

Commissioners Ask For Pay Hike, Staggered Terms

JACKSON - Northampton County's Board of Commissioners Monday approved resolutions requesting legislation to establish a staggered term system of election for commissioners and providing for "set salaries" for members of the board.

The measures, which must be enacted by approval of the State Legislature, have been under consideration for some time.

Under the new system of electing commissioners, which would become effective in the 1968 elections, commissioners in two of the county's five districts would seek election for four year terms and commissioners in the other districts will be elected for two years.

In 1970, the commissioners elected to two year terms will run for four year terms and thereafter, all commissioners would be elected for four years.

The system, already in effect in many other counties across the state, allows retention of at least two "experienced" commissioners on the board at all times.

Salary changes proposed by the resolutions will increase to \$900 annually the salary paid commission members and the chairman will receive \$1,200.

At present, commissioners are paid \$22 per meeting, with the exception of the chairman, who is paid \$25 per meeting.

The measures were proposed by Chairman Guy Revelle at the first meeting of the new fiscal year.

They were proposed along with other measures to "streamline" the operation of the Board of Commissioners and to regulate

the number of meetings per month.

In other action, commissioners authorized ABC Board Chairman Bart Burgwyn to expend a maximum of 15 per cent or \$12,500 in ABC profits, which ever is greater, for law enforcement purposes.

Burgwyn, when first making the request, told commissioners that the county ABC unit was obligat-

ed by law to provide a percentage of its funds for law enforcement purposes.

He stated that the State of North Carolina had placed a maximum of 10 per cent, the amount of net profits which could be used for the purpose.

Burgwyn said the law was written without consideration of smaller counties where annual

sales would not provide enough funds to employ a competent law enforcement officer.

Commissioners also requested that the Legislature act to include Northampton County under the provisions of Article 24A, Chapter 153 of the General Statutes of North Carolina.

The inclusion of the county

would permit commissioners to assist towns within the county in running water and sewer lines to new industrial locations outside town limits.

Commissioners felt that many of the smaller towns would not bear the expense of running water lines outside their limits and were handicapped in efforts to attract industry.

THE Northampton County TIMES-NEWS

A Combination of THE ROANOKE-CHOWAN TIMES — Established 1892 THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY NEWS — Established 1926



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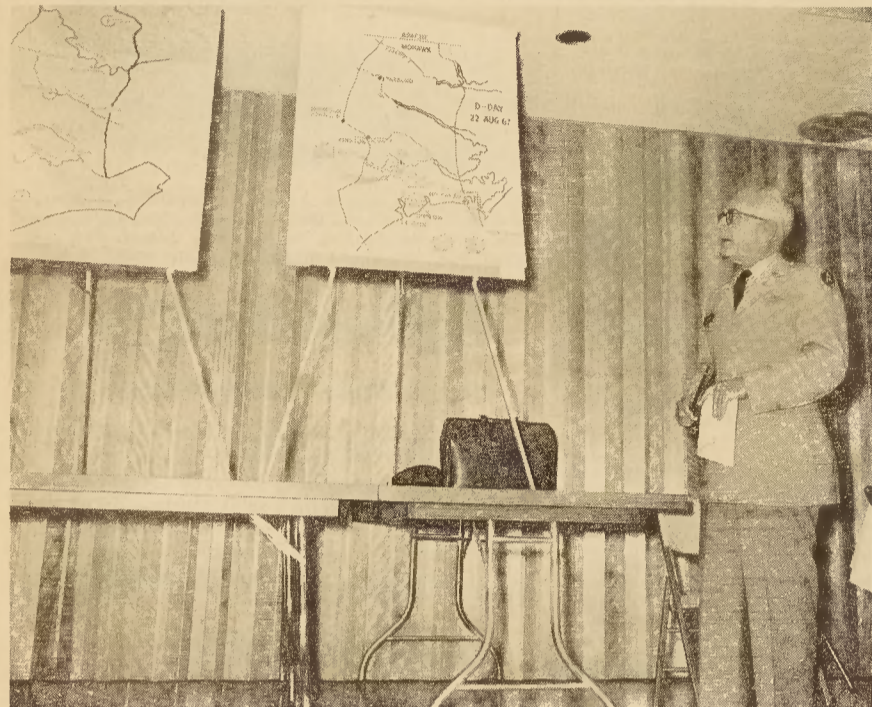
Volume LXXVI, No. 17

Rich Square LE 9-2859
Jackson LE 4-2856

Rich Square and Jackson, N. C., Thursday, April 20, 1967

Covers All of Northampton's
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10 PAGES



KITTY HAWK EXERCISE—Major General Joe S. Lawrie, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, addressed a group of Roanoke-Chowan citizens Wednesday in Ahoskie to acquaint them with objectives of exercise "Kitty Hawk."

The military maneuver is to be staged in Eastern North Carolina with a good bit of the ground action in the Roanoke-Chowan area. Col. W. H. Burr briefed the meeting on plan for the exercise, using illustrated charts.

'Worldwide Political Implications' General Briefs Northampton, Hertford Residents On Exercise 'Kitty Hawk' Plan

By JOE M. PARKER
AHOSKIE - "We need your help," Maj. Gen. Joe S. Lawrie, commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division, told a group of public officials and news media representatives from Northamp-

ton and Hertford Counties here Wednesday.

General Lawrie asked for co-operation of local people in securing maneuver rights in the two counties as part of the preparation for the Armed Forces major summer exercise - Operation Kitty Hawk - which will be staged in eastern North Carolina in August.

ACL-Seaboard R R Merger Due July 1

RICHMOND - Merging of the Seaboard Air Line and Atlantic Coast Line Railroads is planned to be effective July 1.

In a statement Saturday, John W. Smith, Seaboard president, and W. Thomas Rice, Coast Line president, said the new Seaboard Coast Line Company is expected to begin consolidated operations on that date.

They said any petitions which may be filed seeking reconsideration of the Supreme Court's decision of last Monday (April 10) are expected to be finally disposed of in ample time to permit the merger to become effective July 1.

Smith and Rice said merging of the operations and physical properties of the two roads will be progressed as rapidly as possible, although it is anticipated that five years will be required (See ACL, Page 5)

On Wednesday night at a similar briefing in Williamston, the same message was carried to representatives from Bertie and Martin Counties.

The Airborne general said the maneuver had worldwide political implications, as well as being a valuable training tool. He stressed that because of its importance in world affairs it was vital that cooperation of local landowners be secured.

"There are those in Europe and elsewhere who think that the United States is so committed in Viet Nam that it is incapable of doing anything else," according to General Lawrie. "These people think our country is committed up to the hilt in Viet Nam."

"Exercise Kitty Hawk is designed . . . to get across the idea to these other people that we are not a paper tiger," the general said.

Approximately 70,000 members of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines will be a part of the maneuver which will take place in an area from the coast near Jacksonville and Morehead

City, north to the Roanoke-Chowan.

There are around 5,800,000 acres of land and 40,000 landowners in the maneuver area. A release to allow the military to cross property must be signed by each property owner.

Col. William (Bill) Barnes, native of Ahoskie, chief U.S. Army engineer for the Savannah (Ga.) district, which includes North Carolina, is in charge of the land acquisition and damage claims settlement phase of the maneuver.

Colonel Barnes said his department has established a full time office at the Army Reserve Ar-

mory in Greenville to work from now until August on land acquisition.

On August 15 a claims office will be established in Greenville with branch offices in Ahoskie and Jacksonville to make settlements for any damages done during the actual maneuver.

Col. W. H. Burr, chief information officer for U.S. 3rd Army, Atlanta, told the group about the over-all plan for the exercise.

The elements taking part will be divided into red and blue forces. It is expected that the blue force will ultimately win.

The red force at the beginning of the script for the exercise

will have occupied a mythical friendly foreign country along the coast near Jacksonville.

The actual maneuver will begin with an amphibious assault, aided by airborne and helicopter borne support, by the blue forces.

The exercise will then continue with the blue force pushing the red force north. At the end of the exercise the blue force will have successfully staged a river crossing over the Roanoke River somewhere between Weldon and Plymouth.

The plan means that, except along the Roanoke, little of the actual fighting in the maneuver (See BRIEFS, Page 5)

R-C Mental Health Clinic's Budget Is Set At \$37,500

WOODLAND - The Roanoke-Chowan Mental Health Advisory Committee tentatively set up a

1967-68 fiscal budget of \$37,500 at a dinner meeting Monday evening at the Quaker House Restaurant in Woodland.

The money would come from Hertford, Gates and Northampton Counties with state money available on a two-to-one basis with that money already allocated and available upon approval of the program and budget and county share of the money becoming available.

The budget calls for allocations of \$5,000 from Hertford and

Northampton Counties and \$2,500 from Gates County.

The remainder of the \$37,500 would come from the state. Under the program approved by the Advisory Committee headed by Ray McClees of Ahoskie, some \$20,000 of the budget would go for personnel with the remainder going for an office, equipment, telephone, travel expense, supplies and etc.

The personnel called for includes a psychologist, a secretary, a psychiatric nurse and the acting director.

Gaston Mayor Has Opposition

GASTON - Thomas R. Copeland, a 24-year-old Gaston school teacher, recently filed as a candidate for mayor in that town, opposing incumbent Firman C. Myrick.

Copeland is a lifelong resident of Gaston and a graduate of East Carolina College. He teaches and coaches at Weldon High School.

Also filing was M. C. Dunlow, who is unopposed for a council seat.

Incumbents seeking re-election will fill other Gaston council seats. They are Jack A. Rook, Edward Stratton, Charlie Bryant and Elbert Norris.

Medical Center Plans Progress In Woodland

WOODLAND - Outline plans and specifications for the proposed Northampton County Medical Service Center have been approved by the building committee and the architectural firm of Woodward, Akel and Associates of Norfolk has been authorized to secure professional estimates on the cost of the project, according to Dr. John Stanley of Woodland, chairman.

The estimates are being secured in order to have a reasonably accurate project budget for submission to the Medical Service Facility Committee and later to Northampton County's Board of Commissioners for consideration.

The facility as presently planned is designed to serve three distinct purposes; one for long term care patients, a wing of the building is designed for obstetrical patients and another wing contains three doctor's offices and examination rooms and a

suture room for minor accidents. Also contained in the third wing are an X-ray room, diagnostic laboratory and physical therapy facilities.

The long term care wing contains 30 beds, 18 of which are private with toilets.

Upon completion of the estimate and presentation to the full committee and commissioners, the building committee will then confer with the staff of the Medical Care Commission in Raleigh for advice in further planning and funding of the project.

The committee also expects to confer with representatives of (See MEDICAL, Page 5)

Deeper River Channel Hearing Set

ROANOKE RAPIDS - A public hearing will be conducted here on Friday, April 28, beginning at 9:30 a.m. in the courtroom of the Municipal Building by the Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army on the subject of providing a deeper river channel for the Roanoke River between Williamston and Weldon. Col. Beverly C. Snow Jr., district engineer, Corps of Engineers of Wilmington, will be in charge of the meeting.

Colonel Snow has invited interested parties including representatives of federal, state, county and municipal agencies and those of commercial, recreational, civic, highway, railroad and water transportation interests and property owners to be present at the public hearing. An opportunity will be given to those present representing both sides of the question to be heard. However, Colonel Snow says that while oral statements will be heard, for the accuracy of the record all important facts and arguments should be submitted in writing in six copies and these written statements may be handed to Colonel Snow at the hearing or mailed to him at the

(See RIVER, Page 8)



'NEW CAR'—Northampton County Sheriff E. Frank Outland is seen alongside one of the six automobiles which his Department has purchased with the six

formerly operated by the N.C. Highway Patrol (which has gotten new cars). Outland's department is getting rid of six old cars.



HOUSE PAGE—Tapp Vaughan, daughter of Mrs. Cecil Vaughan of Lasker, will serve as a page in the N. C. House of Representatives from Monday, April 24, to Sunday, April 30. She is sponsored by Rep. Guy Elliott of Lenoir County. Tapp, a student at Northampton County High School, is a member of the student council, president of the FHA Club, a member of the library club and a staff member on the Ram Page.

County 'Beholden' To Uncle Sam For Services

Your Home Newspaper's WASHINGTON, D. C. - Figures show that Northampton County is beholden to the federal government, directly or indirectly, for much of the local services that it provides.

The reason, in part, is that Washington has greater revenue-raising capabilities than the local authorities have.

Because of the government's "outsider" position, it is able to levy large taxes throughout the country for national, state and local needs without encountering the objections that would be raised in most communities if the fund raising depended upon local referendum.

Much of this federally collected money is then returned to the various states and localities to provide them with some of the

funds needed for schools, public assistance, highways and other functions.

The role that Washington plays in the fiscal operations of state and local governments is revealed in studies made by the Tax Foundation, the National Industrial Conference Board and the Commerce Department.

In the case of Northampton County, an estimated total of \$1,179,000, equal to 15.9 per cent of every dollar of revenue that is available for local operations, comes from the federal government. Elsewhere in the nation, the average is 14.8 per cent.

Assumed is that each locality receives its proportionate share of the funds turned back to the states for such purposes.

The Commerce Department's figures show, for the State of North Carolina and its counties, cities and other subdivisions,

that total revenue from all sources amounted to \$277 per capita in fiscal 1965.

Some \$44 of it represented money that came back from Washington in the form of grants. Of the remainder, \$50 was from property taxes, \$138 from other taxes and \$45 from miscellaneous fees, charges and assessments.

The part that federal funds play in the over-all revenue picture is quite different in some areas than in others.

On the average throughout the country, state and local revenues amount to \$384 per capita annually, of which \$57 comes from the government, according to the Commerce Department.

The Tax Foundation notes that the American public fears that the growing acceptance of federal grants carries with it a threat to the fiscal independence of local governments.