



Department of Transportation officials in Warrenton Monday to present the 1984-85 Warren County secondary road improvement program to the county commissioners were not encouraging about prospects for residents of Minnie Yancey Road at Soul City (shown above). Residents have appeared before the commissioners repeatedly to

request assistance in securing the signature of Perdue Industries, property owner on the road, on a petition granting the right-of-way needed for DOT to take over the road. However, DOT officials told the board that it would take \$100,000 for DOT to take over the road and that the traffic on the road did not justify that type of expenditure. (Staff Photo)

Warren Road Help Is Seen

By KAY HORNER
Staff Writer

Almost two miles of secondary roads in Warren County are scheduled for paving under the proposed 1984-85 N. C. Department of Transportation road improvement and construction program presented to Warren County commissioners at their regular meeting Monday.

DOT Division Engineer C. C. Painter and District Engineer S. R. Ross, along with N. C. Board of Transportation member Joe Hamme, made the presentation to the commissioners and explained that they anticipated allocation of at least \$449,782

for work on roads in Warren County, but that the exact amount of the allocation would not be known until the new budget is approved on June 30.

A total of \$195,000 has been earmarked to grade, drain, and pave .57 mile of SR 1318, Vaughan Mill Road near Vaughan, and 1.4 miles on SR 1101, Kimball Road, from U. S. 1 to SR 1100 near Soul City.

Painter told the commissioners that roads are targeted for paving according to a strict priority system in which points are assigned for homes, schools, churches, businesses, and school bus traffic. Volume of traffic on the road and length of the road is also taken into consideration.

Roads are rated every two years by DOT, and a road may move up or down on the priority list depending on how the characteristics of the road have changed, according to Painter.

Several residents of SR 1110, Snow Hill Road south of Norlina, were at the meeting to protest their road's changing status.

"In 1982, we were 21st on the priority list for paving, now we're 24th on that list, and I can remember when we were 18th on the list," Mrs. Jessie Walton told the group. "I think something is rotten in Denmark."

Painter explained that once set, the priority rating cannot be changed without a request by the county commissioners after a public hearing on the matter, but he promised to "look at the road now from a maintenance standpoint" and to try to "add this for spot improvements" in the upcoming budget.

The commissioners received a set-back in their ongoing efforts to help residents of the Minnie Yancey Road near Soul City get their road accepted into the state system for grading and stabilization.

The road, on which six families live, is virtually impassable according to descriptions by residents and County Commissioner George Shearin and Mrs. Clayton.

The residents and the county commissioners have been unsuccessful in attempts to get Perdue Industries, a landowner on the road, to sign the needed right-of-way to allow the state to make improvements.

However, commissioners were told Monday that even with Perdue's signature, the state could not take the road into its system until it is brought up to state standards for acceptance. This would include, it was estimated, at least \$26,000 in gravel alone.

"The Minnie Yancey Road needs attention," Mrs. Clayton told DOT representatives. "You need to do something exceptional and I know creative people can find exceptional ways to do things."

"We have problems we can't address in every county," Painter responded. "It's frustrating."

County Manager Charles Worth told the board he was in contact with Perdue to set up a meeting to discuss the road.

DOT's proposed program also calls for:

—Widening SR 1357 at Lake Gaston from SR 1344 to SR 1352, excluding .51 mile section at Big Stone House Creek (A drag seal will be placed on the entire 2.39 miles of road, including the section at Big Stone House Creek).

—Widening existing pavement and placing drag seal on SR 1200 from SR 1224 at Drewry to SR 1201 (1.1 miles).

—Grading, draining, and stabilizing Dortch Road addition near Ridgeway from SR 1112 to the dead end (.26 mile).

—Grading, draining and stabilizing SR 1136, Pendegrass Road, South of Afton-Elberon from SR 1134 to the dead end (1.2 miles).

The program also calls for an allocation of \$90,000 for spot improvements throughout the county and

For Use By Voters

Warren Board Gives Equipment Buy Study

Warren County commissioners Monday agreed to look into the feasibility of acquiring 12 voting machines after a presentation at their regular meeting by L. C. Cooper, chairman of the Warren County Board of Elections.

Cooper told the commissioners that a California-based company, Aramac Technical Systems, Inc., had offered the county a contract for the machines at a purchase price of \$3,475 per machine with a discount of \$1,025 per machine if the county acted within 30 days.

The county could also have the option to lease the machines for \$8,500 a year at 10.4 percent interest, with the cost of leasing applied to the purchase price.

The county currently has three machines which were bought outright.

ATS could have the machines in operation for the May primary, Cooper said, if a favorable decision were made by the commissioners at their mid-monthly meeting on April 18.

Payment could be postponed until after the 1984-85 budget was in effect in July, Cooper added.

The county has 14 voting precincts, and 15 machines would be needed so that one could be used as a backup.

The machines would not reduce personnel needed at the polls, Cooper said, but would make the polling

operation more efficient and would enable officials to tally results more quickly.

The county manager and county attorney were asked by commissioners to examine the contract offered and

report back at the April meeting.

In other business, the commissioners:

—Approved the use by Warren County 4-H of two Warren County schools as a 10 percent in-kind contribution for

the Community Based Alternatives Grant to conduct a four-week Day Camp June 18 to July 13.

—Approved the transfer of 10 percent from the surplus under the (Continued on page 9)

Groundbreaking Is Set

\$750,000 Grant Received For New Warren Facility

Last week, while county officials were busy putting the finishing touches on plans for groundbreaking ceremonies at the Owens-Illinois plant site near Ridgeway, word came that the county had been awarded \$750,000 from the 1984 Community Development Block Grant program.

The grant was applied for earlier this year by the county with the understanding that proceeds would go to Owens-Illinois as an incentive for their location of a box manufacturing facility here.

The grant was part of \$3.4 million in economic development grants awarded to three counties and six municipalities, and the amount awarded Warren County topped the next largest grant by almost \$200,000.

The grants are awarded on the basis of a competitive scoring system developed by state and local government officials. Each proposed project is rated in the areas of community needs, project design, benefit to low and moderate income persons, other public and private funds to be used for project activities, and the project's consistency with state policies and programs.

Funding is provided from a portion of the state's \$41.5 million federal community block grant allocation for 1984.

According to Jim Whitley, county industrial developer, the grant will be used by Owens-Illinois for the purchase of new equipment for its Warren County location.

Groundbreaking for the \$15 million plant will take place Friday morning at 11 a. m. at the 20-acre site on U. S. 1 three miles south of Norlina. It will be open to the public.

Top officials with the Toledo, Ohio-based company will be on hand, along with county and state officials.

Governor James B. Hunt is scheduled to attend, as well as Second District Congressman I. T. "Tim" Valentine and N. C. Reps. Frank Ballance, William T. Watkins, John T. Chur-

Church and James Crawford.

Governor Hunt also will attend a luncheon in Warrenton following the ceremonies.

In a related item, Paul Keck with the N. C. Employment Security Commission in Henderson, which is recruiting employees for the new plant, said yesterday that more than 300 applications have been

received, with the majority from Warren County.

The company plans to hire about 82 persons initially, and is scheduled to begin operation later this month at a training center at the facility in north Warrenton that formerly housed High Dollar Tobacco Warehouse.

Subdivision Plans Get First Approval

Preliminary plans for a 34-lot subdivision on the north side of Lake Gaston in Warren County were given approval Thursday night by members of the Warren County Planning Board.

The proposed subdivision, to be built on a 27-acre tract owned by Tanglewood Land Company, was described by Marvin Crutchfield, surveyor and engineer from Boydton, Va.

Crutchfield said the proposed subdivision, to be known as Creekside Shores, will be developed in Roanoke Township near the Northampton County border.

Final approval was given plans for a five-lot

subdivision to be built adjacent to State Road 1512 near Grove Hill in Fishing Creek Township. The development will be handled by Scott C. Pittman, Warren real estate developer.

No action was taken on a request that property of Norman E. Booker in River Township be approved for development as a three-lot subdivision. The property, located adjacent to State Road 1344 next to Olive Grove Church, was described on a map whose details were not adequate for approval, planning board members decided. It was tabled for lack of information.

Unemployment Rate Is Down In Warren County

February unemployment rates decreased in Warren and 80 of the state's other 100 counties, according to Glenn Jernigan, chairman of the N. C. Employment Security Commission.

The figures just released reflect a significant drop in unemployment which was 7.6 in February, down from 8.1 percent in January.

Warren County's jobless rate continued to run considerably higher than the state average. Warren's unemployment rate in January was 13.1 percent, as 800 of the county's 6,130 labor force were without jobs.

In February, Warren's jobless rate had dipped to 12.7.

Jobless figures for February for Warren's neighbors showed Vance with a 12.2 jobless rate, Franklin with a 9.2 jobless rate, Halifax with a 12.5 jobless rate and Northampton with a 10.8 jobless rate.

Jernigan noted that employment was up 14,400 over January of this year, and 119,400 over February 1983. More than 2.7 million North Carolinians were employed in February of this year, the highest jobless level for any February during the past 15 years.

Robber Of IGA Given 7 Years

An Oxford man yesterday was found guilty in Warren County Superior Court of the common law robbery of the IGA in Warrenton last July and was sentenced to a seven-year active sentence in the N. C. Department of Correction.

A jury had already been impanelled for the trial when John Randolph Crews, 25,

changed his plea to guilty.

Judge Richard Allsbrook of Roanoke Rapids sentenced Crews and ordered that \$1,446 in recovered property be returned to IGA. The sum of \$82 also recovered was determined by the judge to be the property of Crews as a result of his employment and was ordered. (Continued on page 14)

Eatery Planned

The owners of The Rafters Steak and Seafood House, located off the Country Club Road and serving three meals a day, are planning to open a second restaurant on Main Street in downtown Warrenton, which will serve only breakfast and light lunch.

To be located in the former AAA Gas Company building, the owners hope to be able to open the new facility by April 15.

Sol Fleming, a partner, said this week that The Rafters will continue to serve three meals a day, as well as to serve for local events. He said a name for the new downtown business has not yet been selected.

Jail Needs Seen By Grand Jurors

The Warren County Jail was inspected by a committee of the grand jury gathered here this week and was found in need of considerable maintenance.

In a report submitted to Judge Richard B. Allsbrook, presiding over a session of Warren County Superior Court, the grand jury indicated that the outside of the jail building needs painting, bathroom facilities in the juvenile cell needs repairs, numerous broken win-

dows and screens need replacement, a storage room or shelves are needed for cleaning supplies, an outside light is needed on the east side of the jail and the heating boiler is outdated and contains numerous cracks.

The grand jury report was signed by Betsy S. Brown, foreman of the grand jury. Grand jurors also found eight true bills of indictment at the outset of this week's court session.

Gottschalk Is New GOP Leader

Leland Gottschalk of Afton has succeeded John Hawkins of Warrenton as chairman of the Warren County Republican Party.

Hawkins, who had held the post of the past 12 years resigned in order to "more fully enjoy the fruits of retirement." Hawkins was the first black GOP county chairman in modern times in North Carolina, and had been active in statewide party activities and had served on various state boards.

Gottschalk has been active in Republican political circles in Warren County for many years, and is a former candidate for county commissioner and clerk of court.

Active in civic affairs, Gottschalk has served at community, zone and district levels in the Ruritan organization, and has been active in the American Legion at the local and district level.

Warren County Republicans, meeting several weeks ago at their county convention, passed a resolution thanking Hawkins for his many years of service to the party.