wine and was feeling mighty good."

Hobbs also told Judge Gay that he had not had valid driver's license in 20 years.

When asked by the judge, why he drove the car, Hobbs responded, "I don't know, guess I'm like everyone else, when they are drunk, they take a chance."

Judge Gay fined Hobbs \$100 and court cost for driving under the influence but ruled no press on the driving without a license charge.

When Hobbs said he didn't have any money to pay the fine, the judge told him he could pay it like financing a car.

Acting solicitor Joe Flythe suggested that Hobbs be allowed to pay \$25 down and \$10 a week until the fine was paid.

Judge Gay accepted the recommendation and warned Hobbs, "When you buy a car and don't pay for it they take the car, in this case I'll have to take you."

When Flythe questioned Mrs. Hobbs about the illegal whiskey found on her possession she said that if she had it she didn't remember it.

Hobbs said that he didn't know she had it either, and that if he had, the patrolman would never have gotten it, "because I would have done drunk it."

Judge Gay issued a nol pros in the case against Mrs. Hobbs upon payment of court cost.

In another case heard by Judge Gay, an attempt to put a "buddy" in a trash can resulted in a return to probation for James Magee of Garysburg.

Magee was charged with "engaging in an affray" by William Jones.

According to Jones' testimony, he and Magee had been riding

around Sunday prior to the incident.

Jones said that after stopping at a service station that Magee wanted to leave and got into his (Jones) car and drove it around the service station.

Jones said that he "cussed" Magee and told him to get out of his car and "leave it alone."

According to Jones, Magee

then got out of the car and began pushing him (Jones) and showed him against a trash can. Magee, then, according to Jones, picked him (Jones) up and tried to put him into the can.

Magee's only excuse for his actions was Jones' "cussing."

Judge Gay told Magee, who was on probation once before for

(See MAN, Page 12)

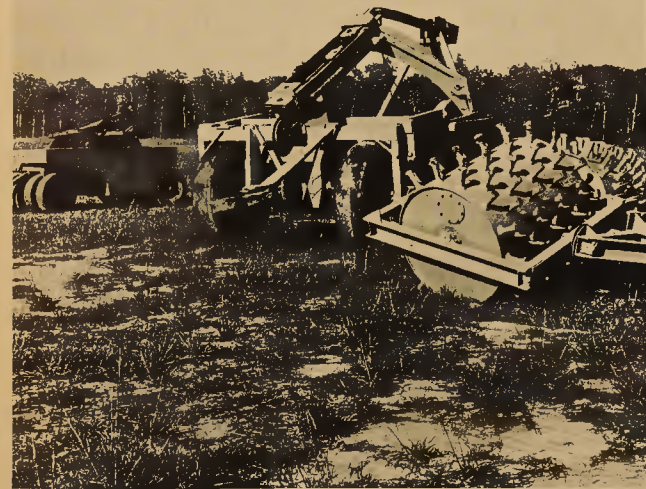
Independents Schedule Meet Thursday

SEVERN — The Northampton County Independent Club will meet at the Severn Community Building Thursday May 12, at 8 p.m.

It is expected that definite plans will be set for the development of a private school in the county.

President of the organization is J. R. Pruden. He will preside over the meeting.

Membership in the organization, which has as its first objective, the formation of a private school, has been growing from week to week and some estimate the number of members in the organization at near 500.



EQUIPMENT, NO WORKERS—Equipment has been moved in but there is still no sign of workmen at the Tri-County Airport site but officials say they will be arriving any time now. Wet weather is one thing that might be preventing the work crews from moving in and beginning

the job of leveling and preparing the strip for paving. Center line stakes have been driven by engineers and the 40-work days for completion of the project began May 1, according to W. N. Spruill, resident engineer for the project.

Authorize Summer School

County School Board Adopts \$590,351 Budget for 1966-67

JACKSON — The Northampton County Board of Education approved and adopted a school budget for the 1966-67 school year amounting to some \$590,351, according to word today from the regular first Monday meeting.

Northampton Superintendent Roy Lowry said today "the board approved and adopted a school budget in the amount of \$365,556 from county sources, \$219,295 estimated from federal and state sources, and an additional \$5,500 from the district."

Lowry reported the federal and state figures were "strictly estimates on what we expect."

As for capital outlay figures, Lowry indicated the budget calls for an outlay of \$161,455 during the 1966-67 school year in North-

ampton County schools.

The largest part of the total capital outlay figure has been earmarked for a combination lunchroom - auditorium - gymnasium at the Garysburg school.

Lowry said "this work was approved on March 16, 1964 by the Board of Education but funds were not available at that time. The project is expected to cost approximately \$110,000," he added.

As for the additional funds in the capital outlay budget, Lowry indicated these would be used for purchasing school furniture, instructional equipment, heating equipment, supplies and equipment in relation with the National Defense Education Program; library books and equipment for

the superintendent's office, and two new school buses.

Other business transacted during the monthly session of the board was as follows:

Approved the all - electric school supplemental agreement with the Virginia Electric Power Company.

"This means the power company will supply all electricity to all-electric schools at a rate of one cent per kilowatt hour," Superintendent Lowry said. As it stands now, schools are paying approximately two cents per kilowatt hour for electricity, Lowry pointed out. He also said the new mobile classrooms are all electric and would qualify under this agreement. The board awarded a con-

tract to the lowest bidder, Berry Tile Co. of Raleigh, for putting tile in two toilets at the Conway Elementary School.

Authorized summer school to be operated in Northampton County this summer "if sufficient students seek the instruction."

Approved assignments as requested under the "free choice" plan.

Chuckle
FLATTERED
"This robbery was carried out very cleverly," said the judge. "Come now, judge, no flatter please," replied the blust' prisoner.