

In Resolution On Federal Fund Program

Board Asks Revenue-sharing Extension

Around Town

BY SAM C. MORRIS

The weather is cold and the snow that was predicted came early Saturday morning. It was hard for me to believe that snow was on my car when I went out to pick up the paper that morning.

When I went up the street later in the morning Jimmy Conoly said that the snow had covered the ground around 3:30 a.m. Robert Jatin said that the snow was so heavy according to reports that the highway men were called out and that some of the crew were talking about the snow at the coffee shop that morning.

Of course the early morning snow is a big disappointment to the ladies of the newspaper composing room. All day Friday they were calling the front office and asking Pam if it was snowing. Once when some rain fell, Pam called and said it was snowing, and it sounded like a stampede of cattle coming to the front to see the snow. Bad luck ladies, but maybe next time.

The forecast is for cold weather all week.

The Board of Hoke County Commissioners Monday adopted a resolution calling for re-enactment of a form of federal aid known as General Revenue Sharing.

The program is due to end on Sept. 30 and will have to be reauthorized during the current session of Congress.

The commissioners acted on the resolution during their regular meeting for January.

General Revenue Sharing was started in 1972 with passage of the State and Local Fiscal Assistance Act. It is a program of federal aid which allows counties and municipalities to receive a portion of the federal income tax, based on a formula which takes into account the population, tax effort, and several other factors related to each county.

General Revenue Sharing is an "entitlement" program, which means that the county does not have to apply to receive its share of the money. Because of the program's simplicity, no required application or review procedure, it has the lowest administrative cost

of any of the federal aid programs, using less than 1% of its Congressional allotment in administrative costs.

The program was begun in an attempt to relieve the burden of financing services on those governments which traditionally rely on a more aggressive form of revenue, such as the property tax.

Hoke County has received more than \$2,505,693 in General Revenue Sharing funds since the beginning of the program. Should the program not be renewed, the commissioners will be forced to decide whether to cut back on services which have been provided with the funds, or continue the service with an increase in the property tax to support the revenue loss.

In Hoke County, the General Revenue Sharing funds are currently being used for Tax Mapping, Rescue Squad and Ambulance Service, Fire Departments, Landfill, Recreation and School Capital Outlay.

If the program is not renewed some current services would have to

be decreased or property taxes would have to be increased by 23 cents per \$100 property evaluation to maintain the current level.

LEGAL SERVICES

In other business, the commissioners adopted a motion to provide \$832 for a year for the program giving legal help to Hoke County low-income people age 60 and older. The program is provided by the Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc., and Hoke and Scotland County would share a traveling attorney who would visit the clients in their homes, in hospitals, rest or nursing homes -- wherever they were living.

The commissioners were asked for the financial help at their Dec. 17 mid-month meeting by Julian Pierce of the Lumbee River organization. He explained the program is educational and provides direct legal help with making wills, applying for Social Security and other benefits available to the older people. The county's share amounts to 12½ percent of the

total required for the year's operation. The federal government will pay 75 percent and the other 12½ percent will be made up by the county in "in-kind" services.

John Balfour, chairman of the board of commissioners, told the other commissioners during the discussion of the program his inquiries showed the educational benefits alone were worth the \$832 expense.

On the advice of County Manager James Martin, the commissioners made the motion an amendment to the county budget and the money be drawn for the contingency fund.

EMS COUNCIL

The meeting's longest discussion concerned the appointments of Hoke County people to the Regional Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council.

Commissioner Mabel Riley objected to the Lumbee River Council of Governments board appointing a Hoke County person to the board. She said, "COG has no right to make an appointment" involving Hoke County people, that this was

what the county commissioners should do. She was referring to the appointment of Jim Henley, co-manager of the Hoke County Ambulance Service to fill a vacancy on the council.

Commissioner Danny DeVane replied, however, that he had known there was some opposition on the county board to the appointment but he had not known the extent of it and that he had planned to attend the COG meeting at which the appointment was made but wasn't able to. He also pointed out that the Advisory Council is just an advisory not a policy-making group.

Later, with Mrs. Riley voting "no," the other commissioners adopted a motion by DeVane that Henley's appointment by COG be approved. Mrs. Riley said just before the vote was cast that "I think Jim Henley has all he can handle." She referred to his plans to start an ambulance service in Cumberland County.

Later, the commissioners appointed Mary Arno, a Burlington Industries nurse, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation from the council of Mrs. Floyd Crowder. Mrs. Riley made the motion to appoint Ms. Arno. Earlier in the discussion, Mrs. Riley said the commissioners should appoint a woman and nurse to the board.

DeVane had said in the discussion of the other appointment that an emergency medical technician should be appointed to the vacancy created by the leaving of Eric Allen, because Allen was an EMT.

In the discussion of Henley also, DeVane had made a motion that the Hoke County Rescue Squad be asked to submit to the commissioners a recommendation for Allen's vacancy. The commissioners adopted the motion but later rescinded it and made the appointments.

In a later action, the commissioners recommended to COG the appointment of Anna Peele, a Hoke County Agricultural Extension Service home economics agent, to the Regional Employment and Training Advisory Committee.

CHURCH PROPERTY

A request of Page Memorial Methodist Church of Aberdeen for a release from taxes on its property in Hoke County was denied by the commissioners on grounds that the church has no immediate plans for building on the lot, consequently the commissioners could not make a tax release legally.

Need For Computer Cited

The Hoke County Board of Education Tuesday night adopted a motion to budget for 1980-81 a year's payment on a new business machine computer the State Department of Public Instruction wants local school systems to have to be compatible with a new state computer. Whether the fund, whose amount was not specified, is used depends on whether the county commissioners approve the proposed school budget without cutting.

The action was taken during the board's regular meeting for January after Bob Thornton of the Burroughs Co., the supplier of the state computer equipment, and County Schools Supt. Raz Autry explained the benefits.

Essentially the board was told that the state would provide help for local school units which bought the Burroughs models but not for units, like Hoke, if it used another type that wouldn't fit into the state system. Hoke currently is using a machine the school system bought about five years ago for \$24,000 plus an \$8,000 allowance for trade-in on the system's old equipment.

Thornton told the school board that the complete price except for supplies is \$47,236.31, without the trade-in allowance for the present machine. Autry earlier told the board before introducing Thornton the cost with the trade-in allowance would be about \$38,500.

The supplies for two years would cost \$1,500 to \$2,500. Thornton (See COMPUTER, page 14)

On Jan. 21

Council To Hear Waste Study Report

The Raeford City Council Monday night scheduled a special meeting for 7 p.m. Jan. 21 to hear a report of the results of a study of industrial waste being dumped into the city sewer system, and recommendations of steps, if any, industry and city should take.

The report of the results of the study and the recommendations will be made by representatives of the engineering firm, Moore, Gardner & Associates of Asheboro. The city officials will assimilate the report, then decide what kind of policy, if any, should be established at the council's February meeting.

The study was made to be sure that the city was complying with federal Environmental Protection Agency and State regulations regarding industrial waste disposal.

Mayor John K. McNeill, Jr., and City Manager Ron Matthews visited each industry in connection with the industrial waste study during the Christmas period.

The mayor was notified recently that the Moore, Gardner report should be ready about Jan. 21.

The special meeting will be open

to the public.

Monday night's meeting was the council's regular session for January.

Among other business during the relatively brief session, the council adopted a resolution that a city-owned business machine, no longer used, be exchanged for a 15-kilowatt generator owned by Hoke County but no longer needed by the county. The county commissioners Monday morning adopted a resolution approving the exchange.

Mayor John K. McNeill Jr., during the meeting advised the councilmen he wanted them to think about the city's applying to Gov. Jim Hunt for Growth Center Status for the city. This is a program to help communities improve, with federal financial assistance, their attractions as sites for industries. The money is used to improve water and sewer systems and other facilities.

After the regular meeting was adjourned, the council held an executive session for discussion of land acquisition at the municipal airport.

Have you listed your taxes or purchased your 1980 license tag. If not, now is the time for the wait is not long at all.

Can't you remember the picture last year of the long lines in the bitter cold weather waiting to purchase tags. The way to eliminate the wait is to buy now and of course this will also aid the people in the license office.

You must have tags to ride so get them now. Also you must list your property or you will be penalized.

A nice letter came last week from the Rev. Zane Gray Norton of Charlotte. Thanks Zane Gray.

Whenever you think that Raeford is a bad place to live, might be because you haven't lived anywhere else. The writer of the following letter in a few short sentences tells what Raeford has meant to her and her husband. Thanks for the letter and we will print it to let our readers share your thoughts about Raeford.

The letter follows:
"Dear Mr. Morris;

"As the year comes to a close we would like to thank you and your staff for all that you have done for us this year. Our people love to see their pictures in the news and look forward to the "paper" on Wed.

"The wonderful Town of Raeford has made our work so much easier over the years that we have been here. Everyone, young and old, treat our people so special. Not only people like our beloved Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. McGoogan and other home town people but also our residents from other areas. Each one has come to call Raeford home.

"John and I could never say thank you to everyone in Raeford enough. Being transplants we can truly say, 'Raeford is our town.'"

"Sincerely Kathy Leandro."

"P.S. My maiden name is Morris! Maybe we're kin."

In case some don't know John and Kathy Leandro own and operate the Open Arms Rest Home. This is the type of letter I like to use in my column.

We might be kin Kathy because we both love the Town of Raeford.

FOR REELECTION -- Danny DeVane filed Monday for reelection to the board of Hoke County Commissioners. He paid his filing fee with the County Board of Elections as a candidate for his second four-year term. The filing period for all candidates for North Carolina public offices opened Monday and will close at 5 p.m. Feb. 5.



\$2,500 FOR CIVIC CENTER -- The local plants of Burlington Menswear made a presentation of \$2,500 recently to the Raeford Civic Center to help defray costs of a new heating and air conditioning system. Managers Gib Bernhardt (left) of the Dyeing Plant and Cecil Bond (right) of the Raeford Plant made the presentation to David Smith (center), president of the civic center organization.



\$1,000 DONATION -- George Kitchens, (left) treasurer of House of Raeford Farms, Inc., is pictured above presenting a check for \$1,000 to David Smith, chairman of the Hoke County Civic Center Committee. The donation is made to help with the cost of installing a new heating and air conditioning system for the Civic Center.

Hoke Recreation Director Resigns

Don Slaughter resigned Monday night as director of the Hoke County Parks and Recreation Commission.

He filed his resignation with the commission during the organization's regular meeting.

Slaughter will leave the position at the end of the working day Jan. 18.

He told *The News-Journal* he was going to work in Kingsport, Tenn., and would leave Raeford for Kingsport soon after his last day of work here.

Slaughter is a native of Kingsport. He is 38.

He went to work as Hoke parks and recreation director in June 1976 after serving in Hendersonville in a similar position.

Slaughter is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hoke County Arts Council and the Advisory Board of the Hoke County Unit, Sandhills Mental Health Center, is district commissioner of the American Softball Association,



Don Slaughter

and chairman of the Hoke County Community Schools Advisory Board.

He also is a member of Raeford United Methodist Church.

Fire Destroys Utility Room; Family Unhurt

A fire early Thursday destroyed a utility room and caused smoke damage to the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Clark at 401 E. Prospect Ave. but the family escaped injury, Raeford Assistant Fire Chief Robert Jackson reported.

He estimated the damage to the utility room at about \$8,000.

Jackson said the fire department, three blocks from the house, received the alarm at 12:12 a.m., and the firemen "knocked down" the blaze in a short time but stayed on the scene about an hour and a quarter altogether, spending the

rest of the time making sure the fire wouldn't flare up again.

He said the Clarks and their children had gone to bed for the night before the fire was discovered.

Jackson said the utility room, which was behind the carport, was in flames and the fire was burning the roof when the firemen arrived. He said the fire apparently started from a drier in the utility room. The drier, a freezer and stored personal property were destroyed by the fire, he added.

Jackson said the odor of smoke would make the house uninhabitable temporarily.