

Budget pleas would bring nine-cent tax rate increase

Budget requests totalling \$176,744 more than the current year's spending authorization have been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners and are under consideration in preliminary hearings being held this week.

A tax rate of \$1.19 per \$100 valuation, or more than this year's \$1.10, will be required to meet the requests.

The Chapel Hill Board of Education and the Soil Conservation Service presented their requests Monday night, the Orange County School Board and the Board of Public Welfare made their appearances Tuesday night and other county agencies in the General Fund budget submitted their appeals in person last night. Chapel Hill Library trustees, the county museum, Regional Library and the Farm Agency spokesmen are scheduled for appearances tonight.

Spending requests already submitted to give the commissioners a chance to study them before the formal hearings total \$2,365,839 for the next fiscal year. This is in comparison to \$2,189,095 authorized this year.

County Accountant Sam Gattis, in preparation for establishing the new tax rate, submitted an estimated property valuation of \$109,000,000, or an increase of \$2 million over last year.

Most agencies are showing small increases in their requests, reflecting in most cases additional services to the people and the requirements of increased population.

As in all recent years, school requirements constitute the bulk of the increases and provide the greatest pressures on the board for greater appropriations.

In the welfare programs, Chairman Alex McMahon and Superintendent James Wight recom-

mended an overall increase of \$8,435 in county spending in a total welfare budget amounting to \$577,283 for the next year. The county's share would be \$107,009 as compared to \$98,478 last year.

In the major programs of Old Age Assistance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children and Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled, the department recommended a budget based on slightly increased monthly appropriations for recipients as follows:

OAA 175 persons at \$63 average (last year 170 at \$59); AFDC 650 persons at \$24 (last year 620 at \$23); APTD 130 persons at \$67 per grant (last year 115 at \$63). Other increases were requested in Aid to the Blind, in Boarding Homes Care for Children and in Administration, in which category a \$16,228.50 increase in payroll is asked, to cover salary increases and three additional staff members required by a new training program for which the county will be reimbursed.

Instead of bypass idea . . .

Go-ahead is given on Hillsboro access

The go-ahead signal has been raised on the proposed new access road and bridge into Hillsboro from Interstate 85.

This was the word from highway personnel this week, who revealed that bids for the project will be opened in August.

Property owners from whom right of way had been purchased and those with whom negotiations were in progress received personal notification from the department that the project had been reinstated last week.

The action followed vigorous protests over the postponement filed with the governor by official bodies, groups and private citizens after it was announced the federal construction project had been postponed at the instigation of inter-

ests interested in the historical restoration of Hillsboro.

Official notice of the change of plans came from Director of Highways William F. Babcock who wrote Mayor Fred T. Clayton his department was now "prepared to move on this matter" and requested the town commissioners to come to an agreement concerning the sharing of right of way costs within the municipality.

General Statutes require the Town to assume 20 per cent of the right of way costs in projects of this nature. In this instance \$2,300. Babcock noted total costs of securing right of way in town would amount to \$11,500.

Copies of his communication went to Governor Sanford and Chairman Merrill Evans of the Highway Commission.

Constitutes 91 pct of county budget . . .

Schools seek \$1.3 million; is 110% more than last year

A plea for an increase of \$168,242 in budgeted funds for the next fiscal year was presented to the commissioners by the county's two school boards on Monday and Tuesday nights.

Total funds asked by the two units for next year is \$1,342,397 as compared to \$1,174,155 last year.

School funds constitute 91 per cent of the entire county budget.

Funds requested by the two units were \$401,197 for current expenses, \$633,200 for capital outlay and \$308,000 for debt service. Current expense funds are divided by law on a per capita basis and the new budgets figure out at about \$42 per pupil, based on 8,797 pupils, 4,681 for the county system and 4,116 for Chapel Hill.

Based on this division Chapel Hill would get \$178,247, the county \$200,676.

The Chapel Hill unit asked for \$234,093 in capital funds and the county \$399,107.

Bond payments will require \$308,000 for all school indebtedness.

\$63,187 granted earlier for a lunchroom at the Guy B. Phillips School and all funds requested for new buildings was for equipping this school. Other major capital items included enlargement of the library at Glenwood and construction of a new library wing and providing a dish washer for Lincoln High School.

Increases in current expenses are required by the operation of the new Guy B. Phillips Jun-

ior High School and the additional wing at Estes Hills. The budget requested funds for an Industrial Cooperative Training Coordinator, a new program, five days sick leave for teachers and other items required by the increased State appropriations.

A breakdown of the proposed spending of the \$112,168 from the district tax in Chapel Hill was presented, showing the bulk of it, \$103,868, will go for teacher-principal supplements and supplies.

County asking 15 teachers on local funds

In its presentation, the county spokesmen asked for \$13,600 increase for an assistant superintendent, a position already authorized for retiring Principal Grady Brown, and for an attendance officer.

The county is asking for

A smooth transition of extending services to newly-annexed territories of Chapel Hill was reported from Town Hall this week as the municipal borders were extended by annexations to the north and east.

Town Manager Bob Peck and Mayor Sandy McClamroch dispatched a letter to the estimated 1,500 residents of the areas which were formally annexed to the

funds to hire 15 additional teachers from county funds rather than the 14 of last year. In addition salaries are figured to include the state increases of \$15 per month and five days sick leave per teacher per year.

An increase of \$2,500 was asked by the county board for plant operation, to provide a janitor for the new high school. Additional funds for insurance and social security are also asked.

The county's total current expense budget reflects an increase of \$28,694.

In the field of capital outlay, the board said a considerable amount would be needed to complete the new Orange High School. It asked \$20,000 for site development, \$25,000 for dressing rooms and showers in the basement and \$30,000 for water and sewer lines. The sum of \$250,000 was requested for site and construction of a new elementary school for Negroes at a site still to be selected north of Highway 70.

Town on Monday. The letter outlined the services of the municipality, and the projected schedule for their installation, as explained in the annexation ordinance adopted last month.

It also explained that taxpayers in the new area will be on par with the rest of the town in paying their 1963 town taxes. Bills for the 1963 fiscal year covering July 1, 1963 to June 30, 1964, will be sent out in October. Thus the residents of the new area are actually receiving "free" municipal services during the 13 days prior to July 1.

The Town Manager said that twice weekly garbage collections were started in the 700-acre north and east-side area on Monday, and that police patrolling began there at midnight Sunday.

Two new policemen have been hired and another one will be added soon. The new men, now undergoing a 25-day training period, are Thomas Snipes, 22, of Carrboro, who formerly worked with a merchants delivery service; and Robert Yow, 26, formerly of Bynum, who was in the military police in the Army.

In the letter to the annexed residents, it was explained that street lights and fire hydrants were currently being installed and that the survey for sewer lines would be undertaken very soon. The town would take over maintenance of the streets as soon as streets that meet local standards are released by the State Highway Commission, it was explained.

Growing pains Chapel Hill's big problem

In a preliminary statement filed with the board, the Chapel Hill board noted "the dilemma facing the Chapel Hill School system is that of tremendous growing pains." 400 additional pupils have been added during the past year. No new major construction is planned. Included in the request was

19 requests turned down . . . Re-assignment okayed for 120 school pupils

Re-assignment of 120 pupils to schools other than those designated earlier for them to attend next year has been granted by Chapel Hill Superintendent of Schools Howard Thompson.

He said that this meant that only 19 requests were turned down as of the deadline for re-assignment requests last Saturday. To have granted these 19 requests, all of them by Negro pupils assigned to the Frank Graham and Northside Schools, would have crowded classrooms in the schools they sought to

enter and left rooms at their schools under-pupiled — possibly creating the loss of a teacher, he said.

Of the total transfer requests granted, 77 were for pupils assigned to Negro schools next year and who asked to be re-assigned to dominantly white schools.

The School Board's assignment policy for the coming year provides for appeal, if desired, from the assignments direct to the School Board, next meeting of which is scheduled July 8.

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