

# The Warren Record

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## Town Tax Rate Set At \$1.50

Warrenton's total tax rate under a tentative budget adopted by the board of town commissioners on Wednesday night of last week will be \$1.50 on the \$100 valuation.

This includes a 50¢ levy for the special school district approved by the voters on July 1, and represents a cut of 15¢ in the regular tax rate for the town.

For more than 20 years the tax rate of the town has been \$1.15 on the \$100 valuation.

Under the tentative budget, which must lie open for 20 days before formal adoption, the general fund levy will be 57¢ and the bond fund levy will be 43¢. The 1968 budget called for a general fund levy of 45¢ and a bond fund levy of 70¢.

Budgeted for the operation of the town, not including the school, was the sum of \$154,519. Of this amount \$32,153 was to be derived from ad valorem taxes, based on 90 per cent collection of a valuation of \$3,572,598. The 1969 valuation was \$2,906,598. The increase of \$666,000 will mean an increase of \$5,994 in regular town income based on 90 per cent collections.

The 50¢ levy for the schools, based on 90 per cent collections, will raise \$16,077.

The tentative budget provides for principal on bonds in the amount of \$19,000, plus interest in the amount of \$7,205, for a total of \$26,205.

The 15¢ cut in the regular town budget was made possible by using a surplus of \$42,660 and using anticipated profits of the Water Company in the amount of \$33,113.

## Farm Subsidy Fight Not Over, Supporters Assert

WASHINGTON--Senators have voted down a proposed \$20,000 annual ceiling on government payments to farmers for not planting crops, but House supporters of the limit say the fight is not over.

The Senate, before passing a \$7.6 billion Agriculture Department appropriations bill Monday, eliminated a House-originated amendment which would impose a \$20,000 limit on the subsidies. The vote was 53-34 in favor of rejecting the ceiling, and the bill was passed 88-2.

A conference committee will iron out differences between the Senate and House versions of the appropriations measure.

Republican Reps. Silvio Conte of Massachusetts and Paul Findley of Illinois, who pushed successfully for the ceiling in the House, said they would not give up on the limit.

Conte, calling the Senate action "a tragic mistake," said he would try to get the ceiling reinstated in conference or would seek House floor action insisting on the \$20,000 limitation.

The ceiling was opposed by the administration.

Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois argued against limiting payments, while John J. Williams of Delaware fought for the ceiling he said would save the government \$5 million annually.

Citing instances of five farms each getting more than \$1 million not to produce crops, Williams commented: "I don't know now any member of the Senate (See PAYMENTS, page 2)

## Legislature Passes Six Local Acts

Local bills for the County of Warren passed by the General Assembly before its adjournment on July 1, according to the Legislative Report of the Institute of Government, were as follows:

County Wine Sales; Littleton Town Property; Norfolk Town Commission; Increase Warren School Tax; Electioneering Within 500 Yards of a Polling Place; Littleton-Gaston School District; Clarifying Deadly Weapon Constitution.



Board Members

Members of the Warrenton school district take oath of office before Magistrate Clyde V. Whitford on Thursday night in the municipal building. They are, left to right, Leon (Lee) Cheek, Dr. S. H. Massey, Mrs. J. Boyd Davis, Fred Hurst and James Y. Kerr.

## Five Vacancies Exist On Board Of Trustees Of Warren Hospital

The resignation of James H. Limer, county attorney, as a member of the board of trustees of Warren General Hospital Monday created a vacancy of five on the 15-man hospital board.

Limer submitted his resignation to the board of commissioners on Monday afternoon, effective immediately. It was accepted by the board.

Vacancies on the board were caused by the deaths of R. H. Bright and Robert Clyde Mitchell and the resignations of Limer, Bob Butler and Bernard Thompson.

During the morning session the board briefly discussed the appointment of a Negro member to the board, but after Limer's resignation the commissioners decided to postpone action on filling vacancies on the board of trustees until its August meeting, due to the large number of vacancies on the board.

The printing of a Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan for Warren County was approved by the Board of Commissioners after Frank Reams, industrial director, and Hugh B. Stokes, Jr., of W. F. Freeman Engineering Company, had discussed the survey with the

commissioners. The firm of W. F. Freeman was authorized to print the same. The \$9,000 cost of the project is to be paid by the Farmers Home Administration.

The Rev. J. E. McGrier appeared before the board asking that a Negro be appointed to the board of trustees of the Warren County Memorial Library and read a statement in behalf of the Community Center Library in which the question of the distribution of state and federal funds was raised. He said that he wanted an answer by July 14.

Action of the board was deferred when it was found that Frank Banzet, chairman of the board of trustees of the Warren County Memorial Library, was out of town, and could not be reached for discussion with the commissioners.

L. B. Hardage, county extension chairman, Miss Emily Ballinger, extension economic agent, and four aids, Mrs. Edith N. Clark, Mrs. Hazel Dale, Mrs. Sallie Patillo, and Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, appeared before the board for a report on the Expanded Nutrition Program in the county. The pilot program has been in operation in Warren for the past three

months under the direction of Miss Ballinger.

Consensus of the group was that the program has been worth while. All expressed surprise at the depth of poverty in the county and all the aids gave examples of their contacts with those in an extremely low income group. During the program the aids worked with 635 persons. Commissioners expressed the view that this covered only from a fourth to a fifth of the deprived persons in Warren County.

The commissioners passed a motion approving the Expanded Nutrition Program and asked that it be continued at the pleasure of the board.

Claude Fleming, dog warden, in his monthly report to the commissioners, said that he had picked up 145 dogs during June and traveled 2,081 miles. He said that he only sold one dog, for which he turned over \$3.00 to the dog fund.

Alvis P. Fleming headed a delegation asking that the State Highway Commission be requested to blacktop County Road No. 1365, known as "Fleming's Dairy Road, a distance of 1.5 miles.

A delegation also appeared before the board to request the Highway Commission to blacktop County Road No. 1110, a distance of 1.7 miles.

J. H. Hundley, Register of Deeds, reported 111 marriage licenses issued during the quarter ending June 30, for which the sum of \$555 was turned into the general fund.

A. P. Rodwell, Jr., tax collector, reported 1968 taxes collected during June in the amount of \$3,302.04, making a total of 1968 taxes collected to date in the amount of \$468,374.24. The percentage of 1968 taxes collected is 94.92%.

## Dr. Charles Bunch Named To Faculty

The American Society of Abdominal Surgeons, made up of over nine thousand Surgeons throughout the United States, has instituted Correspondence Courses on various Abdominal Conditions, Diseases, and Operations.

Dr. Charles Bunch, local Surgeon, has been appointed on the Faculty to supervise these courses being conducted now and in the future.

## In Hospital

Patients in Warren General Hospital at 5:30 Tuesday were listed as follows:

Betsy Anne Hayes, Lucy St. Sing, Blanche Andrews, Bernice Lambert, Katherine Hight, Lela Peoples, Anna Stegall, Charles Ray Rodwell, Myrtice Nielson, Walter Rochelle, Willie L. Elam, Sandra Harris, George Henry Burchette, Samuel Downey, Ronald Rivera, Dallas Bolton, James Eugene Clark, John Hargrove, Willie Williams.

## Judge Declares School Burden Resis On State

RALEIGH--U. S. District Court Judge Algernon Butler today issued a precedent-setting ruling that places on the state superintendent of public instruction and the State Board of Education "the burden to actively seek the deleger of the public schools of Carolina."

Butler's ruling came in a desegregation suit against the Johnston County schools which has been pending since April, 1968.

Adam Stein, a Charlotte attorney who is handling the case on behalf of 167 Johnston County pupils, said Butler's ruling is "the first of its kind in North Carolina."

State officials, who are named as co-defendants in the suit with the Johnston County School Board, had argued that the issue was a local matter that did not involve them.

In today's ruling, Butler said that argument "makes no sense in logic, frustrates rather than promotes the Supreme Court's mandate that the public schools be desegregated now and is without support in the law.

"The state's duty is to effect a transition from the dual system of schools formerly imposed by the constitution and laws of the State of North Carolina," Butler said.

"Whether or not the state board or the state superintendent has actively discriminated does not affect their responsibility to actively pursue school desegregation," Butler said.

## Fee Set At \$75.00

# Fred Bartholomew Is District School Supt.

Fred Bartholomew, principal of John Graham High School, has been employed as superintendent of the Warrenton Special School District.

Dr. S. H. Massey, chairman of the district board, said that Bartholomew would probably also retain his title as John Graham High School principal pending further developments in the district school.

Dr. Massey, Warrenton dentist, was named chair-

man of the Warrenton Special District school board at an organizational meeting last Thursday night following swearing in ceremonies at the Town Hall. C. V. Whitford, Magistrate, administered the oath of office.

Dr. Massey and four other members of the five-man board were appointed by the Board of Town Commissioners at a special meeting on Thursday afternoon, from a largelist of names

submitted by the commissioners.

Other members appointed were Mrs. J. Boyd Davis, Leon W. Cheek (colored), James Y. Kerr, Fred M. Hurst.

Dr. Massey is a former member of the Warren County Board of Education and served as vice-chairman for a number of years. Kerr is a former principal of John Graham High School, serving here in the late twenties.

The board members have been busy since taking the oath of office, meeting three and four times a week. In addition to employing a district superintendent and receiving applications from many citizens whose children live outside the district, the board set the fee for those outside the district to attend the Warrenton school. The fee is \$75 per child.

Charles M. Johnson is serving as attorney for the board.

## Injunction Sought

The NAACP, which is leading opposition to the creation of Warrenton as a special school district, has not been idle. On Wednesday, following the approval of the school by Warrenton voters, a Warren County group filed a suit in Federal Court to have the creation of the school declared void.

An account of the suit, as carried in the Durham Morning Herald, follows:

A Warrenton delegation is seeking an injunction to prevent three school boards from implementing legislation they successfully sought during the recent session of the General Assembly.

The motion has been filed in Eastern District Court against a battery of defendants, including the boards of education, the state superintendent of public instruction and the North Carolina Board of Education, by the delegation, represented by a four-firm legal corps including Conrad O. Pearson of Durham.

The complaint alleges that a statute passed by the General Assembly approving special enabling acts for local referendums on establishing new school districts apart from existing systems is "unconstitutional."

Three such bills were passed during the 1969 session of the Legislature. They applied to the Halifax County Board of Education and involved the Scotland Neck school district; the Town of Warrenton and the Warrenton City Board of Education; and the Littleton - Lake Gaston School District. All representative bodies are named in the action.

Pearson said that the statute passed May 23, 1969, detaches certain geographic areas from the jurisdiction of the Warren County Board of Education and the Halifax County Board of Education and transferred all school property within that area to the newly created Littleton - Lake Gaston School District. He reported that during the 1968-69 academic year 1,415 white children, 281 Indian children and 3,524 black children attended public schools in Warren County.

"The change in the boundaries of the Warren County School system resulting in the transfer of white students to another district is an evasion of the defendants' responsibilities under the Constitution of the United States and the orders of the court," Pearson said.

"If permitted to take effect, the House and Senate bills will deny the plaintiffs their right to equal protection of the laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution and will perpetuate unequal treatment prohibited by the Thirteenth Amendment."

The Warrenton delegation is seeking an injunction to prevent the implementation of the legislation.

## Groundbreaking For Plant Here Friday

Ground-breaking ceremony will be held on the site of the new furniture plant just north of the Warrenton town limits at 11 a.m. on Friday, W. Monroe Gardner, chairman of the board of Warren County Industrial Development Commission, announced yesterday.

Ceremonies will be sponsored by the Warren County Industrial Commission in cooperation with Cochrane Eastern, Inc., which plans to build a furniture plant in the

Warrenton Industrial Park located East of the Warrenton Railroad.

Gardner said that the public is urged to attend the ground-breaking exercises.

Officials of WCIDC and Cochrane Eastern, Inc., and town and county officials and other special guests have been invited to attend a 12 noon luncheon at the Lion's Den, Warren County Fair Building, as guests of The Citizens Bank.

## Hail Storm Damages Tobacco In Small Area

Approximately 29 acres of tobacco were damaged in a hail storm covering a small area

in the Axtell-Vicksboro section on Sunday afternoon, L. H. Hardage, extension chairman, said yesterday.

## Vote On Pay Bill

A bill to give North Carolina legislators a \$5 retroactive hike in their \$20 per day subsistence allowances, which won General Assembly approval on the last day of the session, was favored by Senator Julian Allsbrook of Halifax, and opposed by Senator Vernon White of Pitt, and Representatives James Speed of Franklin and John T. Church of Vance.

The bill increases the room and board allowance for legislators from \$20 to \$25 a day during the session. The bill would in effect send each legislator home with an extra \$775 in back allowance.

Hardage said the tobacco suffered from 60 to 75 percent damage. He listed damages as follows: Melvin Abbott, 13 acres; James O. Garrett, 9 acres; Floyd Pendergrass, 7 acres, with all acreage in severely damaged class.

Abbott also suffered a 10 to 15 percent damage on another 17 acres of tobacco and William Bender had seven acres of tobacco slightly damaged.

Hardage said that there was some damage to other crops on these farms with a total estimated damage of from \$30,000 to \$35,000 to all crops in this section.



CAR IN WHICH TWO PERSONS WERE KILLED

## Two Killed, Two Badly Hurt In Wreck

Two persons were killed and two others were seriously injured in a single-car wreck on I-85 at 5:45 a.m. on Friday morning, July 4.

Killed in the wreck was the driver of the car, Robert Leroy Waters, 59-year-old white man, and his six-year-old nephew, Jimmy Pollock of Lorton, Va., who died in a hospital.

Another nephew, Joey

Pollock, 4, was critically injured and transferred from Warren General Hospital to Duke Hospital.

Mrs. Mary E. Waters, 48, wife of the driver, was pinned in the car for 45 minutes before she was removed to Warren General Hospital. She suffered a broken leg and wrist and lacerations.

State Highway Trooper Wallace Brown, who investigated the accident, said that the dri-

ver of the car apparently fell asleep at the wheel of the car which ran off the right side of the road, striking a marker post and two concrete supports of a highway sign. The speedometer of the car was jammed at 55 miles per hour.

The 1966 Mercury was a total loss. Brown said that had the driver of the car been wearing a seat belt, he would probably have escaped death.