

Commissioners Considering Giving Increased Assistance To Schools

Warren County commissioners are considering allocating more than the mandated 40 percent of the proceeds from the newly-enacted one-half percent sales tax for the county's public schools.

Mrs. Eva M. Clayton, commission chairperson, proposed at the regular meeting Monday, that a larger portion be designated for the schools, based on the amount collected.

Warren County School Superintendent Mike Williams, contacted yesterday, said he was "very

pleased" that the commissioners were considering additional funds for the school system.

"From the outset, we've requested consideration (in the disbursement of the tax proceeds) and I'm pleased to hear that our requests have fallen on sympathetic ears."

State statute requires that at least 40 percent of the revenues from the tax over the next five years be allocated for capital school construction and 30 percent over the following five years for the same.

Mrs. Clayton suggested that the commissioners might want to consider as much as 50 to 60 percent for the schools.

County Manager Glenwood Newsome reported that the county may receive as much as \$192,800 from the tax for the remaining fiscal year.

Proceeds from participating counties will be distributed on the basis of population, rather than point of sale.

As of last Thursday, 69 counties had adopted the

tax, and seven were scheduled for decisions this month.

The county will not receive the first proceeds from the tax, which went into effect in Warren County this month, until February.

The county commissioners, who have received several requests for consideration in the distribution of the tax proceeds, have made no decision as yet.



Fireman Walter Gardner of Warrenton stretches a banner across Main Street in preparation for Saturday's Fireman's Day festivities. Main Street will be the scene of a 10:30 a. m. parade of

fire trucks and musical units before firemen switch their activities to the Warrenton National Guard Armory for a barbecued chicken lunch and an afternoon of field events. (Staff Photo)

After Grant Bid Fails

More Aid Sought By Hospital Board

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

The denial of Warren County's application for \$160,000 federal Economic Development Act grant last Thursday brought Warren General Hospital representatives before county commissioners Monday with a request for additional funding.

The grant, along with a \$60,000 local match in county funds, would have meant a total of \$200,000 earmarked for hospital renovation.

Roy Pat Robertson, chairman of the hospital board, requested that the commissioners allocate a portion of the proceeds from the recently-enacted one-half percent sales tax to the hospital.

"At a time when we need more funds, we're

getting cut in operational funds by \$41,000," Robertson said. In this year's budget, the hospital has been allocated \$111,000 from the county. However, \$60,000 has been allocated for roof repair, leaving \$51,000 for operating expenses. Robertson noted that the hospital is left with only \$51,000 in operating funds, as opposed to \$92,000 last year.

"There is upgrading that we need to do," he said. "If we keep the hospital open, we must attract doctors and patients, and to do this we must have a decent building."

County and hospital officials have expressed deep disappointment over the denial of the EDA grant for Warren County.

Newsome told the commissioners that 2,862 applications had been received and that 190 had been considered by the agency. Of this number, 150 were funded. North Carolina projects were funded in Woodland, Mt. Airy, Cherryville, Wilmington, and New Hanover County.

County officials had been extremely optimistic that the ap-

plication would be approved, and as late as last Thursday at 5 p. m. Warren County was still on the list, according to Newsome.

"It's my personal opinion that we were sacrificed for another project," Newsome told the commissioners.

Warren County had been commended by EDA officials for its promptness in responding to requests for information needed to process the grant, and county officials who had recently traveled to Washington to lobby for the grant had returned feeling that Warren County's chances of landing the grant were good.

Chairperson Eva M. Clayton asked if anything further could be done on the county's behalf, but was told by Newsome that only \$44 remained in EDA's contingency fund, and that the project was "dead."

The commissioners took no action on the request for funding by hospital officials, but Mrs. Clayton said the denial of the grant did not mean that the county would not continue to seek funding for the hospital.

Voter Registration Drive Begins Oct. 8

The Warren County Board of Elections will conduct a voter registration drive beginning Saturday, Oct. 8 and continuing through Oct. 22.

Chairman L. C. Cooper reported that the county has 9,229 registered voters out of 11,717 eligible citizens, leaving over 2,000 unregistered voters throughout the county.

Precinct registrars, judges, Board of Elections members and special registration commissioners may register people to vote seven days a week for 52 weeks yearly. Those authorized to register voters are as follows:

Carla B. Williams, Jeanette Newsome, Venetta Grant, Carolyn Adcock, Ruth Warwick, Nina Goode, Elizabeth D. Baskerville, Brenda Y. Keeter, Carolyn Mayfield, Ann Gavin, Edith T. Rooker, Myrtice M. Richardson, Margaret Jordan, Betty Allen, Laurie G. Worth, Susie M. Williams, L. Diane Williams, Alma S.

Short, Sandra Alston, Anna Fuller, Edward Sommerville, Weldon C. Capps, Pearlann R. Pulley, Omelia C. Spruill, Juanita Spruill, Juanita Richardson, Elnora Sommerville, Jessie W. Nicholson, Margaret J. Pettaway, Cornelia W. McGrier, Joseph N. Alexander, Lucy M. P. Alston, Francine A. Alston, Mary E. Alston, Grace Williams, Elizabeth G. Jones, Suzann Bumgarner, Lucille J. Young, Magnolia H. Alston, Thelma B. Davis, Margaret J. Cheek and Mary G. Harris.

Also, Cora Green, Patsy T. Hargrove, T. T. Clayton, Mary D. Williams, Richard Alexander, W. E. Exum, Loyd Hawkins, Odessa Hawkins, Milton Davis, Annie Bullock, Charles Worth, Joyce E. Shearin, Patsy L. Alston, Diane R. Moody, Ronald Hargrove, Helena Hargrove, Betty Wagstaff, Dorsie T. Green, Ann B. Crawford (Continued on page 8)

Hospital Task Force Is Established By Warren County Commissioners

A task force to study the issues and programs affecting the operation of Warren General Hospital was put in place Monday by Warren County commissioners at their regular meeting.

Composed of representatives of county government, the hospital board, private providers, the county health board, HealthCo, Inc., and consumers, as well as two state representatives, the task force was proposed by Commission Chairperson Eva M. Clayton.

According to Mrs. Clayton's proposal, the task force will foster cooperation and greater utilization of the hospital by private physicians currently practicing in the county; will develop a cooperative and joint relationship between the hospital, HealthCo, and the county Health Department; will consider the feasibility of birthing centers and other health program expansion and improvement of the physical facilities at the hospital; and explore the possibility of relationships with other hospitals.

The task force will also fulfill a federal requirement that each county operating a hospital have an advisory board to review changes evolving from the recent restructuring of the Medicare and Medicaid rate schedules.

Mrs. Clayton told the commissioners that she had contacted N. C. Human Resources Secretary Sarah Morrow, who had promised support for the task force from her department.

Those named to the task force are: Mrs. Clayton, Commissioner W. J. Harris, Hospital

Board Chairman Roy P. Robertson and board member Nathaniel Davis, Hospital Administrator Frank Hinson, Drs. D. R. Coffman, James Perry, James P.

Green, and Kirit Trivedi, County Health Director Joe Lennon and board member George Shearin; HealthCo, Inc. representatives Phil

Williams and Mrs. Geneva Fitts; Mrs. Anna Butler, John J. Hawkins, Eddie Clayton, a representative of Carolina Sports-

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Tax Supervisor Tells Board

Irate Calls May Be Forthcoming

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

Warren County tax supervisor Janice Haynes warned Warren County commissioners in their regular meeting Monday morning that they may receive calls from irate taxpayers in coming weeks in connection with the results of a field survey being done for the county by Carroll-Phelps Co. of Winston-Salem.

"The appraisers have been picking up quite a bit that has not been listed," Mrs. Haynes said, referring to improvements to real estate not listed with the tax collector's office. She indicated that some county residents may face bills as high as \$2,000.

In a later interview, Mrs. Haynes said that the appraisers have three more townships to survey,

and that their work may not be completed until next spring.

Her office would like to get as many tax listing updates as possible before sending out tax bills, she said, but indicated that mailings would begin before the end of this year.

Failure to list real estate and improvements thereon involves a penalty of 10 percent for the current year, 20 percent for the preceding year and 10 percent added cumulatively for each year up to five years, excluding the current year. The tax for each year is figured separately, and then all are added together for the total tax due, depending on the number of years involved.

If a property-owner will not tell the tax office when the improvement or addition was made, the tax collector assumes it was made five years ago.



Warren County became \$100,000 richer Tuesday evening when State Representative Frank Ballance (above right) presented Warren County Commission Chairperson Eva M. Clayton and (left to right) Commissioners Jack Harris, George Shearin and Francis Alston with a check from the State of North Carolina. Rep. Ballance sponsored legislation in the last session of the General Assembly which requested \$1 million in restitution to Warren County for the location of a hazardous waste landfill in the Afton area of the county. Although the check, earmarked for industrial development, represent-

ed less than the amount originally hoped for, Rep. Ballance told Warren County commissioners Monday that he intended to sponsor a bill in the next session of the Legislature requesting additional funds. Mrs. Clayton expressed appreciation to Rep. Ballance and the county's entire legislative delegation for their support of the bill. Rep. Ballance noted that Rep. Billy Watkins, who he termed one of the bill's "prime movers," had planned to be on hand for the presentation, but had been detained. (Staff Photo)

Local Firemen Planning Special Events Saturday

Several events are planned Saturday in connection with the county's observance of National Fire Prevention Week.

A parade will begin the festivities at 10:30 a. m. on Main Street in Warrenton.

County and municipal fire departments will participate, along with six departments from outside the county.

Also in the parade will be the Warren County High School Band, the Louisburg Shriners Calliope and the W. C. Steppers.

Lunch will be served following the parade at the National Guard Armory at a cost of \$3.50 a plate. Proceeds from the lunch will go toward (Continued on page 8)

Allen Is Named To Health Post

Irvin M. (Marty) Allen began his duties as a Warren County sanitarian and environmental health coordinator Monday, filling the vacancy left by the retirement of Palmer W. King, according to Joe Lennon, county health director.

Allen, 33, is a native of Warren County and a 1968 graduate of John Graham High School. He received a B.S. degree in geology from East Carolina University in Greenville in 1974, and has studied on the master's level in geology.

He was a soil scientist for Bertie County for six years before returning to Warrenton for family health reasons.

He has most recently been associated with his father in the operation of Warren Auto Parts.

Lennon said he felt the county was "very fortunate" to have someone with Allen's qualifications on board.