

Rising Costs Force Sale Of Complex

The increasing cost of operating three community facilities was one of the factors that led to the recent decision by the Afton-Elberon Ruritan Club to sell its recreation complex located in Afton, near South Warren Elementary School.

The complex consists of 19.6 acres including a ballfield, bleachers, lights, and a concession stand. Financing is available for those who qualify.

Other factors in the decision to sell were the aging membership of the club and the lack of interest on the part of younger people in the community.

According to Leland D. Gottschalk, president of the club, "This decision comes with much sadness on the part of club members because of the lack of recreation in the county." He said, "Many happy hours have been enjoyed by all age groups at this facility. Many in the county have enjoyed softball games and other activities. Churches have been able to have a church league because of the field's availability."

Gottschalk said the area could be used for a number of purposes other than a ballfield, such as housing development.

Persons interested in purchasing the property should contact Gottschalk at 257-4320, or see one of the club members.



SCENE OF HAPPINESS — This was the scene in Wilson's Beddingfield High School gymnasium Saturday night moments after Warren County High School captured the Class 3-A Eastern Championship in basketball.

The Eagles, in their first year of play, will go after the state title Saturday night against Swanannoa's Owen High School in Greensboro's Coliseum. (Staff Photo)

Citizens Protest Sign Removal

By BIGNALL JONES

A score or more citizens of Soul City appeared at a specialized advertised meeting of the Board of Warren County Commissioners at 6 p.m. Monday, meeting to hear complaint over removal of signs from Soul City and protest a resolution passed in November by the commissioners asking that the State Department of Transportation remove

such signs. Chairman Jack Harris, presiding over the meeting, said the commissioners did not initiate the move, but passed the resolution at the request of the Department of Transportation. He said that the DOT may have been asked by someone else, but it was not a member of the board. The entire meeting was taped by a representative of The Warren Record, but lack of space does not

allow for full account, only enough to present a fair account of the meeting, based on these recordings. The principal speaker was Floyd McKissick, who spoke largely from manuscript, from which he promised to supply a copy for files of the county commissioners, from which it may be seen by interested citizens.

McKissick was joined in the protest by Mrs. Johnnie Johnson, the first speaker, Charles Worth, agent for HUD at Soul City, Mrs. Charlene McKissick, and a number of others present.

Mrs. Johnson wanted to know why the commissioners removed the signs. When told by Chairman Harris that the board did not remove the signs, she said that he was begging the question, as the Department of Transportation would never have removed the signs without the resolution unanimously passed by the board, and said that if the board would rescind its resolution she would replace the signs.

McKissick told Harris that he was correct in stating that the county has no authority to place the signs on the highway and therefore they had no authority to have the signs removed. The power to create is the power to destroy. The action of the commissioners in passing the resolution was ultra virus, unless it was in concert with others seeking to do some sinister act against Soul City and what it stood for.

McKissick said the name Soul City was taken from

the Bible and expresses the wishes of those who live there. That others' objection was not germane, as there are many unusual names for towns in the county and state, Axtel, Lick Skillet, Liberia, Frying Pan, Kill Devil, and many others, none of whom have been requested to have their signs removed.

The removal of the signs was a violation of the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution as well as the due process of law. He wanted to know if the commissioners were going to pass a resolution to have DOT remove the signs, why did they not notify Soul City of their intentions so that they could present their objections. He also wanted to know why they did not take down the signs at Axtel, Lick Skillet, Etc. He received no answer. The point raised by McKissick was reiterated time and again by other speakers.

Commissioner George Shearin said that it "Was made known to the board, that the signs were going to be removed and the board was asked to pass a resolution by DOT asking that it be requested by the board to remove the signs."

Charles Worth, who is HUD's agent at Soul City, said that he was requested to dispose of the property where it was to HUD's advantage, and that he was being hindered in his work by the removal of signs.

Commissioner Herbert Harris said he voted with all other commissioners in

No Funds Available For Blacktopping Warren County Roads

No funds for blacktopping roads will be provided for Warren County in the 1982-83 budget of the State Department of Transportation, according to information supplied to the Warren County Board of Commissioners in a meeting here on Monday afternoon.

Chairman Jack Harris called the meeting to order and presented Joe Hamme, a member of the State Board of Transportation, who in turn recognized Representative Tom Ellis of Henderson, a member of the State House of Representatives. Hamme then recognized Engineer Paynter, who presided over the meeting and discussed the 1982-1983 secondary road improvement program.

He said the 1982 allocation from the 1977 bond funds totalled \$103,074, plus the county construction allocation of \$416,788.00 resulted in a total of \$519,862.00. This money will be used in Warren County as follows:

Grade, drain and stabilize SR 1221, Culpepper Road, from SR 1200 to SR 1219, 2.3 miles — \$126,500.00.

Grade, drain and stabilize SR 1609 and SR 1606, Powell's Mill Road and Liberia to Baltimore Road, from Spring Green Baptist Church to N. C. 58, 2.4 miles — \$132,000.00.

Widen existing pavement on SR 1237 and SR 1224, from U. S. 1 to the Vance County line. Place drag seal on section from I-85 to Vance County line at Drewry, 3.1 miles — \$106,000.00.

In addition to the \$364,000.00 for the 7.8 miles of road, the budgets also provides \$100,000 for spot improvements — including stabilization on various secondary roads, county-wide, and \$55,362 for property owners' participation paving, drainage improvements, road additions and contingency funds.

Paynter said that none of the money allotted in the 1982-83 budget could be used before July 1. However, a few roads allocated in the 1981-82 budget would be completed as soon as weather permits.

When Chairman Harris called for comments from citizens attending the meeting, a number wanted to know the status of the roads on which they lived. Among these were Marion

Macon Robinson, who wanted to know why the Palmer Road in Sixpound Township, had been paved on one end, and not on the other. The Palmer Road is the road for which Jeff D. Palmer of Falls Church, Va., had appeared before the commissioners on various occasions. Unable to speak because of a physical disability, Reuben Palmer handed a note to Chairman Harris in support of this road.

Before Perdue bought several hundred acres of land at Soul City, a road from property of Willie Davis and others ran across the Peete Estate property purchased by Perdue. Willie Davis has appeared before the board of commissioners several times asking that the state take over this section of road, which Davis said is

at times impassable. It has been inspected by district and division engineers, who recognize Davis's need. However, the state cannot build the road unless they can obtain an easement to cross the property from Perdue. Neither Davis nor the commissioners have been able to contact Perdue.

Monday Willie Davis was present at the hearing before the Department of Transportation and again stated his case. If the district engineer, and the chairman of the board of commissioners can not get in touch with Perdue officials, he asked, what chance has a poor man like me without influence to reach them?

Paynter promised to make a personal attempt to reach Perdue officials.

Directors Agree

Post Separation Sought By Board

The Board of Directors of the Warren County Chamber of Commerce in its meeting Tuesday voted unanimously to adopt a resolution supporting the separation of the position of county manager and industrial developer into two distinct, full-time positions, the latter to be funded by the county by July 1, 1982.

The suggestion was originated by the county Industrial Commission, and agreed upon in principle some time ago by the Warren County Board of Commissioners. However, it was noted that to this date no action has been taken to make a full-time position out of industrial development.

President Charles Hayes stressed the need for all Chamber members to support the resolution, which will be mailed to the county commissioners and also taken in person to the next meeting of the commissioners. Hayes urged all on the Board of Directors to be present at that meeting in support of the resolution.

Butch Meek, treasurer, reported that only eight of the 43 Chamber members had paid their annual dues. It was agreed that the executive committee would convene after the meeting to divide up the list of unpaid members for personal contact.

Carroll Harris said that (Continued on page 20)

Names Of Residents Drawn For Jury Duty

The names of 45 Warren County residents have been drawn for jury duty during a civil term of Warren County District Court scheduled to begin here Monday, March 22, at 10 a. m.

Those selected for jury service include the following:

Ophelia W. Davis, India Williams Perry, Eleanor Louise Smith, Joe Wesley Jones, Ervin Darnell Long, Deborah Hilliard Pegram, Felton B. Davis, Willie Mae Williams, Arie Novella Davis, Jefferson E. Daniels, Samuel D. Alston, Thelma Hayes Thompson, Kenny Eugene Vaughan and David Franklin Proctor.

Also, Spencer Richardson, Jean L. Harris, Sarah Ellis Alston, Laura Burrows, Eunice Marie Eller, Herbert Glenn Moseley, Jimmy Lewis Peoples, Anna Delois Talley, Helen James Burton, Patricia Fleming Rivers, M. B. Hilliard, Dan Hunter Lynch, Helen Davis Pope, Ada Richardson Cheek and Jolly Mac Hamm.

Also, Deboria Ann Williams, Carolyn Colithia Rose, Carrie R. Woodard,

Fred Gale Harris, Mattie Hunter Weldon, Willie Edward Hymon, David Kelly Lynch, Hazel Davis Harris, Dorothy Hawkins Smith, Mary Louise Hunt, Ray Benton Lloyd, Barbara Moseley Walker, Therman Rogers Schuster, Macon Harper, Harold Taylor Short and Rebecca Victoria Wood Dillard.

Correction

In the report of the March meeting of the Warrenton Board of Town Commissioners The Warren Record stated that Bennie Wilson, a former resident of Warrenton, left Warrenton owing the town his water bill. This statement was based on a taped remark of a town official. Town records later revealed that this statement was in error, as shown by a check given by the town to Wilson on the eve of his departure for balance owed him from deposit required of him previously.

The Warren Record regrets the error, and apologizes to Mr. Wilson for both the embarrassment and harm it may have caused him.

National Guard Expenditures Have Big Impact On Warren

The economic contribution of the North Carolina National Guard to the North Carolina economy for 1982 will be close to \$58 million in payroll, purchases and rents, according to figures recently released by the N. C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, under which the National Guard operates.

The armory located in Warrenton reported the annual federal financial input for payroll at \$171,764, and \$18,164 for purchases. The annual state financial input for purchases was \$10,170. The local financial input was \$500, bringing the total annual financial input to \$200,598. The value of the armory land and buildings was estimated at \$455,219.

The total financial input by the National Guard to the North Carolina economy for 1982 is \$57,946,667. The federal

input is \$54,702,587 in wages and \$1,226,440 in purchases. The state input is \$917,252 in wages and \$841,938 in purchases. Input by local governments is \$258,450. The value of the land and building of the armories in the state stands at \$65,814,471.

North Carolina is one of the few states that is at 100 percent of its authorized strength in the National Guard. There are approximately 115 National Guard armories in the state, and approximately 12,000 men and women in the N. C. Army National Guard and 2,400 in the Air National Guard.

Heman R. Clark, secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, said, "The bulk of the \$58 million comes in the form of payroll from the federal government. This is money

that is spent in the local communities where the men and women of the National Guard train and live.

"Needless to say, we would be a much poorer state if the National Guard was not present in so many of our communities," Clark said. "And it is not in money terms alone that I speak of. A guardsman is a good citizen, and he makes his community better by being a part of it."

Firemen Unite In Fighting Fire

The Warrenton Fire Department and the Rural Volunteer Fire Department cooperated in fighting a 7 p. m. fire at the home of Mrs. Georgia J. Harris on West Franklin Street Monday.

The rear of the two story (Continued on page 20)

Our Children And Our Future

Statistics Show Problem Areas For Warren

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

In 1980, 151,000 children in North Carolina lived in families with income below 25 percent of the poverty level, or \$2,112 per year for a family of four.

State prisons housed 550 children under 18.

North Carolina's working mothers totalled 589,000 and 230,000 had children younger than 6 years old.

Over 1,200 infants younger than one year old died in the state.

Between 1970 and 1975, there was a 34 percent increase in births to white teenagers under age 15 in the state.

These figures are part of the report, "Our Children/Our Future — Private Sector Possibilities for Helping Children in North Carolina," prepared by the Office of Policy and Planning of the N. C. Department of Administration.

The report seeks to raise public awareness of the serious problems that many North Carolinian children

face, and to "identify, document, and applaud exciting programs already at work in communities across the state — programs initiated by the private sector."

Focusing on four areas, the report addresses family income and stability, day care, health, and education.

In each area, goals adopted by the N. C. Child and Family Service Interagency Committee are cited. The goal, progress in the area, problems confronted, and innovative programs for the private sector to become involved in to achieve realization of the goal are discussed.

In a preface letter in the report Florence C. Glasser and Charles V. Petty, co-coordinators of the White House Conference on Children and Youth, wrote that we face "an era of scarce and dwindling public funds to invest in meeting the needs of our youngest citizens." They cited progress made in the state during the last decade in meeting the needs of families and children. However, they continued, "If these achievements are to be protected, if this progress is to be maintained, new

alternatives must be found, new creative ways must be identified to help children and families. These new alternatives will depend on the involvement of the private as well as the public sector."

The Office of the Governor released last month figures pertaining to the needs of children in each county in the state. Evaluation of the information is difficult because of the variation in the years reported, but the release included the following information for Warren County:

In 1978, 5,079 children under 18 lived in the county.

In 1975, the percentage of children living in poverty was 38.6 percent, as compared to 18.3 percent in North Carolina and 20.8 percent in the South.

The infant death rate in the county, averaged from 1975-79, was 18.2 per 1,000 live births as compared to 16.7 for the state and 15.8 for the South.

The rate of juvenile justice cases was 11.81 per 1,000 children age 10-17, as compared to 42.51 in North Carolina and 29.1 in the South.