

Warren County Is Likely To Enact New Sales Tax

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

If all 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties that now have a sales tax take advantage of the General Assembly's authorization to impose a new half-cent sales tax, Warren County could receive as much as \$367,000, according to projections by the National Association of County Commissioners.

Warren County Manager Glenwood Newsome said this week that a projection of \$125,000 to \$150,000 in additional tax revenues would be realistic for this fiscal year, which began July 1.

The General Assembly in a compromise bill passed last week gave county commissioners throughout the state three options with regard to the half-cent sales tax: (1) They may levy the tax themselves following a public hearing; (2) They may call for a referendum on whether to levy the tax; or (3) They may forego the new tax altogether. Newsome said the Warren County commissioners

will take up the matter at their next regularly scheduled meeting August 1. He indicated that the commissioners are leaning toward the first option. If they take that route, and levy the tax after a public hearing, the county could begin receiving revenues as early as October, Newsome said.

The bill requires county governments to spend at least 40 percent of the revenues from the new tax over the next five years for capital school construction, and 30 percent over the following five years for the same. Municipalities will be required to spend the same percentages on water and sewer projects over the same time periods. After 10 years, there will be no restrictions on how a county uses the tax revenues.

Warren County Schools Superintendent Mike Williams said this week that he would like to see the commissioners consider allocation of all the half-cent sales tax revenues for the schools.

Williams cited needs for capital improvements on, and even replacement of, the county's two middle schools, John Graham in Warrenton and Norlina Middle School.

According to Williams, both of these structures were built over 50 years ago.

Using a figure of \$320,000 in anticipated revenues for the county projected by the State School Board Association, Williams said such revenues would take care of the pressing needs of the school system.

"It would come close to meeting the on-going needs of the system on a pay-as-you-go basis and eliminate the future possibility of financing school buildings, say, on a bond basis, which could wind up costing twice as much," Williams commented.

Under the existing four-cent sales tax, three cents on the dollar is a state sales tax and one cent is a local tax with proceeds shared among county and municipal governments.

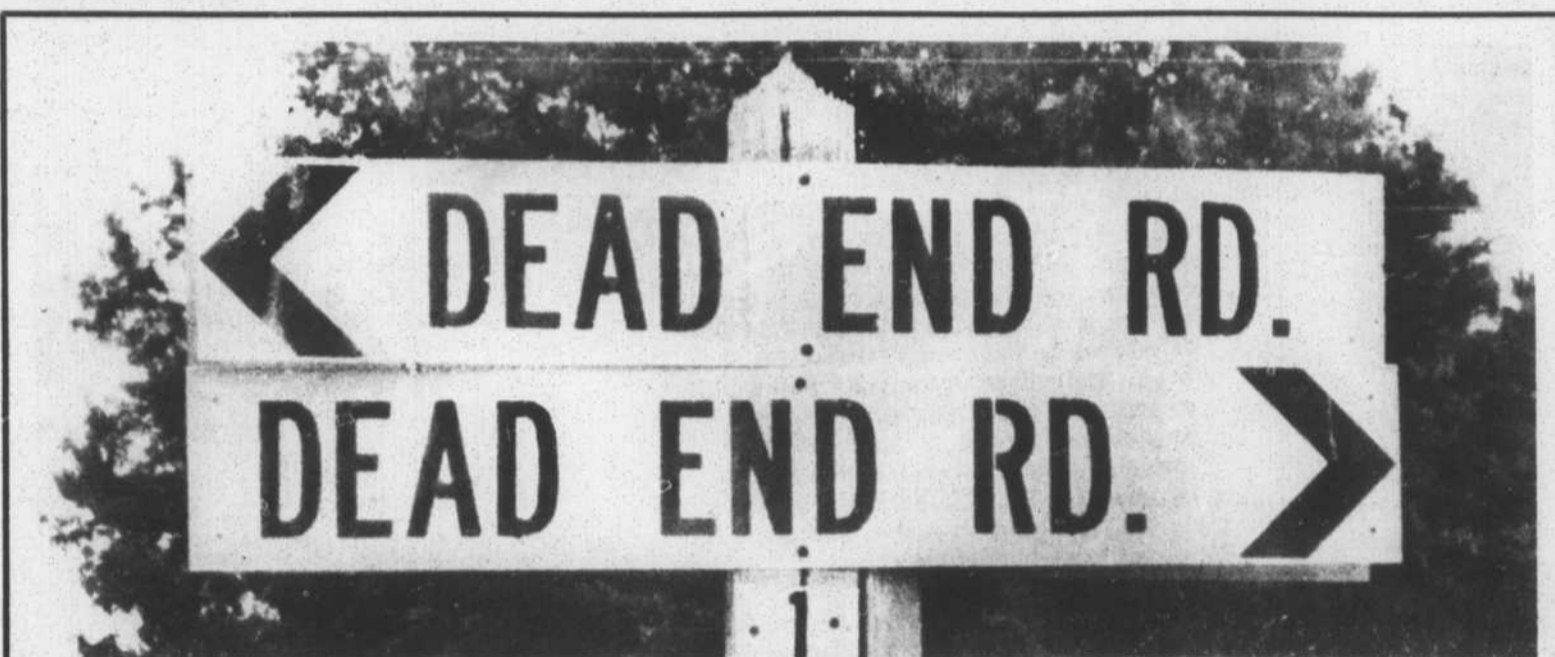
Proceeds from the one-cent local tax are returned to the counties where they are collected.

The formula for the new half-cent sales tax will require collections to be distributed among participating counties according to population rather than sales.

The new distribution method will benefit rural counties like Warren, while proving less beneficial to counties like Wake that have large regional shopping centers pulling consumers across county lines.

The county according to Newsome, now gets between \$25,000 and \$28,000 a month from the one-cent sales tax. The county could stand to gain more from the one-half cent tax than the one-cent tax now returned to the county, depending on the participation by other North Carolina counties.

The total revenue for all counties which could be generated by the new tax would be in the \$104.2 million range in 1983-84 and the \$135.5 million range in 1984-85, according to estimates.



You Can't Get There From Here

If it would seem that a motorist wouldn't know which way to turn, judging from this Vance County road sign, located between Warrenton and Henderson. Actually the unusual sign

gives information about two separate roads, each of which branches off Highway 1001. (Staff Photo)

Gunmen Rob Local IGA; 2 Held

Two Oxford men, charged with armed robbery of a Warrenton grocery store on Tuesday afternoon, were scheduled to be given a 96-hour hearing in Warren County Recorder's Court on Wednesday morning.

Michael Crews, 30, of 307 Mimosa Street, Oxford and John Randolph Crews, 24, of Rt. 3, Ox-

ford, are being held in Warren County jail under \$10,000 bond each following a hearing before Magistrate Stephen Rodwell on Tuesday afternoon.

The two men are charged with the armed robbery of IGA Store on South Main Street about 3 p. m. Tuesday and escaping with \$1,600 in cash.

Within two hours the two men had been arrested.

A spokesman for the Warrenton Police Department said that Police Chief Freddie Robinson arrested Michael Crews on the Henderson Road near the Vance County line soon after the robbery.

Detectives J. T. Jefferson and K. E. Yancey

of the Vance County Sheriff's Department arrested John Randolph Crews on the same road in Vance County about 5 p. m.

The police spokesman did not know if the two men are related.

Officers who took part in the search Tuesday were from the Warrenton Police Department, the Warren County

Sheriff's Department, the State Highway Patrol, the Warren Wildlife Department, the State Bureau of Investigation, the Henderson Police Department, the Norlina Police Department, the Vance County Sheriff's Department, the Vance County ABC officer and the State Prison Camp in Warren County.

Compensatory Funds Given Warren

A compensatory grant has been awarded by the N. C. Legislature to Warren County for the location of a PCB landfill in the Afton area of the county. However the amount granted falls far short of that proposed by Rep. Frank Ballance, a Warrenton attorney.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Ballance requested \$1 million earmarked for industrial recruitment in the county. The Legislature allocated \$100,000.

Warren County Industrial Developer Jim Whitley said yesterday that there were several possibilities for use of the funds, but that his office would have to see the specific wording of the law and the restrictions involved before pursuing any specific possibilities.

The Legislature also passed a law barring the location of two toxic-waste landfills within 25 miles of each other,

guaranteeing that Warren County will not be the site of a second landfill.

In a related development, Warrenton Town Manager Pete Vaughan said this week that reimbursement in the amount of \$2,000 to the town of Warrenton for expenses incurred during the anti-PCB landfill demonstrations would be forthcoming from the state in a few days.

Vaughan said Governor Jim Hunt has approved the reimbursement to be made from the state budget's contingency fund.

The PCB landfill, containing soil tainted with the toxic chemical illegally dumped along 240 miles of North Carolina roadside in 1978, was officially completed last week despite five years of protest and demonstration from county residents.

Drowning Ruled As Death Cause

The Warren County Sheriff's Department was notified early Tuesday afternoon by Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill that the death of Rufus Hargrove, 29, of Middleburg Sunday afternoon was due to drowning.

Hargrove's body was taken to Chapel Hill for an autopsy after he had been pronounced dead at 7:50 p. m. at Warren General Hospital. The cause of death was believed to have been accidental drowning.

According to the Sheriff's Department, the Middleburg man drowned Sunday afternoon as he and a number of friends were seining a farm pond owned by Furney Miller in the Afton Community of Warren County. The pond is reported to be five miles south of Warrenton.

Shortly after 6 p. m. friends noticed that Yarbrough appeared to be tired and disappeared under the water. (Continued on page 13)

Nuclear Dangers Aired

Dump Opposition Is Urged In Wise

By HOWARD JONES

A Warren County resident who has spent five years "fighting the PCB trend" said Monday night that a suggestion that a nuclear waste dump might be placed in the Wise Community "is the most serious problem facing Warren County and North Carolina."

Kenneth Ferruccio, president of the Warren County Citizens Concerned About PCB who has been arrested nine times in connection with protests over the establishment of a PCB dump near his home in Afton, told Wise civic leaders that they must "take a 'no nonsense' position in opposing the nuclear waste dump in Wise because the survival of Warren County depends on you."

Speaking before the regular monthly meeting of the Wise-Paschall Ruritan Club, Ferruccio said the creation of a nuclear waste dump would make Wise "not the kind of place you would want to live in," and he predicted that "death, destruction and suffering" would accompany creation of any dump in Wise.

Ferruccio said that to make Wise "the capital of nuclear waste disposal for North Carolina would be to make North Carolina the waste disposal capital for the Southeast." He urged those in his audience to "begin a program of positive direct action" to fight the projected location.

Ferruccio was invited to Monday night's meeting along with state waste management officials who failed to appear. The meeting was arranged by Ruritan Secretary Pete King after Ferruccio appeared on a lengthy list of places under consideration for a nuclear waste dump which will probably not be built in this decade.

"If they decide to put it in Wise it won't be a scientific decision — it will be a political decision," Ferruccio

charged. He urged Ruritans to join the Concerned Citizens group which he said could serve as a mechanism to fight the location of a nuclear (Continued on page 12)

Sales Begin Aug. 10

Sales on the Warrenton Tobacco Market will begin on Wednesday, August 10.

That announcement was made yesterday by Mrs. Alice R. Robertson, sales supervisor of the Warrenton Tobacco Board of Trade. Mrs. Robertson said other markets on the Middle Belt will begin sales on August 8.

The only sales scheduled for Warrenton during the first week of leaf marketing will be on August 8, she said. Farmers Warehouse will conduct the first sale, beginning at 9 a. m. This sale will be followed by sales at Currins, High Dollar, Centre and Thompsons.

Rites Scheduled Today For Richard R. Davis

Funeral services for Richard Randol Davis, 74, former owner and operator of Warrenton Box and Lumber Company and former Warren County commissioner, will be held Wednesday at 4 p. m. from the Warrenton Baptist Church by the Rev. Gary Parker. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Mr. Davis died Monday morning at Duke Medical Center in Durham following several days of critical illness. He was a native of Warren County and was a resident of Rt. 2, Warrenton.

He was twice married, first to Grace Burroughs, to which union a son was born; and to Mrs. Ida Daniel Martin Davis, who survives him. He was the son of the late Peter Randol Davis and Nellie Buchanan Davis.

When the Warren General Hospital was built around 1948, Mr. Davis was named a member of the Warren General Hospital Board of Trustees and served as chairman of this board for many years. He was member, trustee and former deacon of the Warrenton Baptist Church. He was one of the organizers, a charter member and first president of the Afton-

Elberon Ruritan Club, and a former member of the Warrenton Rotary Club.

Mr. Davis was a member of the board of directors of the Warrenton Citizens Bank and remained on the board when it was consolidated with Branch Banking and Trust Company. He was also a member of the Peoples Bank board of directors in Norlina and remained a member when it was consolidated with Peoples Bank and Trust Company.

He was one of the founders and officials of the Norlina Supermarket, and had other business interests in the county.

Mr. Davis served as a member of the Warren County Ration Board during World War II. He was a member of Johnston-Caswell Lodge No. 10, AF&AM, the Scottish Rite Consistory of New Bern, the Sudan Temple of New Bern and the Warren County Shrine Club.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Ida Daniel Martin Davis; one son, James R. Davis of Warrenton; two brothers, Landon C. Davis and Elmer B. Davis, both of Warrenton; and a granddaughter.

Warren Jurors To Get More Pay

Jurors called for duty from now on can look forward to making more money for their public service.

A pay raise for jurors took effect last Wednesday. Jurors will now be paid \$12 a day, an increase of \$4 per day over previous pay.

The raises, along with increases in other fees paid or required by the courts, were included in the Tax Adjustment Act of 1983 adopted by the N. C. General Assembly. The other adjustments take effect August 1.

Among those other adjustments are an in-

crease in the fee paid to jurors in special proceedings held by the Clerk of Court. That pay is currently \$2 per day. It will rise to \$6 per day.

The cost of a magistrate performing a marriage will rise to \$10 from the current \$5.

Criminal costs of court in District Court will rise \$4 to a total of \$35.

In criminal Superior Court, costs will rise \$2 to a total of \$60. Costs in civil actions, special proceedings, estate matters, and other services will also increase.