

County Commissioners Consider Five-Cent Property Tax Increase

By ROBERT KOENIG

The Madison County Board of Commissioners gave tentative approval to a five-cent increase in the property tax rate during their monthly meeting Monday afternoon in Marshall. The tax rate for the upcoming fiscal year was not officially set during the meeting, however.

The commissioners have scheduled a public hearing on the 1985-86 budget for next week. At that time, a proposed budget for the upcoming year will be unveiled. The hearing is scheduled for June 10 at 3 p.m. in the auditor's office in the county courthouse.

The commissioners gave tentative approval to the five-cent increase to allow budget officer David Caldwell to write up the budget. Caldwell gave a report to the commissioners during a

work session held during Monday's meeting.

Caldwell told the commissioners that he had received budget requests totalling \$3,921,000 from county agencies for the upcoming fiscal year. The finance officer said it would require a 51.55 percent tax increase in order to fill all the requests for funding submitted by county agencies.

The Madison County Board of Education had earlier submitted a budget request of \$1,594,928.55 for the 1985-86 fiscal year, including a capital expense budget of \$332,000 for new computers, a school activity bus and additional classroom construction at Marshall Primary School.

Caldwell told the commissioners that increasing the county property tax rate five cents per \$100 appraised

valuation would enable the county to increase the school budget by \$75,000 over the 1984-85 allocation of \$625,000.

The commissioners agreed to the \$75,000 increase in the school budget, but said that the Board of Education would have to take over funding for the In-School Suspension program at Madison H.S. Caldwell said the county contributed some \$12,000 to the program's operation in the current fiscal year.

School officials expressed disappointment at the announcement of the \$75,000 increase. School superintendent Robert L. Edwards said that a proposed salary increase for school employees being considered in the General Assembly would eat up much of the increased funding. If the General Assembly approves a salary

increase for school personnel, the Madison County Board of Education would have to increase salaries of school personnel currently paid with local funds.

Specific funding for county agencies was not discussed during Monday's work session, but Caldwell did make a recommendation concerning the Emergency Medical Service.

The EMS budget proposal including funding for vacation pay and paid leave time for EMS personnel. Caldwell said that eliminating the requests and the EMS capital budget request would trim \$43,000 from the budget. The commissioners did not make a decision on the matter during Monday's work session.

In other matters considered during Monday's meeting, the commis-

sioners tabled a decision on a request from Donna Ward, operator of the Marshall Recreation Center swimming pool. Ward had asked the commissioners to help in paying the pool's bill for chemicals.

Ward told the commissioners that she and Linda Jenkins are operating the pool under a contract with the Town of Marshall. She said the pool was opened on Saturday, but was closed again on Sunday when the water appeared unfit for swimming. Ward said she has used \$453 in chemicals already in getting the pool prepared for the opening. She estimated she would need as much as \$100 per week for pool chemicals and disinfectant.

The commissioners declines to take any action on the request. Chairman

James T. Ledford told Ward, "There's no way we can make a commitment until we see how our budget stands." Ledford also questioned whether the board could contribute to the operation of the pool by private individuals and referred Ward's contract with Marshall to county attorney Larry Leake for an opinion.

Ward also asked for assistance in making repairs to the athletic field on Blannerhasset Island. She told the commissioners that the field's bleachers and fences and backstop are in need of repairs. Again, no decision on funding was made during Monday's meeting.

EMS director Mildred West reported the service made 97 runs during the month of May, collected

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Graduation Day, 1985

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Community Calendar

Marshall Board Meets June 10

The Marshall Board of Aldermen will meet on June 10 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall for their monthly meeting. The public is invited to attend.

Opportunity Corp. Election

There will be a public meeting at Hot Springs school June 6 at 7:30 p.m. to elect a board member to the Opportunity Corporation to represent the Hot Springs area. Everyone is urged to attend.

There will be a public meeting at Ivy Ridge Church of God Annex on June 4 at 7:30 p.m. to elect a board member to the Opportunity Corporation to represent the Ebbs Chapel area. Everyone is invited to attend.

American Legion To Meet

The American Legion Post 317 will hold their monthly meeting on June 6 at 7:30 p.m. to elect officers for the coming year. All members are urged to attend. Supper will be served by the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Ladies Auxiliary of Post 317 will hold their monthly meeting on June 11 at 7 p.m. to elect officers for the following year. All members are urged to attend.

Mars Hill CD Flea Market

The annual flea market, sponsored by the Mars Hill Community Development Organization will be held on June 7-8, starting at 9 a.m. in the Anderson's Red Barn. Proceeds will be used for community development projects.



KAREN HUMRICKHOUSE, left, receives her diploma from Madison H.S. principal David Wyatt during graduation ceremonies held Friday at O.E. Roberts Stadium. More pictures on page 5.

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Mars Hill Board Rejects Rezoning Request

By ROBERT KOENIG

Mars Hill aldermen accepted the recommendation of the town's planning board Monday night and rejected a rezoning request submitted by a developer for a 48-unit apartment complex outside the town's limits.

The proposed apartment complex, to be called the Windsor Hill Apartments, was to be constructed on a 10-acre site near the Micro Switch plant. The developer met with the town's aldermen Monday night after failing to receive approval from the town's planning board during a meeting held on May 13.

George Kershaw, a managing partner with Windsor Hill Apartments, told the aldermen that his company planned to construct six two-story brick buildings housing eight apartment units on the site. He said the plans called for the construction of 32 two-bedroom units and 16 single bedroom apartments designed for families and senior citizens with incomes between \$10,000-\$20,000 per year.

Kershaw said the construction of the \$1.5 million complex would be funded primarily through a loan from the Farmers Home Administration Rural Rental Housing program. Kershaw said the projects developer, D and K Management, Inc. would furnish five percent of the construction cost, with FmHA loans making up the difference.

Kershaw addressed many of the concerns the project raised during the meeting with the planning board, including traffic flow, water and fire protection and the income ranges of residents expected to reside in the development.

The developer told the aldermen that his company would welcome an-

In other matters considered during Monday's meeting, the board reappointed Walter Smith, Leonard Briggs and Ruth Anderson to the town board of elections. The aldermen endorsed a proposed agreement between the Mars Hill V.F.D. and swimming pool owners submitted by fire chief Eddie Fox.

Under the terms of the agreement, the fire department would supply water at a cost of \$10 per 1,000 gallons within five miles of the department station. In the event of a fire, the department would have a right to use the water in the pools if necessary.

The aldermen rejected a proposal to purchase a new patrol car for the police department until after the budget for the upcoming fiscal year is approved. Police chief R.J. Cutshaw had obtained bids for a Ford cruiser at a cost of about \$12,000. The chief said the town's present car has more than 100,000 miles on it presently.

The board approved a request for funding the construction of a pressbox and concession stand at the Crooked St. athletic field. Aldermen approved \$1,500 for the project and planned to ask for matching funds from the county commissioners.

The meeting opened with the aldermen hearing a request from Lloyd Cassidy to bring a trailer into the town limits on Rice Rd. The trailer will be used by Cassidy's daughters who are attending college.

Board member John Chandler, who earlier had introduced an ordinance banning trailers, introduced a motion to grant Cassidy a temporary permit for the trailer.

Approval of the permit was made subject to the approval of adjacent landowners. The temporary permit will be reviewed annually.

nexation into the town limits if the zoning variance was granted. The site is currently zoned R-1, for single-family residences.

In a letter to the aldermen, the town planning board advised rejection of the rezoning request because of opposition to the project voiced by adjacent property owners.

Mayor Powell also read the board members a petition signed by many of the adjacent property owners, including Marshall attorney Joe Huff, his brother, Alf, and Mars Hill College instructor Dr. David Knisely. The petition called for rejection of the request as well.

Although they accepted the planning board's recommendation, town officials expressed regret that the project failed to receive approval.

A motion to reject the request was made by Art Wood and seconded by John Chandler, who called it, "one of

the toughest decisions I've had to make on this board."

Mayor Bill Powell noted that the project could have added some \$1 million to the town's tax base, and told Kershaw, "Some of the people who signed that petition did it for personal reasons. Some of the objections aren't reasonable."

Board member Dr. W.O. Duck suggested that the developers look for another site in Mars Hill for the project and meet with the planning board again.

Before leaving the meeting, a disappointed Kershaw thanked the aldermen and said his company would explore other locations. The developer told the board members, "I think I'm a pretty good salesman, but I don't think I can sell that site to those people. I feel like their minds were made up before we ever had a chance to talk."

1985-86 Budget Considered No Tax Hike Seen

Mars Hill property owners won't face a tax increase in the coming year if a proposed budget presented to the town's aldermen is approved later this month.

Town manager Darhyl Boone presented copies of a proposed \$468,200 budget to the Board of Aldermen during their Monday night meeting. The aldermen have scheduled a June 24 meeting to vote on the budget for the 1985-86 fiscal year which begins on July 1.

Boone's proposed budget would hold the town's property tax rate at 70 cents per \$100 valuation.

In addition to the town's general fund, Boone presented a \$150,400 budget for the town's water service.

Under the proposed budget, Mars Hill would raise \$135,000 in property taxes. An additional \$15,000 would come from federal revenue sharing.

The town's Powell Bill allocation will be \$32,000 while \$55,000 will be obtained through the local option sales tax. The Utilities Franchise tax would also contribute \$42,000 to the town's treasury.

Boone said he expects the town to carryover a budget surplus of \$140,000 from the current fiscal year. The town will also have some \$30,000 in unexpended Powell Bill funds.

Police protection will be the town's largest expense, \$93,000, up \$4,500 from the present year's budget. Administration costs will account for \$72,450 in the proposed 85-86 budget. Sanitation will receive \$63,936, including \$38,836 targeted for the purchase of a new truck. Street repairs are budgeted for \$62,000, due largely to repairs following installation of the sewer system.

Hot Springs Board Approves Budget

By ROBERT KOENIG

Hot Springs officials approved a budget for the upcoming fiscal year during their monthly meeting Saturday morning at Town Hall. The \$96,200 general fund operating budget will not require a tax increase in the coming year. The town's property tax rate will remain 85 cents per \$100 of valuation.

In presenting the proposed budget, town clerk Lillian Whitten warned that tax rates will have to be raised in the future, however, if federal revenue sharing funds are cut. The town aldermen later appointed Whitten to the newly created position of town manager.

The early morning meeting began at 8 a.m. All members were present. The meeting opened with discussion of a \$2,700 bill owed to the town Housing Authority for payment on the sewer system plan. Town officials agreed to pay the bill if funds in the

present budget permitted.

The aldermen also voted to take the town out of the septic tank installation business. The resolution passed Saturday states that there will be no sewer charges for residents who install and maintain private septic tanks after June 1. Existing systems previously installed by the town will be maintained.

The board also awarded a cable television franchise to Vision Cable Co.

The aldermen also went on record as supporting a move to return the former Melville Shoe Co. plant to within the town's limits. The vacant plant is currently leased to Dapco Corp. The aldermen plan to contact Madison County representatives in the General Assembly to have a bill introduced to return the plant to the town's tax base. The property was removed from the town's limits by an act of the General Assembly earlier.

Marshall Pays Bonds, Considers Town Budget

Marshall made its latest bond payments on time last week, according to town secretary Linda Dodson. The town made payments totalling \$31,220 on outstanding sewer bonds that were due on June 1.

Dodson said the payments were made by withdrawing \$19,670 from the sanitary sewer project funds and an additional \$11,550 in remaining federal revenue sharing funds. The financial maneuvering enabled the town to retain \$73,350 in certificates of deposit.

Dodson said she renewed a \$92,500.00 certificate on deposit with Wachovia Bank on Friday. The 30-day note will pay six percent interest. The town also has a \$40,000 CD on deposit with First Union Bank.

Town officials were to meet Tuesday night to begin preparing the town's budget.