

The Warren Record



William S. Price, director of Archives and History, left, presents to the Rev. Jon Strother, pastor of Hebron United Methodist Church, a certificate acknowledging the listing of the church on the National Register of Historic Places. The presentation was made during homecoming services at Hebron on Sunday. (Staff Photo)

Resolution Of Intent Is Adopted By Board

WGH Step Is Initial

By KAY HORNER
News Editor

Warren County commissioners Monday adopted a resolution of intent to lease Warren General Hospital, the first in a series of actions necessary before the county can fully divest itself of the operation of the 37-bed facility.

Plans call for the hospital to be leased to a non-profit organization of local citizens which will assume responsibility for operation of the hospital as an acute care and skilled nursing care facility with managerial and consultation services provided by Community Memorial Hospital in South Hill, Va.

The schedule, leading to a September 3 date for approval of a final lease arrangement, calls for a public hearing on Monday, July 22 at 7 p.m. at Warren County Courthouse on the resolution and a hearing Thursday, Aug. 22, on the actual proposal from the Community Memorial Hospital.

The Warren County Courthouse was filled to capacity Monday with citizens concerned over the fate of the hospital. Chairwoman of the County Commissioners Eva M. Clayton welcomed the group, but explained that the regularly-scheduled monthly meeting of the board was not a public hearing and that time would be allotted for questions on procedural matters only.

Eddie Q. Clayton, Warrenton businessman and a member of the Hospital Citizen's Advisory Committee, said after the meeting that he felt the majority of those in attendance Monday were concerned over plans by the Vance-Warren Comprehensive Health Plan (HealthCo) of Soul City to open a branch in Warrenton later this summer.

HealthCo, which in the past had three physicians on staff, is being assigned three additional physicians under the N.C. Department of Rural Health's National Health Corps program.

Dr. Deborah Hess, who recently completed a residency in Blackstone, Va., began her duties July 1 and Dr. James Holt, who recently completed a residency at the Medical University of Charleston, S.C., is scheduled to begin his practice here in August. The announcement of the third assignment has yet to be made.

Clayton said he felt there was a need for doctors to be assigned to the hospital, rather than to Vance-Warren Comprehensive Health Plan, and indicated he would like to see two or three doctors (Continued on page 5)



Seven-year-old Jason Stainback and his sister Tiffanie, 10, tied yellow ribbons to the post office boxes at the Ridgeway Post Office last week in a show of support for the Americans taken hostage by Lebanese hijackers. The ribbon was donated by Village Flowers and Frames of Norlina. Parents of the children are Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Stainback of Ridgeway. (Staff Photo)

Warren Could Gain \$2 Million If Mavretic Bill Wins Passage

BY MARY C. HARRIS
Staff Writer

Warren County could realize a gain of more than \$2 million if the state chooses to abolish the property tax in favor of higher sales taxes as proposed in a bill introduced recently in the State Legislature.

Rep. Joe Mavretic, D-Edgecombe, has proposed in House Bill 1315 that taxes on real, personal and intangible property be repealed and that the state sales tax be hiked from three to eight percent. The ex-

tra five percent, plus one-half the revenue derived from the corporate income tax would be distributed to counties on a population-based formula, according to provisions of the bill.

A spokesperson for Rep. Frank W. Ballance, Jr., D-Warren, noted on Monday that Mavretic's bill would mean an additional \$2.7 million for this county, the difference in the projected income from the higher sales tax and the current property tax, based on the county's total assessed valuation for 1985.

Ballance stated his concern Monday before Warren County Commissioners that careful consideration be given a measure proposing change as "radical" as that of Mavretic's bill.

"I would prefer that a study commission be established before it passes either house. If it passes from the House to the Senate we lose our input," Ballance said.

According to information from Mavretic's office, the population-based formula would provide all but eight counties with more revenue than they now receive from property taxes.

Other provisions of the bill would mean:

—Prohibiting local governments from

Funding Approved

The N.C. General Assembly has given final approval to a bill allocating \$400,000 for the establishment of a satellite of Vance-Granville Community College in Warren County.

The bill, which received strong support from the Warren County Industrial Commission and county commissioners, will enable the college to have what President Ben Currin has called a "permanent presence" in Warren County.

Currin has estimated that between 9 and 11 percent of the student body on the main campus is from Warren County.

Locally, classes currently are held primarily in facilities provided by Warren County schools.

Norlina Gets Lower Rate

Norlina taxpayers were assured of a 50-cent tax rate per \$100 valuation for 1985 on Monday evening when the Town Board adopted a budget totalling \$333,273.27.

Town Clerk Mae Gums stated that there was no public response during a hearing scheduled for 7 p.m., and that the commissioners made only minor changes to the preliminary budget.

The tax rate is based on the new valuation of \$13,316,477 for the town of Norlina, the clerk noted, and represents a drop from the 67-cent rate in effect during the last fiscal year.

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Balance Shifts

The political balance of the Warren County Board of Elections tipped in favor of Republicans last week with the reappointment of Republican Edith Brown and the appointment of John J. Hawkins, both of Warrenton.

Also appointed to the board was Democrat Archie Williams of Arcola.

The appointments were among those throughout the state announced last Tuesday by the GOP-controlled State Board of Elections.

A teacher's aide at South Warren Elementary School and John Graham Middle Schools, Mrs. Brown recently graduated from Shaw University with a B. A.

degree in behavioral science. She has been active in county politics and has served as an election judge and precinct registrar.

Hawkins, a former chairman of the Warren County Republican Party, is retired from a career in recreation with the federal government.

Williams, a Warren County native, recently retired from a judgeship in Orphan's Court in Baltimore, Md.

All three will be sworn in at noon on July 16 by Warren County Clerk of Court Richard E. Hunter, Jr.

Outgoing members of the board are Chairman L. C. Cooper and Brenda M. Clarke, both Democrats from Warrenton.

Change In County Auditors Given Approval Of Board

Warren County commissioners voted Monday to change county auditors for the year ending June 30 and accepted a bid of \$6,000 from Garrett, Sullivan and Co., CPAs, a minority Durham firm, for the work.

A bid of \$6,000 was also submitted by Watts, Scobie and McLamb, Inc. of Raleigh, who have audited the county's books for more than a decade, and a bid of \$6,200 was submitted by William L. Stark & Co. of Henderson.

Before the board voted, Warren County Tax Collector Susan W.

Brown urged the commissioners to continue with Watts, Scobie & McLamb.

"We have a good working relationship with them and they have stayed current on governmental accounting procedures," Mrs. Brown said.

She also indicated that a change in auditors could have an impact on the cost of the 1985-86 audit, when for the first time all counties in the state will be required to have a single audit system in place.

In the past, state and federal agencies have conducted their own

audits of accounting procedures for programs where their funds were involved. Under the single audit concept, the county auditor will carry out this function.

Chairwoman Eva M. Clayton commented that the change in auditors was "in no way" a reflection on the work of Watts, Scobie & McLamb, but was an attempt to avoid a "too cozy relationship."

"We want to maintain that presumption of objectivity and to make sure that everybody has a chance at the trough," she said.

The vote to engage the services of Garrett, Sullivan & Company was four to one, with only Commissioner William Skinner voting against the motion. Before that vote, motions by Skinner to retain Watts, Scobie & McLamb and a motion by Commissioner J. T. Fleming to engage William L. Stark & Co. died for lack of a second.

The board also adopted a new building permit fee schedule and inspection fee schedule (Continued on page 5)

Murder Trial Set Here Next Week

The trial of Jeffery Perry, charged in the 1979 murder of Inez merchant Kearney Thompson, is on the docket for next week's session of Warren County Superior Court.

Twenty-five additional jurors have been added to a pool of 100 summoned for the week on orders of Resident Superior Court Judge Robert H. Hobgood.

Because Thompson was well known throughout the county, the pool of jurors was increased to limit the possibility that the pool would be depleted before a jury satisfactory to both prosecution and defense could be seated, according to a spokesman in the Clerk of Court's office.

Perry, 23, was arrested March 27 in Brooklyn, N.Y., ending a six-year investigation by the Warren County Sheriff's Department, SBI and FBI.

A warrant for Perry's arrest was issued in 1979 shortly after Thompson's badly-beaten body was found at his store. Warrenton Attorney T. T. Clayton has been ap-

pointed by the court to represent Perry.

Forty-four other cases are also scheduled on the docket, and five cases are to go to the Grand Jury.

Judge Henry W. Hight, Jr. of Henderson will preside.

Five Are Injured In Warren Wreck

The driver of a vehicle involved in a one-car accident near the Bethlehem community on Sunday was listed in critical condition at a Rocky Mount hospital on Monday afternoon.

Hezzie Earl Reid, 34, of Route 3, Warrenton, remained in intensive care at Nash General Hospital where he was taken following the 3:45 p.m. accident.

Two daughters of the driver were also hospitalized. Felicia Reid, age five, was said to be in stable condition and seven-year-old Tammy Reid was listed in good condition by

hospital spokesperson Bill Stencil.

Also injured in the mid-afternoon accident on Rural Paved Road 1636 were Aileen Reid, 29, and Hezzie Reid, Jr., age three. Both were treated and released at the hospital on Sunday.

According to a report from the State Highway Patrol, Reid was traveling south on the road when his car ran off on the left side, crossed a ditch and struck two trees.

Trooper R. T. Futrell investigated the accident and charged the driver with driving while impaired and driving left of center.



Pictured are new officers of the Warrenton Lions Club who were installed at the regular meeting on Friday evening at the Lions Den. Shown from left to right are Glen Perkinson, director; Howard Daniel, installing officer; Jimmy Roberts, treasurer; G. B. Hull, director; Randolph Garrett, outgoing president; Phil Daniel, president; David Proctor, director; Chip Brame, first vice-president; Clarence Davis, director; and Jack Groves, secretary. (Staff Photo)