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A 4-H Activity Day which drew participants from 17 North Carolina counties was held Thursday at Warren County High School. Here a few of the 1,000

participants take part in a char-grill demonstration on the school campus. See story on Page 5B. (Staff Photo)

For Warren County Citizens

\$1 Tax Rate Is Approved

Warren County Commissioners voted last Wednesday night to accept a 1983-84 county budget of \$4,326,575 as recommended by County Manager Glenwood Newsome.

The vote was three to one, with veteran County Commissioner William T. Skinner the only opposing vote.

Commissioner George Shearin was not present at the meeting.

Skinner told fellow commissioners that he could not vote in favor of a four-cent increase in the tax rate due to the poor state of the economy and the high rate of unemployment in the county.

The new budget takes the tax rate from 96 cents to \$1 per \$100 valuation.

The only change in the budget as presented by the county manager to the commissioners last month was an increase of \$1,000 in the mental health budget, recommended by Newsome.

Tom McBride, area mental health director, recently appeared before the board in a public hearing on the budget and told the commissioners that the amount proposed for mental health, which included no increase over the current year, was "marginal" in keeping the clinic here open.

The \$1,000, which was taken from the contingency fund, did not change the total budget figure, and provides the program with a budget of \$10,775 for the coming fiscal year.

ABC Board Controversy Fueled By Appointments

A controversy involving the Warren County ABC Board that began last January was taken a step further yesterday by members of the Warren County Board of Commissioners in their regular meeting.

The commissioners voted to replace ABC Board member John Henry Palmer of Macon with Sherman Johnson of Warrenton, although no resignation had been submitted by Palmer. Johnson, who is associated with WARR radio, was nominated by Commissioner Francis Alston.

The vote was split, with commissioners Jack Harris and William T. Skinner voting against the replacement.

The board also voted to accept the resignation of Bill Delbridge of Norlina, submitted but not accepted last January, and to appoint William B. Ellington of Drewry to fill Delbridge's unexpired term. Ellington, nominated by Commissioner Harris, is a farmer and farm manager for People's Bank and Trust Co. in Rocky Mount in their trust department.

Last January, State ABC Commissioner Bill Hester informed the county commissioners that the Warren County ABC Board was not making enough profit for the amount of liquor sold, and that the county had more clerks than it needed to man its stores.

At that time, the board consisted of Chairman William K. Lannier, Delbridge, and Palmer.

The board accepted the resignation of Lanier, voted not to accept the resignation of Delbridge at that time, and received no resignation from Palmer.

After the vote at yesterday's meeting, Commissioner Jack Harris asked if Palmer had been removed without cause. Chairperson Eva Clayton responded that the cause for the new appointments was "whatever the board of commissioners feels is in the proper interest of the ABC Board." She noted that a "new team" was now in place for the sake of "harmony" on the board.

When asked by Harris if there had been "disharmony" with Palmer, she said that she did not know.

After the meeting,

Chairperson Clayton said that there were some "realities" for Delbridge and Palmer to deal with, but that the new appointments were an opportunity to move ahead with the ABC Board, and that there was nothing personal in any of the changes.

Delbridge reached at his home Tuesday afternoon said, "It's all new to me." He indicated that he had not been contacted by anyone about the board's decision, and knew of no reason for its action.

A spokesperson at Palmer's home said that he was not available for comment.

ABC Board Chairperson Bernadine Ballance, who has been filling Lanier's unexpired term, was also reappointed at yesterday's meeting.

Board Takes Varied Action Here Tuesday

The following items of business were among those voted on by Warren County Commissioners in their regular meeting yesterday:

—A contract for \$112,000 with Carroll Phelps Company of Winston-Salem for the county tax revaluation was approved in the form of a Revaluation Budget Fund Ordinance.

—Five Warren County citizens were appointed to the N.C. Domiciliary Home Community Advisory Committee. They are: Dr. D. R. Coffman, a physician; Dr. L.B. Henderson, Jr., a dentist; Irene Fitts, a former worker with the county Department of Social Services; Bessie Shearin, former dietary superintendent at Jubilee Hospital in Henderson; and John Pool with Warrenton Group (Continued on page 2B)

Return Of Deputy's Gear Being Sought By Sheriff

A former deputy with the Warren County Sheriff's Department who resigned December 6 is still in possession of over \$1,000 of county equipment and uniforms, according to Warren County Sheriff Theo Williams.

Sheriff Williams told county commissioners at their meeting yesterday that Dorsey Capps has been requested to return riot gear, a fingerprint kit, battery jumper cables, badges, uniforms, a flashlight, leg irons, a night stick, a black jack, crime scene photos, and fingerprint card files which belong to the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Williams said that he would "bend over backward" to get the items back without bringing charges against Capps, but that he felt such action might be necessary unless the county wanted simply to give Capps the items and replace the department's loss.

Sheriff Williams read to the commissioners from a January 17 letter from County Manager Glenwood Newsome that Capps itemizing the equipment in question, and told the commissioners that Warren County District Attorney David Waters had indicated at the last term of Superior Court

that he, too, would contact Capps about the matter.

Chairperson Eva Clayton agreed to write to Capps, and county attorney Charles Johnson volunteered that he would make an effort to get the items returned.

Chairperson Clayton expressed the hope that the matter could be resolved on a "conciliatory" manner with friends of the court and the commissioners.

Capps, who was unsuccessful in a bid for the sheriff's post last year after the retirement of Sheriff Clarence Davis, could not be reached Tuesday afternoon for comment.

Local Nuclear Dump Drawing Opposition

Wise Site Proposed

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The appearance of a Warren County community on a U.S. Department of Energy list of possible sites for the disposal of high-level nuclear waste drew sharp response from Warren County Board of Commissioners Chairperson Eva Clayton yesterday.

Speaking at the board's regular meeting, she said, "Enough is enough," referring to the state's location last year of a PCB landfill in the Afton area of the county.

The Wise community has been named as one of 12 North Carolina areas potentially suitable for the storage of nuclear waste.

"This appears to be only in the exploratory stage," Chairperson Clayton said, "but we've been explored before and ended up exploited."

The Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 directed the Energy Department to establish at least two major repositories for high-level nuclear waste to go into operation by the year 2000.

Two-hundred and twenty sites in 17 states are being researched by the Energy Department for storage of nuclear waste.

The Department of Energy will recommend the sites, and the governor of the state will have the authority to veto it. A vote by both houses of Congress would be required to override a gubernatorial veto.

According to a spokesperson with the Department of Energy, the field of potential sites will be narrowed down by the department in early 1984, after which field testing and gathering of additional environmental data would begin in preparation for the 1989 recommendation of two sites.

The department is planning to store solidified nuclear waste, such as fuel rods encased in glass, in tunnels at depths of 2,000 to 4,000 feet, covered with additional backfill.

The department is looking at areas with crystalline rock bodies, such as granite, considered to be the best host for nuclear waste. The Warren County area being considered is an abandoned rock quarry.

Other North Carolina areas being considered for the storage sites are: Rocky Mount, Rolesville, Hendersonville, Butterwood Creek in Halifax County, Castalia in Nash County, and areas in Transyl- (Continued on page 2B)



Whether or not a sewing operation is resumed in this building on U.S. Highway One on the western outskirts of Norlina depends largely on improvement in the economy, the owner of Norlina Manufacturing Company said this week. Mallory Parrish of Emporia, Va., the owner of the company which closed down operations late last month, said about 55 persons were idled by the closing. The business, in operation for the past seven and one-half years, manufactured children's dresses. (Staff Photo)

Board Is Informed

Lake Gaston Residents Concerned Over Trash

A charge that Warren County residents on Lake Gaston are not getting the trash collection they deserve for their tax dollar was brought before Warren County commissioners in their regular meeting Tuesday morning.

Donald Frech, president of the Wildwood Point Property-owners Association, said that trash collection in the area is "unbelievably bad."

Frech referred specifically to the muddy conditions and overflowing trash at a solid waste dumpster site on State Road 1362 at Lizard Creek near the entrance to Wildwood Point subdivision. He appeared before the commissioners in July and August of last year with complaints about the same dumpster.

The commissioners promised at that time that something would be done about the dumpster. However, Frech charged Tuesday that the situation was no better now than it was last year.

County Manager, Glenwood Newsome said that the area had been graded and gravel had been put down, and that cooperation from citizens in keeping the area clean was needed.

The dumpster is on property owned by VEPCO. According to George Gurley, reservoir supervisor with VEPCO, Warren County has been requested to try and find another site for the dumpsters. "We're concerned that the area is not being cleaned up properly, and citizens are not properly using the dumpsters," he said in an interview Tuesday afternoon. He explained that VEPCO was concerned that trash was getting into Lake Gaston, and that even if the county cleaned up the dumpsters, VEPCO would rather not have it within its project bound- (Continued on page 2B)

ary.

Frech said he understood that the county had until July 31 to find another dumpsite, but Gurley indicated that no date had been set by VEPCO.

Sheriff Theo Williams, who was in attendance at the meeting on another matter, said that he had recently noticed doors, bed springs, and items as large as conference tables discarded at the dumpsters and in the dumpsters.

Frech admitted that this was a problem, and noted "In recent months, people have been using the area as an honest dump because it looks so bad."

Also appearing before the commissioners was Dale Oberg, a Wildwood Point resident, who said that he was requesting the county to do the "just and right thing."

Justice Has Holiday Of Sorts In Warren

Justice took a holiday of sorts in North Carolina last week when judges throughout the state met for a judges conference and no court sessions were held anywhere in the Tar Heel state.

However, the judicial system cranks up again this week and today (Wednesday) Warren County District Court is in session.

Next Monday, Warren County Superior Court convenes with Judge Darius B. Herring, Jr. of Fayetteville presiding.

Ninety-seven cases are on the Superior Court docket for next week, and four cases are scheduled to go before the grand jury.

The murder trial of David Son Kearney, of Norlina, charged in the March death of Randolph Suite, Jr., also of Norlina, is on the docket

County Manager Newsome told the commissioners that the county has 22 signs ordered to be put on solid waste dumpsters stating the fine for littering at a dumpsite and violating the county's two ordinances on disposal of solid waste.

"No one has ever been cited that I know of for violation of either of these ordinances," Newsome said.

The county's 116 dumpsters are emptied twice weekly. Those designated as areas of heavy usage are emptied on Monday and Thursday, and those designated as light are emptied on Tuesday and Friday.

No motion on the matter was entertained by the commissioners, but Chairperson Eva Clayton said that the concerns expressed had been heard and that the (Continued on page 2B)

for Monday, along with the trial of Bruce Hargrove of Norlina on a charge of communicating threats.

Hargrove was convicted in District Court of communicating threats against Warren County High School teacher James A. Blanchard by pointing his forefinger and saying "Bang." Hargrove's case was postponed in the last session of Superior Court until the end of the school year.

Several of the 97 cases on the docket involve multiple charges against one individual. They include 19 counts of breaking and entering, larceny, and possession against Richard Douglas Griffin of Middlesex and 17 counts of worthless check against Walter Somerville of Manson.