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AT NOON TODAY

Town Board Resumes Water, Sewer Study

BY JIM TAYLOR

Raeford town board will return to the dilemma of trying to provide services without money today at noon when commissioners resume a meeting which was recessed February 6.

Principal item of business will be consideration of a bond issue to finance urgently needed improvements to the town's water and sewer systems.

After last week's meeting, Town Manager Ed Williams, Town Attorney Harry Harrison and Consulting Engineer Richard Moore went to Raleigh at the request of the town board to discuss the bond issue with officials of the Local Govern-

ment Commission.

"We didn't get any definite answers," Williams said. "Mr. Easterly (of the commission) said he needed a little time to study the matter. We're to go back up there next week."

Privately, commissioners concede that a bond issue is the only means of financing the project. Moore estimated last week it will cost more than \$900,000, which, less a 30 per cent federal participation would leave the town with a bill of \$630,000 to \$700,000.

Trouble is, town officials say, the town isn't even eligible to apply for the 30 per cent federal grant until a bond issue has been set up.

Thus, to get any favorable

priority on federal funds, the town board would have to set up the bond issue immediately. It would be practically impossible to bring the project to a vote of the people before May.

Then there's the matter of the town's credit, which would be extended to the limit, or practically so, by a bond issue of \$700,000.

The town's bonded indebtedness currently is \$619,000. A bond issue of \$700,000 would raise it to \$1,319,000. For all practical purposes, the local government commission will not approve a bond issue which would raise the town's indebtedness beyond 14 per cent of the assessed valuation of

property on the town tax books.

Assessed valuation now amounts to more than \$10 million. That, by Local Government Commission standard, would permit a bonded indebtedness of some \$1.4 million.

At last week's meeting of the town board, Moore told commissioners the improvements they began considering a year ago would have cost \$850,000. Today, the same cost would be 12 per cent greater, or some \$940,000.

The improvements would include an additional outfall from the treatment plant to Pacific Mills, doubling the size of facilities serving that major industry.

Improvements to the exist-

ing sewage treatment plant would elevate its capacity more than four times the current amount.

"Waterwise, the capacity would be doubled," Moore said. "I see no alternative but facing up to the facts. If you are going to serve existing industry and even contemplate expansion or addition of new industry, the improvements have to be made."

The additional outfall to Pacific Mills alone would cost \$185,000. To avert complications such as the town experienced soon after the new treatment plant was built three years ago, the line and other additions to plant capacity are urgently needed.

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HOUSING NEEDED? -- Raeford town board is expected to take action today at noon on a petition asking the board to establish a local housing authority to provide low-rent housing for impoverished families. The board delayed action on the petition last week but is expected to set a date for a public hearing on the matter and perhaps appoint a study group to survey local needs and report its findings at the public hearing. The housing authority would issue 40-year bonds to build the units and the Federal Housing Authority would guarantee payment of the bonds. The town would have no financial obligation other than providing normal services to the units. This house is one of many substandard dwellings in and around Raeford.



GIDDYAP--Last Thursday's snow may have been inconvenient for auto drivers, but the accumulation of ice, snow, sleet and frozen rain delighted the county's young-

sters, who got a day off from school. Bill Howell's youngsters, Tom and Ann, took advantage of the snow to hitch their mule to a sleigh and take a ride.

Band Uniform Drive Off To A Good Start

Reaction To Move Is Mixed

A drive to raise \$6,000 for band uniforms for the Hoke High School band is producing mixed reaction, according to leaders of the campaign.

"Some people you would expect to give generously are not responding at all, while others whom you'd expect to be reluctant are giving generously," was Tuesday's report on the drive.

With the campaign only a few days old, checks for seven uniforms had been received. Pledges raised the number to about 25, according to Mrs. Ralph Barnhart and Mrs. Ed Murray, who with Mrs. Carlton Niven are spearheading the campaign.

A total of 70 uniforms are needed by the band, which has dressed for the past two years in makeshift outfits. This year, band members wore Mexican hats and homemade serapes.

The band, under the direction of Jimmy James, has grown from a few students three years ago to one which attracted attention and critical acclaim last November in the Charlotte Christmas parade.

The drive thus far has centered in the business section of Raeford. A few contributions have been received by mail.

One check came from a former Raeford resident who now lives in Parma, Ohio. The donor was Mrs. Mary Thomas Helwig.

"The happiest days of my life were spent in the Raeford schools from 1930 to 1940 when my father, the Rev. A. D. Carswell, was pastor at Bethel

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BENNY MCLEOD

DOUG WALLACE

JAMES HAYES

Outstanding Young Men Receive Jaycee Awards

Raeford Junior Chamber of Commerce passed out awards to three outstanding young men Tuesday night at the annual awards night banquet of the organization.

James B. (Benny) McLeod was given the club's Distinguished Service Award (Young Man of the Year); James Edward Hayes of the Stonewall community was recipient of the Outstanding Young Farmer award, and Doug Wallace was honored as Jaycee of the Year.

The banquet was staged in the private dining room of Jiffy-burger restaurant, with bosses of Jaycees as guests.

Phil Diehl was master of ceremonies and took over from Al Bruketa, Jaycee president, for the awards program.

Bruketa made the presentation to McLeod and cited some of his contributions to the community.

McLeod, 31, is manager of Hoke Cotton and Storage Company. He attended Staunton Military Academy, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and was graduated from E. Carolina College.

He is active in Cub Scouts, coaches baseball in the summer recreation program, is a past president of Raeford Lions Club, past president of Men of

the Church at Raeford Presbyterian Church, past president of Men of Fayetteville Presbytery and past chairman of the board of deacons at Raeford Presbyterian Church.

Hayes is a 1959 graduate of Hoke High School.

"He is an unusual young farmer," said W. S. Young, county

agent, who made the presentation. "He owns no land, but conducts extensive farming operations on rented land."

In 1966, Hayes harvested 150 acres of corn, 40 acres of which averaged 132 bushels per acre. He also had 150 acres of cot-

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Hoke Draft Official Gets 25-Year Award

Arch McEachern, a charter member of Hoke County Selective Service Board, was honored for more than 25 years of service with the board Tuesday in Raleigh.

McEachern was among draft board officials from throughout the state who gathered for a luncheon meeting to hear Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of the national selective service system.

More than 300 draft board clerks and draft board members heard Hershey praise North Carolina draft board workers as "the backbone of the service" and hit at Americans in general for "not understanding or having interest in draft laws."

McEachern was one of the first three members of the local board when the draft began in 1940. He has served continuously ever since.

Also attending the luncheon were Sam Morris, a member of the board, and Mrs. Mary Bailey, board clerk.

McEachern was presented a lapel pin emblematic of his long service.

Suicide Is Ruled

A Raeford Rt. 2 woman died early Tuesday morning of gunshot wounds apparently self-inflicted, Sheriff Dave Barrington revealed.

Mrs. Mary Ella Peterkin, 38, was found in a bedroom of her home in the Shawtown section shortly after 7 a. m. when officers responded to a call from children in the house.

Sheriff Barrington said Curtis Sturdivant, 13, a stepchild, told him that he and two young Peterkin children were asleep when awakened by a gunshot. They immediately heard another shot fired and found their mother lying on the floor.

Barrington said the woman was shot twice in the throat. A .22 semi-automatic rifle was lying nearby.

The woman's husband, Cary Peterkin, said he left for work at about 6:40 locking the house as he left, Barrington said. The young stepson said he had to unlock the door to go for help.

The victim was a former mental patient, the sheriff said.

Hospitals Get Grants

The Duke Endowment this week appropriated \$1,466,019 to hospitals and child care centers to assist in financing services to needy patients and orphans.

Moore Memorial Hospital in Pinehurst will receive a grant of \$9,107. Southeastern General in Lumberton was granted \$14,278; Scotland Memorial in Laurinburg, \$6,844.

Grants to 99 hospitals in North Carolina totaled \$564,729

Men Of Churches To Hear Watson

Frank E. Watson, vice president of North American Van Lines, Charlotte, will be guest speaker for the union meeting of the men of Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches Tuesday, February 21, at Raeford Methodist Church. Supper is at 6:30 p.m.

Watson accompanied 12 other men to Bolivia, South America during summer of 1966 on a medical mission endeavor, under sponsorship of the Mission Commission of Myers Park Methodist Church in Charlotte, of which Watson is a member.

In the group comprising the mission were: Dr. John Glenn, radiologist, Charlotte; Dr. Bill Stewart IV, orthopedic surgeon, See WATSON, Page 7



FRANK E. WATSON

Merchants Plan Sale

Raeford Merchants will begin their annual Washington's Birthday Sale tomorrow, with specials continuing through next Wednesday.

Wednesday night, merchants present "The Daybreak Variety Show" at Raeford Elementary School auditorium to kick off the event. Tickets were passed out free by participating merchants to customers in their stores.

Participating establishments include Home Furniture, Allen's Ltd., Western Auto, Kinlaw's Jewelers, Niven's Appliance and Furniture, Israel Mann, Mack's 5 & 10, Pope's Raeford Hardware, Home Food Super Market, Belk-Hensdale, Theresa's, Hoke Drug Co., Harry's 5 & 10, R. L. Long Grocery and Collins.

Old 'Flimflam' Has Anti-Poverty Twist

The old "flimflam" game showed up in Raeford last week, this time with an "anti-poverty" twist.

Mrs. Mary Evans, 70, who lives alone near Upchurch High School, was the victim.

Mrs. Evans told police officers she was standing on the sidewalk near Mark's Food Center on Main Street when two well-dressed Negro women stopped nearby and began a conversation. One of the women extracted a roll of bills from her purse, Mrs. Evans said, and asked the other woman: "Have you got your money yet?"

The second woman replied that she had not, Mrs. Evans said. "Well, you'd better get around there and get it," she reported the flimflamer as saying. "He's not going to be there much longer."

Then, Mrs. Evans said, the woman turned to her and asked, "Do you need any money?"

Mrs. Evans, a welfare recipient, said that she could use some.

"Do you have any money?" the flimflamer asked.

Mrs. Evans told her she had a little bit.

"Let me see it," the woman said. Taking Mrs. Evans' purse, she counted out the contents. It amounted to \$80 -- all she had in the world, Mrs. Evans said.

"The man is sitting around there at the lawyer's office. He's letting people who need money have some. He's giving it to them, but they have to show that they need it. I'm going around there to get mine, and I'll try to get some for you," Mrs. Evans told policemen the woman said.

Whereupon, the two women disappeared with Mrs. Evans' pocketbook and her \$80.

"It's a new wrinkle to an old trick," Chief of Police L. W. Stanton said. "After a hundred years of the old flimflam, people are still gullible."

Any such "something for nothing" scheme should be resisted and reported immediately to the police department, he said.