

Town Board Holds A Special Meeting Tuesday Evening

Discuss Proposed Budget For New Year; Sidewalk Problem Still Unsolved

Proposed budget figures for the 1951-52 fiscal year along with several baffling problems were discussed at a special meeting of the local town board of commissioners Tuesday evening. No official action was taken and it is likely that the regular session next Monday evening will last well into the night.

Two members of the board could not attend the special session and final action on proposed budget figures and other problems was delayed until a full attendance is present.

The proposed budget figures are similar to those set up for the current fiscal year. However, provisions are being made for changes in insurance coverage and special sinking funds have a place in the proposed budget.

It is proposed to raise \$178,290.04 to finance all town operations during the new year. According to estimates, the proposed \$2 tax rate, based on a \$4,447,002.00 assessed property valuation, will raise about one-half the revenue or \$88,958.04. Water sales are estimated to amount to \$36,000 next year, with the remainder coming from special services and fees.

Petitions, seeking annexation of certain properties just outside of the town's western limits, were studied, and the commissioners saw a big problem staring them in the face. A petition, calling for the present town limit on West Main Street to Sunset Drive or Avenue, was received and tentatively approved early this month, but final legal action is pending in the case. It is now proposed to add a few more acres in that immediate area. Another petition would include just about all of the old fair grounds now owned by D. M. Roberson and about two others.

The petitions were well received, but the commissioners see no way just at this time to extend town services to all the new area, with the limited funds now available. It is possible to extend water and sewer lines to part of the territory, but the commissioners expressed the opinion that service should be made available first to all citizens within the present town limits. It was proposed to meet with the petitioners and discuss the lines and work for an understanding of the conditions.

A knotty problem, the commissioners found, is centered in a parkway on Lee Street between Liberty and Franklin. Property owners petitioned for sidewalks, but some of them want a six-foot space between the four-foot walk and the curb and others want only a four-foot space between the curb and walk. Proponents presented their cases and each has a point. The commissioners are expected to take final action in the matter at the meeting next week.

Home After Long Stay In Richmond Hospital

Mr. W. Amos Perry, prominent county farmer, has returned home after a stay of more than two months in a Richmond hospital receiving treatment.

BIBLE SCHOOL

Preparation day for the Daily Vacation Bible School here will be held in the Methodist church Friday afternoon of this week at 4:00 o'clock. Every boy and girl, ages 4 to 16, inclusive, are invited to be at the Methodist Church at 4:00 o'clock tomorrow.

The faculty is requested to be at the church at 3:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. Originally scheduled at the Baptist Church the school was moved because work on the interior of the Baptist church could not be completed in time.

Crops In Sections Of The County Damaged By Hail

Various field crops, especially corn and tobacco, were damaged by hail in various sections of the county late Tuesday afternoon. Incomplete reports indicate that the major damage was centered in the islands section of Williams Township and in the Poplar Chapel and Angetown areas of Jamesville Township.

One report maintained that corn and tobacco were almost wiped out on the Barber and Griffins farms in Williams Township. All the hail on the Griffin farm had not melted early yesterday morning.

LAST PAYMENT

Installed the latter part of 1948, the 150 parking meters on local streets will become the property of the town when a last payment of about \$450 is made early in June, Treasurer Marion Cobb said today.

The meters cost \$10,257 and the cost has been offset by one-half of the current revenue coming from them. Where the town has been receiving only one-half the income, it will, beginning next month, receive the entire amount.

Former Resident Dies In Hospital

Mrs. E. H. Register, a former resident of Williamston, died in Butner Hospital Tuesday morning following a long period of declining health.

The former Miss Ellender Howard, she was a daughter of the late Samuel and Clarice Davenport Howard. Born in Lenoir County on June 1, 1890, she moved with her family to Williamston three years later. In 1905 she moved to Tarboro and in 1910 located in Rocky Mount. During the past twenty years she had made her home in Whitakers.

Surviving are her husband; a daughter, Clersey Rose Register; three sisters, Mrs. Mary Jane Whitley of Williamston, Mrs. Nannie Roberson of Plymouth and Mrs. Myrt Piland of Portsmouth; two brothers, Sam Howard of Rocky Mount and Furney Howard of Williamston.

Funeral services are being conducted at the graveside in Woodlawn Cemetery here this afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Dr. C. B. Peacock, Baptist minister of Whitakers.

Young Minister Comes To County

The Rev. D. G. Woody, accepting a call from the Roberson Chapel and Bear Grass Presbyterian Churches, will enter upon his new duties Sunday, it was announced by officers of the two churches today.

The young minister is moving into the new manse near Bear Grass tomorrow, and for the present, his mother will keep house for him.

A native of West Virginia, Mr. Woody is moving to the county from Charleston, S. C. He is a graduate of Hampden-Sidney College, and recently was graduated from Union Seminary, Richmond. The young man served in World War II and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge.

He is to preach Sunday morning at the 11:00 o'clock hour in Roberson's Chapel, and that evening at 8:00 o'clock in the Bear Grass church.

Taking Part In Concert At Meredith College

Misses Louise Stewart of Hamilton and Miss Norma Fagan of Dardens are appearing in the Meredith College commencement concert tomorrow evening.

Miss Stewart will accompany Barbara Morris in her soprano solo, and Miss Fagan will be at the piano for a duet performed by Miss Jo Smith, soprano, and Jane Slate, contralto.

Farmer Tommy Hollid The ground was covered in his community and resembled snow.

Some hail was reported on the Hynian and Early farms in Goose Nest Township and hail fell in Williamston, but the damage was slight in the areas. Farmer Early was quoted as saying the hail could not find the little tobacco sprouts on his farm.

With one or two exceptions, most areas in the county reported little or no rain, but farmers declare that the cold weather has caused more crop damage than the dry season.

Leading County Citizen - Farmer Died Yesterday

W. Gray Keel Funeral Will Be Held Friday At Oak City Home

Wiley Gray Keel, prominent Martin County citizen and a leading farmer of the Oak City community, died at his home here yesterday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock following an illness of only a few weeks. Suffering an attack of pneumonia, he entered a Tarboro hospital for treatment. He recovered from the pneumonia attack, but the ailment weakened his condition and that with the infirmities of his advanced years invited complications from which he never rallied up until he suffered the pneumonia attack which was unusually active for one his age, taking an active interest in his farm, religious activities and the affairs of the day.

The son of the late Wiley and Emma Ward-Keel, he was born in Pitt County 86 years ago on March 25, 1865, and spent most of his life there. About a quarter century ago he purchased a farm in this county, locating near Oak City. He spent his early life on the farm, and at the age of twenty-one he engaged in the timber business in Pitt and Martin Counties for fourteen years, returning to the farm at the end of that time.

Mr. Keel was married six times. His first marriage was to Minnie Cobb of Old Sparta in 1887 who died within two years. In 1889 he was married to Molly Staton of Bethel. His third marriage was to Alma House of Stokes in 1926. Following her death he was married to Melissa Worsley of Oak City in 1927. He was married to Trulah Ward of Williamston in 1940, and in January of this year he was married to Laura Carr of Greene County and she survives.

Also surviving are a son, Howard Keel of Bethel; a half-sister, Mrs. Will Carson of Bethel; a half-brother, Vann Staton of Greenville, and four grandchildren, Mrs. Dorothy Woodworth of Oak City, Miss Rebecca Keel of Bethel and Pats. Samuel Gray and Francis Keel, both stationed at Camp Stewart, Ga.

Mr. Keel was a respected citizen and a thoughtful neighbor. He was a devoted follower of the Primitive Baptist Faith, one who went about doing good and befriending others.

Funeral services will be conducted at the home Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock by Elder Denison of Rocky Mount, and the Rev. J. M. Perry of Robersonville and the Rev. Olin G. Fox of Hassell. Interment will be in the Bethel Cemetery.

Officers Destroy Two Large Stills

Martin County ABC Officers Roebuck and Powell, assisted by Pitt County ABC Officers Ward and King wrecked a large illicit distillery in Griffins Township yesterday morning. The plant was equipped with a 200-gallon submarine type still, 28 fermenters, two 50-gallon doublers and a 100-gallon cooling box. The officers poured out 1,400 gallons of sugar mash and confiscated 150 pounds of meal and thirty gallons of oil.

Tuesday, the ABC officers in this county destroyed a 100-gallon drum still and poured out 250 gallons of sugar beer at a plant in Bear Grass Township.

Finals Program Held Last Night In Local School

Dr. R. Lee Humber Delivers Address To Graduates And Friends

"You hold the answer to the world's problems in your hands," Dr. Robert Lee Humber told forty-nine graduates last night in an address marking the last in the series of the 1951 commencement events in the local school. The speaker, a world citizen who has devoted considerable time, talent and means in behalf of World Federation, was heard by a capacity crowd.

Pointing out to the young graduates that they had acquired citizenship in the Republic of Letters, Dr. Humber, as an older brother, welcomed them into the great fraternity, adding that he was certain they were starting out with a great inspiration to discharge the responsibilities of life.

He said that young graduates experience two of life's supreme emotions—triumph and dedication. "I say for the first, well done and God speed," he said.

"Four years ago you held a fragile candle. If you continue to cultivate that light it may become a beacon, but you can bury it under a bushel," the speaker warned, and urged the graduates to accept the challenge of the unachieved, to take from their heritage the unnumbered torch that has been handed to them and keep it burning.

Declaring that they possessed an unconquerable asset in youth, he urged the graduates to treat it with indulgence and remain spiritually young. He pleaded with the young people not to let down those who had built before them, and urged them to take time out and confer with themselves, to evaluate those things that are right and to have courage in meeting the inevitable.

Recalling that our ancestors had courage, Dr. Humber told about Cranmer, archbishop of Canterbury, who with Latimer and others were burned at the stake as heretics in London in 1556. "They were told that if the individual were allowed to interpret the Bible there would be chaos," the speaker said, adding that they were tried but would not change their stand and were finally turned over to the mob to be burned to death. "They had courage, and today there stands on that spot a souvenir, serving as a shrine for courage and loyalty. You have inherited that courage, and I urge you to have the courage of your convictions," he said. The speaker also referred to courage demonstrated by a coast guard crew.

"Warned of the impending danger of their mission, the captain of the guard replied, 'We have to go,'"

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Jaycees Sponsor Beauty Pageant

The Williamston Junior Chamber of Commerce will sponsor their Sixth Annual Beauty Pageant this year on Wednesday, June 20, and the girls participating will compete for the title of "Miss Williamston, 1951". The winner will go to Burlington, N. C. to enter the finals in the North Carolina State Beauty Pageant to be held in that city on July 20 and 21. The winner of the title, "Miss North Carolina, 1951" will go on to Atlantic City, N. J. to compete for the title of "Miss America."

Much interest has been displayed by local girls in this annual event and the Jaycees have appointed Ernest Mears and Exum Ward as co-chairmen of the affair. The chairmen have declared that about 15 girls are already in the running, and interest in the pageant should produce about 25 girls to compete for the title, "Miss Williamston, 1951".

This year's pageant, like those held in the past, will be climaxed by a big dance, to be held in the High School Gym.

Plans are going forward rapidly and indications are that the Sixth Annual Jaycees' Beauty Pageant will be the biggest and best yet produced.

Handled Fifteen Cases In County Court This Week

Judge Johnson Imposes Fines In Amount of \$325 And Clears Docket

Handling fifteen cases, Judge R. T. Johnson and Solicitor Clarence Griffin cleared the docket and adjourned the last Monday session of the Martin County Recorder's Court before noon. The court had been working for several weeks to catch up with the work accumulated during the period the superior court was in session in April.

Fines were imposed in the total amount of \$325 and several road sentences were meted out, but all were conditionally suspended.

Proceedings: Charged with hit-and-run driving, Curtis L. Cherry pleaded not guilty. Adjudged guilty of reckless driving, he was fined \$25, plus costs.

Lonnie Harry Moore and James Wiggins, charged with operating trucks with excessive load limits, were found not guilty.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, Willis M. Bullock was fined \$100, taxed with the cost and lost his license to operate a motor vehicle for twelve months.

Clarence Bowen, charged with assaulting a female, maintained his innocence, but was adjudged guilty. The court suspended a six-month road sentence on condition that he pay the cost and not assault his wife during the next two years.

Charged with carrying a concealed weapon and an assault with a deadly weapon, Johnnie Thomas Mobley pleaded guilty of carrying a concealed weapon. Judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs.

Pleading guilty of allowing an unlicensed driver to operate a motor vehicle, Elijah Council pleaded guilty and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Charged with bastardy, Willie Highsmith pleaded guilty and was sentenced to the roads for six months. The road term was suspended upon the payment of the costs and the defendant is to pay \$5 each week for the support of his child.

Jimmie Core, charged with violating the health laws, was sentenced to the roads for six months. A victim of tuberculosis, Core apparently had not intended to violate any law, and the action apparently was taken to make it possible for him to get treatment in some institution.

Charged with operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license, Laura Council pleaded guilty and was fined \$25, plus costs.

Pleading guilty of drunken driving, J. Roy Pearson was fined \$100, taxed with the costs and lost his license to operate a motor vehicle for one year.

James Gus Hodges was sentenced to the roads for thirty days for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license. The road term was suspended upon the payment of a \$25 fine and costs.

Pleading guilty of issuing a worthless check, A. D. Umphlett was directed to pay the court costs and the amount of the check.

B. Benjamin Brown was fined \$25, plus costs for operating a motor vehicle without a driver's license.

Charged with speeding, Saverio Soccorso of Hyannis, Mass.

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THE RECORD SPEAKS . . .

Motorists, traveling highways and streets in this county, keep boosting vehicle accident figures to shocking proportions.

The following tabulations offer a comparison of the accident trend: first, by corresponding weeks in this year and last and for each year to the present time.

21st Week				
Accidents	In'd	Killed	Dam'g	
1951	4	0	0	\$ 310
1950	2	1	0	225
Comparisons To Date				
1951	107	41	1	\$24,745
1950	61	33	0	14,643

Large Damage Suits Filed In Court Here

Five Plaintiffs Asking \$62,174.50 Wreck Damages

Additional Suit For \$50,000 Expected To Be Filed In Court Shortly

Five damage suits, totaling \$62,174.50 and growing out of three automobile accidents on the highways and streets in this county, were filed a few days ago in the superior court here. Unofficial reports maintain that another suit for possibly \$50,000 will be started in the same court within a short time.

Mrs. Margaret Pearce Revels, critically injured in a freakish accident last March 27, is asking \$35,000 damages in her case against Vincent J. Ferris, chairman of the New York State Liquor Commission and a resident of Brooklyn.

In her complaint, filed by Attorney Clarence W. Griffin, Mrs. Revels says that she was a customer in Pearce Brothers Store at Corey's Cross Roads on the afternoon of March 27, and explains that she was leading against the counter when the defendant's car went out of control and crashed into the side of the store, pushing the side in several feet and knocking the counter against her. The plaintiff says her back was broken either by the counter or falling can goods knocked from the shelves against the store wall. After a stay of seven and one-half weeks in the hospital, the plaintiff says she still suffers pain and is unable to do any kind of work.

The defendant, accompanied by his wife, was driving his 1949 Oldsmobile south on Highway 17 and was approaching the Corey's Cross Roads intersection when a truck owned by T. L. Roberson and Son started to make a left turn. In the complaint it is alleged that the car was traveling at an excessive speed, that after hitting the front bumper of the truck the machine went out of control, traveled some little distance and crashed into the side of the store.

Last reports from New York stated that the defendant had undergone two operations and was able to be out, but that Mrs. Ferris continues in the hospital.

It was unofficially learned that Ferris is bringing suit for \$50,000 damages against the owners-operators of the log truck figuring in the accident. However, no complaint has been filed in the court in this county or anyplace else, as far as it could be learned here.

Ora Lee Lanier and her sister, Viola Jean Lanier, 10, through their next friend, Inez Lanier, are suing Grover Peel, driver, and James Lloyd, owner of the 1939 Chevrolet which ran them down on Highway 64, about five miles southeast of Williamston, for \$10,674.50. The little girls were walking beside the highway with a ditch separating them from traffic early in the evening of November 23, 1950, when Grover Peel, allegedly in a reckless and careless manner, swerved the old car and ran the children down, fracturing Ora Lee's skull and inflicting other serious injuries, and breaking Viola Jean's left arm and both bones in one leg. Many have not figured it out, but the defendant Peel was cleared in

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Walter Burden Dies In Windsor

Mr. Walter Jordan Burden of Windsor, father of Mr. Jack Burden of Williamston, died of a heart attack yesterday morning at 6:30 in the Windsor clinic following ten days of illness.

Funeral services will be conducted Thursday afternoon at 3:00 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church by the Rev. Mr. Underhill. Interment will be in Edgewood Cemetery.

MAKING PROGRESS

The drive against mosquitoes, launched by the town a few days ago, is making splendid progress, it was reported today.

"Billions of the pests have been destroyed and breeding and harboring places have been upset," one of the workers in the mosquito control program declared.

About 16 barrels of DDT is being used and the control program is being centered around the edges of town. Houses are being sprayed and oil and DDT are being dumped into breeding and harboring places. Residents can materially help the program by clearing away tin cans and eliminating breeding places for the pests, it was pointed out.

Numerous Pupils Get Recognition In Local School

Awards Announced Yesterday Morning At Special Program

Faithfulness, individual achievement and other virtues were recognized at a special awards day program held in the local school yesterday morning when certificates and special awards were delivered to several hundred students.

The awards were announced, as follows:

Attendance: Lee Glenn, Jr., Ann Harrison, Mollie Biggs, Joyce Lilley, Sallie Crisp, Grady Godard, Jr., Maeana Willard, Phyllis Jones, Sarah Harrison, Don Christopher, Jerry Sherrill, Janice Savage, James Barnes, Jon Clark, George Casper, Jr., Peggy Roberson, Melva Winn, Jessie Marie Corey, Anne Louise Bland, Tommy Harris, William Moore, Eddie Harrison, Maggie Williams, Janice A. Manning, Calvin W. Chesson, Joyce F. Bowen, Melvin McKeel, Nelson Quinn, Ralph Parker, Virginia Price, Theresa Modlin, Wilber Stewart, Pattie A. Williams, Sally Roberson, Marie Peele, Wanda Glenn Jones, Margaret Barber, Helen Christopher, Mona Ellene Smithwick, Joseph Clayton, Alexander Jones, Jr., Raymond McKeel, James Rawls, Martha Robertson, Patricia Harrison, Mary Louise Jones, Jean Coltrain.

Brenda Edmondson, Linwood Davenport, Billy Gurkin, Gene McBrin Hardison, Pattie Mae Holliday, Anne Oakley, Frankie Nicholson, Hannah Glenn, Joyce Moore, Marcia Speller, Gayle Taylor, Shelton Gurganus, Billy Wynne, James Whitfield, Rodney Revels, Russell Bland, Carolyn Coltrain, Burton Jenkins, Ralph Yeatts, Charles Banks, Ralph Bowen, Ira Price, Harvey Whaley, Betty Gray Boyette, Hannah Goddard, Rebecca Perry, Barbara Roberson, Gene Leggett, William Clyde Griffin, Helen Faye Abernathy, Dorothy Jean Bowen, Patricia Bowen, Rebecca Gurganus, Peggy Hughes, Carla Ann

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Summer School Planned For Students Of WMS

Principal B. G. Stewart has announced that a summer school is being organized at the high school this summer and those interested in making up work which they failed in during the past school year are asked to get in touch with Mr. Stewart at his office in the high school during the morning hours not later than Monday.

Those who find it more convenient may get in touch with Mr. Carlyle Cox, also between today and Monday.

Principal Stewart said he felt the organized school would save parents considerable money over the usual individual instruction method which has proven rather expensive, especially where children take more than one subject.

Achievement Cups Awarded In Local School Last Night

Two Young Ladies In Even Tie For Scholarship Award

Williamston's high school commencement program reached a fitting climax last evening when winners of the various achievement cups were announced, most of them for the first time. The winners received warm applause from the large crowd that had reported early for the last in the series of commencement events.

Making the scholarship award or valedictory cup, J. C. Manning, superintendent of county schools, said that a unique situation had developed, that Misses Elizabeth Griffin and Harriet Ward both had averaged during their four years in high school 95.9, and that the honor was divided. The school man said that twelve of the forty-nine graduates had averaged 90 or more during the four years in their studies.

The Home Economics achievement cup was awarded by Miss McDaniel, teacher, to Miss Verle Leggett for outstanding work in that department.

Making the Woman's Club award to Coach Stuart Maynard, Mrs. J. B. Sumner, representing the club, explained that the athletic association had done most for the school during the year just ended.

In the absence of R. H. Goodmon who was called away on business, Mrs. Goodmon presented the athletic award to Jack Edwards, the young man who had figured prominently in the school's victory record.

Declaring he had made an enviable scholastic record in the eighth grade, Miss Ann Carson, teacher, presented the Jr. Woman's Club award to Edward Robertson.

While forming no monopoly, Miss Verle Leggett worked her way a second time to the stage for an award, Mrs. Peggy Hopkins Gray presenting her with a cup for outstanding accomplishments in the school's commercial department.

Debating, holding a secondary spot in the curriculum for such a long time, came in for recognition last night when V. J. Spivey, president, presented the Kiwanis Club's forensic cup to Ernest Taylor.

Diplomas were presented by R. L. Coburn, school committee chairman, to the following graduates:

Doris Mae Andrews, Millie Jean Bailey, Genevieve Bonds, Robert Holmes Clayton, Edna Lee Coltrain, Reginald Wyatt Coltrain, Helen Louise Corey, Charlie Benjamin Cullipher, Jr., Raymond DeLeon Davis, Jr., John Henry Edwards, Jr., Jack Norman Gray, Lila Rose Gray, Anna Marie Griffin, Charles Thomas Griffin, Diantha Elizabeth Griffin, John Duffy Hines, Betsy Page Horton, Barbara Charles Jackson, Lona Mae Johnson, Norwood Saunders Keel, Jane McNeill King, Nancy Penelope Koonce, Mary Lou Lee, Mary Carolyn Leggett, Oneta Verle Leggett, Sarah Elizabeth Manning, Walter Travis Martin, Jr., Berry Jean McLawhorn, Elmo Dekle Mims, James Edgar Myers, Donald Thomas Parsons, Alice Jeannette Peaks, Bessie O'Neal Pearce, Martha Harriett Peele, Rhoda Fay Peel, Albert

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COUNTY BOARD

Very little new business is on the calendar for discussion when the Martin County Commissioners hold their regular monthly meeting next Monday. Clerk J. Sam Getzinger said that no action could be taken on the 1951-52 budget until the figures are in for the month of June.

Considerable time will be spent handling routine matters, it was explained.