

The Courier-Times

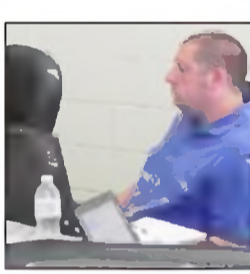
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Public hearings on VIPER tower slated Monday

BY TIM CHANDLER
COURIER-TIMES EDITOR
tchandler@roxboro-courier.com

The Person Board of County Commissioners will hold a pair of public hearings regarding the erection of a VIPER (Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders) communications tower when it meets in regular session Monday morning.

The meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in the commissioners'

boardroom on the second floor of the Person County Office Building.

Earlier this month, commissioners agreed to move forward with allowing the North Carolina State Highway Patrol (NCSHP) to construct the tower on county-owned land off of Critcher-Wilkerson Road.

Prior to construction, however, a public hearing is required. The public hearings set for Monday are to consider amending the

county's telecommunications facilities ordinance and planning ordinance and to consider an amendment to the county's wireless telecommunications facilities ordinance.

The proposed VIPER tower would be 480 feet tall and would require a 100-by-100-foot plat of land.

The site being considered for the tower is beside Roxboro Christian Academy at the corner of Critcher-Wilkerson and Wes-

leyan roads.

The tower and the entire plat would be secured by a fence with access available to NCSHP and necessary county personnel.

The construction of the tower would be fully funded with federal grant funds, requiring no local contribution and no requirement by the county to transition to the VIPER system.

Also Monday, commissioners will hold a public hearing regarding secondary road construction

for the county in 2011-2012.

Commissioners will also hear from Adam Moore, who is requesting permission to erect a Korean War monument at the Person County Courthouse as part of his Eagle Scout Leadership Service project.

Moore is the son of Herbert Moore Jr. and grandson of Mary Sue Moore. His core support committee includes them as well as Dan Whitfield Jr. and Howard Jones.

BOE tables decision on lottery funds

BY GREY PENTECOST
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

The Person Board of County Commissioners' informal request for the transfer of Person County Schools' lottery funds to the county to pay on the school system's debt was tabled Thursday night by the board of education until more information about a planned building project for the school system is received.

The commissioners' request to the school board to pay on the debt to the county with between \$250,000 and \$300,000 in lottery funds had been made during a conversation between members of the two boards:

school board chair Gordon Powell and vice-chair Jimmy Wilkins, and commissioners' chair Jimmy Clayton and vice-chair Kyle Puryear.

Clayton, being present at Thursday's school board meeting, explained to the board members the reasoning behind the request.

He said that while looking over the school system's budget proposal, commissioners noticed that there was \$1.7 million in the lottery fund, which they realized the school had planned on using to relocate the Person County Learning Academy (PCLA). The commissioners also knew, said Clayton,

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Eugene C. Hines Jr., CEO of Person Family Medical and Dental Center (PFMDC), addresses PFMDC employees and community leaders during a ceremony held to commemorate this week's National Community Health Center Week.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

BY GREY PENTECOST
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
greypentecost@roxboro-courier.com

Person Family Medical and Dental Center (PFMDC) celebrated National Community Health

Center Week (Aug. 7-13) Thursday with a luncheon and ceremony in which several state and local leaders offered words of appreciation for the center's work.

PFMDC Outreach Coordinator Susan Burnette shared that

PFMDC was established in 1990 and was initially housed in a doublewide trailer behind what is now Person Industries. Staff consisted of one lab tech, one nurse,

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Police presence in Cavel Village likely headed to a new level

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
pboatwright@roxboro-courier.com

Soon, a Roxboro Police Department officer will likely reside in Cavel Village, at a reduced rental rate.

Police Chief Todd Boycher told Roxboro City Council members and Mayor Samuel Spencer this week that two officers had expressed an interest in living in a house that had been rehabilitated with funds from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that the city was awarded three years ago.

The Cavel Village Community Revitalization effort has resulted in several rehabilitated homes in what was once a run-down area.

The Cavel Village Neighborhood Community Watch Group identified several concerns in Cavel Village, including shots being fired, vandalism, drug activity and speeding. In part and in response to those concerns, the city purchased a house, in accordance with CDBG grant guidelines, and began rehabilitating it for the purpose of housing a low to moderate income police officer there at a reduced rental rate.

The \$930,000 CDBG grant included an "innovative activities" clause, according to Roxboro Planning Director Julie Maybee. Placing a police officer in the neighborhood fits that clause, she said, and will also hopefully reduce or eliminate criminal activities and encour-

age investment in the community in Cavel Village.

City council members approved the lease agreement in March. This week, during the regular August meeting of council, Maybee asked that council members approve a rate of \$300 per month for the rental price.

Chief Boycher said the officer who rented the house would not be on call 24 hours a day, but would act as "a big brother-type protector" for the neighborhood.

The officer will also be expected to be a "really close point of contact in the community," Boycher added.

He said the officer would be allowed to drive an RPD vehicle

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GREY PENTECOST | COURIER-TIMES

Hall of famer

Bethel Hill Charter School Principal John Betterton was named last week to the N.C. Alliance for Public Charter Schools Hall of Fame. Betterton was one of the founding members of the alliance and the organization's first chairman. He said he was nominated by a fellow charter school principal out of Durham. Other North Carolina charter school principals and the alliance board members voted, as a result of which Betterton was one of four selected for the honor. "To me the big honor," said Betterton, is to be recognized by your peers, and your peers being, really, statewide."

City Council approves new, more costly streetlights for Uptown Roxboro

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
COURIER-TIMES STAFF WRITER
pboatwright@roxboro-courier.com

Roxboro City Council members this week agreed to replace the streetlights in the Uptown business district.

Progress Energy will replace the lights at no additional charge, but the monthly fee for the lighting will increase by a

total of \$537.

The city contacted Progress Energy about the condition of the current streetlights last spring. At the April city council meeting, a committee was formed that included representatives from Roxboro Development Group and the city's Beautification Committee. The committee looked at the options available, and consulted Uptown

merchants to determine which kind of lighting would be most appropriate.

Currently, there are two types of lights in the Uptown area. One is a shoebox pole light and the other is a teardrop post light. There are 14 shoebox pole lights and 24 teardrop post lights in the area.

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