

Food Stamp Sales May Shift To Post Office

By HELEN HOLT
News Editor

The sale of food stamps in Warren County is likely to be transferred from banking establishments to the U. S. Postal Service following action taken by the Warren County Board of Commissioners Monday.

After a presentation by John Burgess, president of Branch Banking and Trust Co., in Warrenton who pointed to the burdens of private businesses maintaining a government program, the board agreed to notify the post office in Warrenton of its intent to redirect the program's responsibilities.

State and federal legislation several years ago introduced the option of selling food stamps locally through banks or through the postal service. In the event banks withdraw from the program, the post office

assumes responsibility, provided the local DSS office is not equipped to manage the sales.

Julian Farrar, director of the welfare department, said the post office would need about 90 days to make surveys and collect the necessary information for selling food stamps.

A target date of July 1, 1978, was set for shifting the food stamp sales program from banks to the post office system in Warren County.

In making his presentation against the continued sale of stamps through privately owned banks, Burgess noted that he was not attempting "to pull the rug out from under anything."

However, he did warn that the growing food stamp program could sharply cut into the bank's ability to serve its regular customers.

"We as a bank are a

private enterprise handling a government function," Burgess said. "We have felt that in handling these (food stamp transactions), we don't even pay the cost of the employee handling the paperwork... We can't even pay one person's salary and we are not actually remunerated for processing."

"The intangible part," he continued, "the part you can't actually put your finger on is how much business we are losing."

Burgess stated that his bank, as well as other banks in the county who have expressed similar sentiments, was prepared to continue handling the program until the county social services office could make further arrangements.

He said also that the bank would continue to store food stamps in its vaults and accept stamps on a redemption.

(Continued on page 5)

Norlina Board Is Sworn In Monday

By HELEN HOWARD
Staff Writer

The new commissioners for the Town of Norlina were officially sworn into office during the regular monthly meeting Monday night.

Mrs. Mamie Richardson of Norlina administered the oath of office to Jimmy Overby, mayor pro-tem, and other commissioners, Will Hicks, Ben Lloyd, John Dore and Wallace Stallings.

The voters of Norlina elected the same slate of commissioners for another term in the November election.

In the absence of Mayor Bill Perry who is ill, mayor pro-tem Jimmy Overby conducted the meeting.

The mayor sent a written list of appointments to the meeting. He appointed Will Hicks to the water department; and Wallace Stallings, police department; John Dore, sanitation department; and Ben Lloyd, street department.

Police officers also took an oath of office at the meeting. The officers are James Champion, Edward Leon Paynter, Charlie Barker and Willie Alexander.

The commissioners discussed hiring an insulation inspector for the municipality, a requirement of recently enacted legislation. Board attorney, Jules Banzet reviewed the ordinance involved and told the board he would check with the

county manager to see if one inspector could be used for both Norlina and the county.

The men noted that permits and bonds would be issued from the Norlina Town Hall.

Commissioner Ben Lloyd brought up the request of Bill Fleming in squaring the corner of his property which has been rounded by street improvements. The commissioners decided to have the street department square the corner as much as feasible.

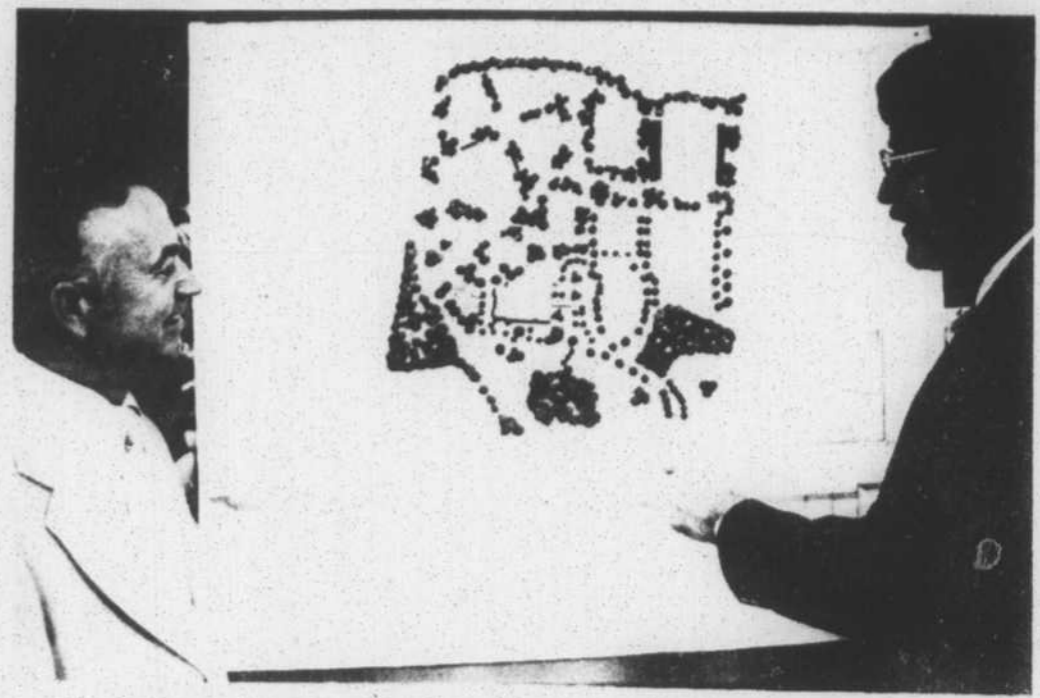
A letter from Leigh Traylor, Norlina fire chief, was read. The letter noted the fire hazard of the Mayme White Building at Hyco and Center streets.

The building is being handled by Charles Johnson of Warrenton, it was noted. The commissioners decided to contact Johnson to have something done to the building or the building may have to be condemned.

Mayor pro-tem Overby was elected as an alternate to the Region K Council of Governments meeting. Overby noted he felt other commissioners should attend when they could.

The board also voted to hire Joy Gums to help the clerk during the Christmas holidays and in the summer.

In other action, the board decided on Christmas bonuses to pay town employees and issued a permit for the Christmas parade on Saturday.



Site development activity should be evident soon at the Warren County consolidated high school site after a contract is awarded to Barnhill Construction Co. of Tarboro, low bidder for the site preparation work. Superintendent J. R. Peeler and architect Dan Knight of Rocky Mount above review features of the new school depicted in an artist's drawing.

Embroid Hit Hardest By Twister

Gusty winds or small tornadoes touched down in several sections of the county late Monday afternoon causing considerable damage in the Embro community and twisting off tree tops in other areas.

A Police Information Network bulletin was received at 4:20 p. m. at the Warrenton Police Station from the National Weather Service noting "heavy thunderstorms spawning ahead of fast-moving cold front... have intensified and formed line from Granville Co... with winds at 25 mph... Heavy rain, gusty winds and possible hail... tornado watch in effect."

About 4:50 p. m. strong winds were reported in the Afton community where trees were blown over in several places. Some tin roofing was also reported damaged.

Then at 5:05 p. m. a small twister set down near Embro, about a mile and one-half from Highway 43, ripping a tin roof off the house owned by William Short.

The funnel scattered pieces of the roof around the yard and in trees. Windows were also broken by the wind force.

Damage was estimated at between \$800 to \$1,000 to the home. Workmen were on the scene early Tuesday morning repairing the damage.

Across the road at the home of Nick Hunt, trees were bowled over.

Also on the same side of

the road before the Short house a trailer was torn from its anchor and turned sideways. The winds forced the windows out and some siding was damaged. The owners live out-of-state and are unknown at this time. A damage estimate has not been determined.

The twister appeared to have done most of the damage in a quarter mile stretch beginning with the trailer and ending at the Greer home in the Embro section.

All along the road, the tops of trees had been ripped off by the tornado.



A late afternoon twister which touched down in at least two sections of Warren County Monday inflicted heaviest damages in the Embro community. Thomas Neal, a resident of the area, poses with one of many trees which appeared to have broken like toothpicks. (Staff Photo)

Board Gives Nod To School Use Of Allen Home

A recommendation that the old Allen home be given to the Warren County schools for administrative purposes was approved by the Warren County Board of Commissioners Monday.

The decision brings to a conclusion months of discussion and tentative proposals submitted for using the handsome, 1950's estate home of the late George Allen.

Earlier this year, the home was donated to Warren County by the Allen heirs.

Although commissioners voted unanimously in favor of the motion made by Jack Harris to give the building to the schools, they stipulated that some cost estimates for renovation must be submitted by the schools before any final action.

School superintendent J. R. Peeler last month proposed use of the building as a central administrative building for Warren County schools. No definite costs were cited for adapting the home to office use; however, the school superintendent made clear the school's financial position and subsequent inability to subsidize any extensive work.

Described as a sound building with solid underpinnings, the Allen Home — often called "School Days" — is adjacent to Mariam Boyd School in Warrenton. A general consensus points to heating and air-conditioning the expansive building as the most demanding expense.

In addition the schools have indicated that some parking facility would be necessary.

As Supt. Peeler said earlier, the school system would benefit from having a

centralized office. Presently, the central staff works from its office on the Norlina road while the county E.S.E.A. office is located in the old Afton School building in Afton.

Commissioner Harris, in making his motion to give preference to the school's proposal, noted that the move could mean a long term investment for the county.

"If we gave the building to the school, we could give their present building to the hospital for use," Harris said. "We would have to put more (money) into the hospital (for renovation)... but, on a long-term basis, the county might be better off along this route."

"Gentlemen," he said, "you have got to look at it to see that we've got to start spending some money on some of these buildings."

The only other apparent alternatives open to the county were proposals to use the building for an aging program, for county office space or to sell or return the home to its former owners.

Insulation Ordinance

In other action, the board voted to adopt a county insulation inspection ordinance as required by newly enacted state legislation.

The ordinance complies with a one-year law passed by the North Carolina General Assembly this year requiring all counties to adopt an insulation ordinance and to appoint an insulation inspector.

Filling the inspectors role will be Chet Forrester, the county's current electrical inspector.

The ordinance sets for a \$5 year's license fee to install insulation and a \$10 permit or inspection fee to have

Work To Begin Soon

Low Bid Of \$156,302 Accepted By School

By HELEN HOLT
News Editor

An apparent low base bid of \$156,302.05, submitted by a Tarboro construction firm for site development at the consolidated high school, was accepted by the Warren County Board of Education last Wednesday.

Work on the school site is expected to begin as soon as a contract can be drawn by architect Dan Knight of Dove-Knight Associates in Rocky Mount.

School superintendent J. R. Peeler said the contract would take several days to prepare but, hopefully, the clearing and grading work of this phase of construction could begin this week.

The contract will be awarded to Barnhill Construction Co. of Tarboro whose base bid of \$156,302.05 was approximately \$10,000 higher than estimated by architect Knight.

Barnhill's bid was one of only three bids submitted for Phase One of the consolidated school project.

Other bidders were S. T. Wooten Co. of Wilson with a base bid of \$200,000 and John T. Harris Construction Co. of Warrenton, bidding \$168,604.

Two other anticipated bidders did not come forth with a bid for the 3 p. m. bid opening ceremony Wednesday.

Although the apparent low bid was higher than anticipated, it included costs for two deductible construction alternates which the board could accept or reject.

The alternates provide options for grading and stabilizing student and faculty parking area as well as that for a bus unloading area.

Knight urged acceptance of the entire bid, saying that separate bids for the alternate construction projects later would be higher than Barnhill's bid.

Board members, during a called session last Wednesday night, agreed with the architect and accepted the base bid for site development and both alternates.

"I would rather see one piece out their right than five pieces that are not right," said Henry Bobbitt who made the motion to accept the bid.

Board member Mrs. Joyce Odom added that "with a project this size, it would be a shame not to do it right."

Dr. L. B. Henderson expressed his belief that once the project was initiated, additional funds would be forthcoming to assist general construction of the school.

The school has nearly \$2 million in state bond and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds with which to invest in the proposed consolidated school. Some form of construction must be evident upon the site by Dec. 31 in order that the nearly \$1 million EDA grant is not forfeited.

Superintendent Peeler noted to the board that the state Department of Transportation traditionally agrees to pave roads school buses travel upon and stabilize bus parking areas when and if funds are available.

The Warren County schools have "officially" asked for assistance through this program, according to Peeler. Highway administrators later advised school officials to accept bids and proceed with parking lot development, anticipating a refund from the state later.

Dr. J. L. Pierce, former North Carolina director of school planning now hired by the Warren County school board to help map out the low-budget school, estimated the school could receive \$22,000 from DOT as a reimbursement for stabilizing the school bus areas.

If work begins soon on Phase One of construction, advertising of bids for Phase Two, or the general school construction, could be let in March, with bids accepted in April, according to the architect.

Phase Three or the final phase of the project includes all paving and site development features which could not be completed prior to the actual building construction.

Bids for this phase will not be taken until sometime in the spring of 1979, with an occupancy date of September.

(Continued on page 6)



Most heavily damaged during Monday afternoon's high winds was the home of William Short in the Embro community. The roofing was ripped off and windows smashed in the dwelling. Short was not at home at the time.