



THE NEWS RECORD

SERVING THE PEOPLE OF MADISON COUNTY

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By \$100,000 For Next Year

Budget Cuts Foreseen In County Outlook

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

County Commission chairman James Ledford announced to those assembled at the commission's January meeting that about \$100,000 would need to be cut from the county's budget for the next fiscal year. "I'm going to be recommending cuts — a freeze in hiring. We're going to have to tighten belts in all departments," Ledford said.

Ledford's comments followed a brief financial report by county finance officer David Caldwell for the second fiscal year quarter ending Dec. 31. While the county is operating in the black, the talk of future budget cuts stems from anticipated cutbacks in federal and state allocations to the county under the new presidential administration. Ledford said he would be making his recommendations in the coming months.

"We are going to do whatever is necessary to keep the taxpayers of Madison County solvent so they can pay their taxes," Ledford said.

During Caldwell's report to the commissioners, the board approved the auditing contract to Green, Skidmore and Smith for \$6,900. (A detailed six-

month county budget financial report will be published in next week's News-Record).

In other business, the commissioners approved the hiring of Franklin R. Schutz of Asheville as consulting engineer to work with the county's proposed on-site sewage treatment facilities project. According to Ledford, the project is "a way to provide septic tanks for homes in Madison County with federal money." The application for the federal funds was submitted last February to the Environmental Protection Agency which will provide 75 percent of the money. Ledford said the county needed a sanitary/environmental engineer to accompany him to a pre-application conference in Raleigh this month.

In a report from Louanne Roberts, acting director of the county's Day Care Centers, Ms. Roberts stated 118 children were enrolled in the four centers. She said most of the centers were underpending in their budgets, and the centers had collected \$1,273 from staff members for purchased lunches. The lunches cost the staff members one dollar.

Ledford said he "had lots of com-

plaints" about the teachers having to pay for their lunches, and a motion was made and passed to cease charging Day Care Center workers for the meals.

Acting Tax Supervisor, Mildred West reminded the board that an April date needed to be set for a Board of Equalization and Review hearing. The board promised a date for the hearing by the next commission meeting. Mrs. West requested payment to tax listers to help defray cost in their work, and board member Ervin Adams suggested the county "pay them for every name on the books" that they work with. It was decided that the listers would be paid 65 cents per listing. A discussion followed concerning tax listing by mail for next year, and the commissioners polled the audience finding a majority in favor of the mail listing method. The board said they would work toward implementing the method for next year.

In a report on the county's CETA program, Darlene Cody stated the S.O.S. employment program has 50 participants, the Youth Work Experience program has 15 youth working with positions available for 28 more, and the Public Service Employment Program currently has 13 people enrolled. Chair-

man Ledford announced that he would continue serving as the director of the CETA program with Ms. Cody as his assistant.

The commissioners made appointments to a new board, the Madison County Industrial Facilities Pollution Control Financing Authority. Persons appointed to the board and their terms are: Myrtle Ann Ray, 2 years; Joe Justice, 2 years; Leonard Baker, 4 years; Jerry Plemmons, 4 years; Frank Moore, 6 years; Auburn White, 6 years; and Ernest Snelson, 6 years.

In a letter from Gov. Jim Hunt concerning the state's Balanced Growth Policy, the county was notified that Mars Hill, Marshall and Madison County have been designated as "growth centers" in the state. Chairman Ledford indicated this designation should help Madison County from the state level in the future.

Mr. Harold Wallin, county tax collector, reported to the board that \$514,063.47 in taxes had been collected through the month of December. After a brief executive session held with Wallin, the board announced the hiring of Jan Caldwell as Wallin's assistant in the tax department.



ACTING TAX SUPERVISOR Mildred West discusses payment for tax listers and the possibility of listing by mail next year at commissioner's meeting.

Marshall Aldermen Hear Water Woes



GARY McGILL, consulting engineer with Butler Associates of Asheville, discusses the work involved in laying a new waterline to the top of Roberts Hill Road with Mayor Lawrence Ponder and Marshall aldermen.

Residents of Roberts Hill Road in Marshall flooded the Board of Aldermen's January meeting with unfavorable comments about the poor quality of water and low water pressure they are experiencing in their homes.

"The quality of water is really very poor right now," Julian Carver told Mayor Lawrence Ponder.

Ponder assured the homeowners that the town would correct the problem and would begin working on the situation within a week.

The residents complained of extremely low water pressure during the evening dinner hours and said iron rust deposits were present in the water. The aldermen said the two-inch water line which serviced the area from North Walnut Creek Road to the top of Roberts Hill Road is 53 years old, corroded and outdated. Mrs. Clyde Roberts told the aldermen that "for the last two months, you just can't depend on water."

Mayor Ponder said the most obvious remedy to the situation would be to replace the two-mile stretch of waterline with six-inch polyvinyl chloride pipe. Cost estimates on the project run up to \$70,000, but Ponder told the board the town could afford

the installation of the new pipe if repayment of the funds could be spread out over the next two or three years.

The mayor said the town could use its timber funds for the work and reimburse the timber fund with revenue sharing funds the town will receive during the next two years.

The Town of Marshall maintains its timber fund through the sale of timber from 600 acres of land along Walnut Creek. The town's water supply is provided from four wells; two located on Walnut Creek and two located on the west side of the river in Fortner Hollow.

In another matter the aldermen discussed finding a tenant to rent 4,500 square feet of space on the second floor above the Town Hall office and the fire department. Aldermen said the town is willing to remodel the facility, but the rent must be adequate to pay for the remodeling over a reasonable period of time.

Mayor Ponder reported to the board that the county "has given the recreational park back to the town to run." Ponder stressed the need to find funds to operate the park in the future.

Alderman S.L. Nix brought up the subject of the

deteriorating condition of the city cemetery. "We've got to get it fixed up," Nix emphasized. He said the town couldn't go on letting it stay in a state of disrepair. He told the aldermen the major work would involve using a backhoe to clean out bushes that have grown up in the cemetery, and the next step would be sewing grass.

The town had consulted with city attorney Charles Mashburn who informed the aldermen that the town can sell lots or burial plots in the facility. Charles Crowe repeated his statement from a previous board meeting that the town "needs to set up a fund in the budget to perpetuate the maintenance" of the cemetery. The aldermen said they hoped work on the cemetery could begin in mid February.

In the final action of the Monday night meeting, the aldermen approved a motion to provide gasoline expenses to two Town police officers for attending criminal justice school at A-B Tech. Officer Mack Revis explained to the board that he and another officer would be driving to Asheville four nights per week for four months in order to upgrade their training.

Gudger To Practice Law, Serve On Committee

The formation of a new law firm serving Western North Carolina was announced last week by former U.S. Rep. Lamar Gudger.

Gudger, a two-term Democrat from the 11th North Carolina District who was unseated in November by Republican William M. "Billy" Hendon, said he expects to spend a good part of the coming year in Washington as a House committee staff member.

Asked if he had any desire to seek public office again, Gudger said: "Who knows? Political ambition is usually a product of circumstances."

"But right now I am more concerned with rebuilding my law practice."

The new firm will be a merger with attorneys Joseph C. Reynolds and Martin L. Nesbitt Jr., with Gudger as the senior partner, and will include William

M. Patton, David M. Ganly and John R. Dillard as associate members.

The principal office will be at 1 Oak Plaza in Asheville. Gudger said he will retain his old Asheville office listing, 253-0766, as well as the firm's 253-5671.

Gudger said he will serve as counsel, drawing on experience gained from four years as a member of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

"The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, one of 22 standing House committees, has broad and significant jurisdiction in areas in which I have gained some knowledge," he said. "My duty will principally involve work with the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment."

Hendon Takes Oath

William M. "Billy" Hendon was sworn in Jan. 5 as the new 11th District representative from North Carolina.

Hendon, along with 52 other new Republican members of the 435-member U.S. House of Representatives, took the oath of office at 1:35 p.m. following the election of the House leadership.

"You are now a member of Congress," said Rep. Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill (D-Mass.), who was elected to a third term as House speaker.

Hendon, along with 182 other GOP House members, voted for Robert Michael (R-III) as House speaker, but O'Neill won with 234 votes.

Asheville businessman John Veach Sr. and Bruce Briggs, Hendon's campaign chairman, were also with the Hendon party.

Hendon's new offices are located at 212 Cannon House Office Building in Washington. He had been working out of temporary office space on loan from Rep. Gene Johnston (R-N.C.), another freshman congressman.



Rep. Bill Hendon

Eleventh district constituents should contact the district office in the Asheville Mall at 299-9437. The local office also has a toll free number: (800) 222-5840.

Mars Hill Town Council

Town Needs Public Service Vehicles

By SCOTT FITZGERALD

The January meeting of the Mars Hill Town Council focused on immediate needs. The council heard its last open hearing in the Longridge project, granted under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that will provide funds to improve and develop targeted, substandard housing areas in the community.

The funds granted by HUD for the project will amount to approximately \$635,000, and will be used for housing improvement, septic tank installation, and road and sewer service. These developments will be allotted for improvement of the existing conditions and not for beautification.

Another need discussed by the council concerned the con-

ditions of the public service vehicles used by the fire and police departments. Carl Eller, treasurer of the council, said the town's only police car was in constant need of repair. Maintenance needs such as brakes, cooling system, and major engine repairs were required. Also the car has close to 90,000 miles logged on it which makes its reliability questionable.

Vice-mayor, Gordon Randolph reported, "The present fire truck will require a great deal of modification to meet inspection standards for future use." The truck is outdated and modification would be just as costly as buying a new truck.

The council decided to allot funds for the purchase of vehicles but more discussion

on costs and benefits will have to be heard before exact monies can be distributed. The council did remark that it was still operating within the budget this year. Mayor Powell said, "The town may still be able to purchase new vehicles and stay within our budgeted finances."

The council also announced the winners of its annual Christmas lights decoration contest. The winners were judged in appearance and show of spirit. The winners were Dennis Hill, 1st place, \$25; Dr. Harley Jolley, 2nd place, \$15; and Frederick Anderson, 3rd place, \$10.

The council expressed appreciation to everyone who participated in making the town more beautiful during the Christmas season.

On the inside . . .

Skiing Thrives In Madison County See Scott Fitzgerald's Story And Photos, Page 3.

Alley Named As Hunt's Liaison

Gov. Jim Hunt officially appointed Zeb Alley to be his personal lobbyist in the 1981 General Assembly last week, an announcement that was no surprise to Western North Carolina political observers.

Hunt announced from his office in Raleigh that Alley, a Waynesville attorney, will serve as his legislative liaison leader in both the House and the Senate.

Alley will be paid \$30,000 for the session, which could run

into late spring or early summer, Hunt's office said.

There were strong indications last month that Hunt, beginning his second four-year term as governor of North Carolina, would tap Alley for the legislative post.

A former state senator himself, Alley also has strong ties with the 120-member House of Representatives.

Rep. Liston B. Ramsey of Marshall, who will be installed as speaker of the House for the

1981 session next Wednesday, is a close friend of Alley.

Ramsey and Rep. Ernest H. Messer of Canton represent the four-county 44th House District made up of Haywood, Jackson, Madison and Swain counties.

Alley was a state senator in 1971 and has served for the past four years as a member of Hunt's Alcoholic Beverage Control Board.

During his term in the Senate, Alley sponsored the

bill lowering the voting age from 21 to 18, and was the author of the portion of Gov. Bob Scott's environmental protection package eliminating conflicts of interest for members of the old Board of Water and Air Resources.

Alley, 53, a native of Sylva, attended Haywood County public schools and earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina.

An Army veteran of Korea,

Alley received the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star and is a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Alley follows another Western North Carolinian, former Rep. John S. Stevens of Asheville, as Hunt's legislative liaison.

Stevens, also an attorney, served as Hunt's legislative lobbyist during the 1979 General Assembly.