

Shelter Being Restudied

City and County officials are "back to the drawing board" this week after a \$126,000 animal shelter-landfill equipment facility plan was rejected by both boards last Tuesday night.

Plans now are to let the animal shelter committee, made up of city and county board members, find a "cheaper" construction method.

County Manager James Martin said Tuesday the committee was now working out a time to get together to discuss a new "plan of action."

According to Martin, the boards have not "completely rejected" the plan drawn up by the Laurinburg architectural firm Jordan, Snowden and McVicker.

"The committee may come up with a modified version of that plan," Martin said.

"They are looking for alternatives. I am not sure what they will be at this point," he added.

"I think there are less expensive ways of construction than what we have here," Commission Chairman John Balfour said during the

Tuesday night meeting.

"I am for building a better facility than what we have, but I am not going to vote to spend that kind of money," Commissioner Wyatt Upchurch said.

Following a 45 minute executive session, both boards unanimously decided to reject the \$126,000 plan.

"It is really much too expensive as it stands right now," Upchurch said.

"I think our committee should look at other alternatives," Upchurch added.

The \$126,000 plan calls for a 2,220 square foot animal shelter and a 1,797 square foot storage and landfill equipment shed building.

Hoke-Raeford Humane Society Director Jack McGinnis, who presented an estimated \$25,000 animal shelter facility plan to the commissioners over four months ago, blames the "extreme expense" on the landfill building.

"We feel a large part of the higher cost seems to be tacked on

to the equipment shed and not the animal shelter," McGinnis said during the meeting.

McGinnis's plan called for "a great deal of the work" on the facility to be done by local volunteers and school vocational education classes.

"I think it would be a lot cheaper that way," McGinnis told the commissioners.

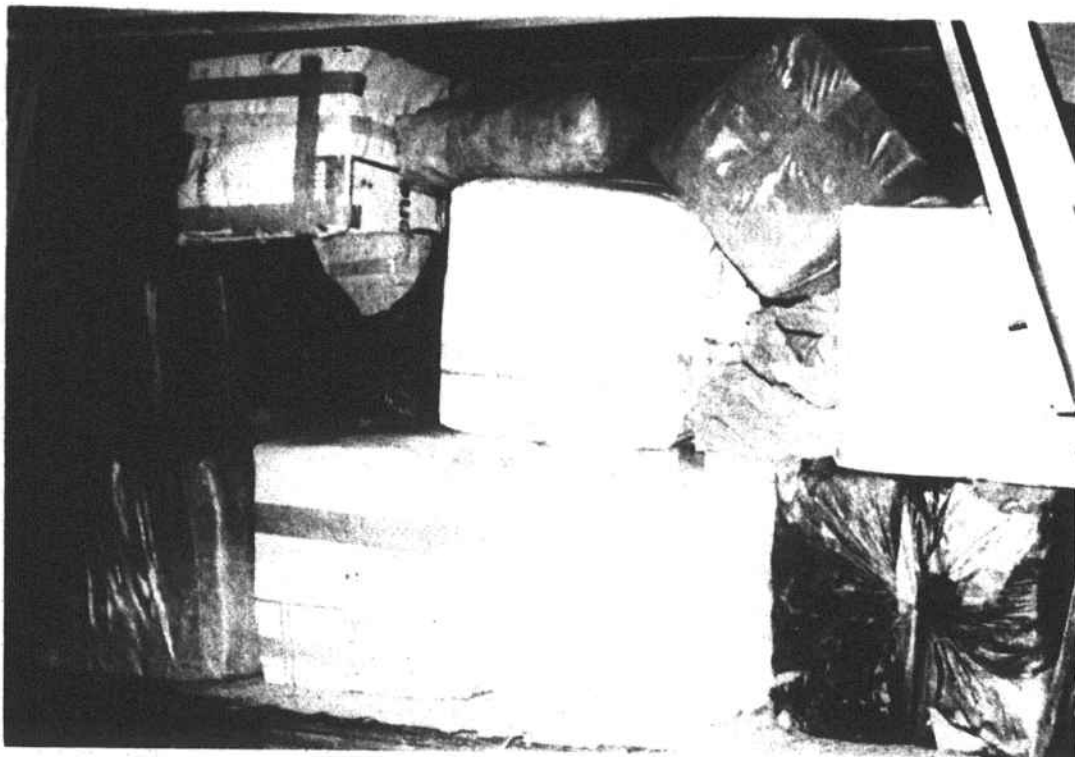
In other business, the commissioners approved new boundaries for the Tylertown fire district.

Descriptions of the new boundaries will be sent to the state Insurance Rating Commission for approval.

If the Tylertown boundaries are approved by the insurance commission, it could mean reduced fire insurance premiums for homeowners in the area, Martin said.

At present, the Tylertown district is the only one not rated within the county.

"We are trying to remedy that by approving these boundaries," Balfour said.



Heavy load
Law enforcement officers loaded an unidentified truck with the 982 pounds of evidence they confiscated from the twin-engine Piper-Aztec that landed with a full marijuana cargo at the Raeford Airport Saturday night. Local law officials estimated that the 26 bales would be valued at \$800,000. (Photo by Pam Frederick)

Hoke Unemployment Rate Climbs

After a significant decrease in the number of unemployed residents last month, Hoke County's jobless rate for October jumped to 11.8%, increasing by 1.6% over September's average, according to figures released Tuesday by the North Carolina Employment Security Commission.

In addition, there were fewer Hoke residents among the labor force during the month despite the increased unemployment.

During October, 970 Hoke

residents were among the ranks of the unemployed with a labor force of 8,230.

In September there were 120 fewer jobless, or 860 unemployed workers out of a labor force of 8,450.

The October jobless rate is also 1.5% above the 1982 figures for the same period.

Figures show that Hoke's unemployed rate held at 10.3% in 1982 with 820 unemployed residents and a labor force of 7,970.

"I think the increase can best be attributed to seasonal layoffs," Hoke Employment Security Commission employee Debbie Farmer said Tuesday.

According to Farmer, industries within the county are using the "rotating" layoff system during the Christmas holidays.

"Most of these will be temporary layoffs," Farmer said.

Farmer also attributed a portion of the increase to the decline in construction work being done during the winter months.

... Literacy Saved

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"We pay for gas mileage when we can. We use some of the money to recruit new volunteers and students, and we use the remaining funds for materials," Buie said.

"We have to have those materials to keep students and volunteers around," Buie said.

Even with the additional money, Buie said things might be tight.

"We will be able to maintain our same level of service, but we will have to be real tight with our money," Buie said.

Without the commissioner's \$5,000 "commitment to literacy," Buie and the literacy board were planning to "cut back" services in order to stay in business.

"After December, we were going to open our doors three days a week and cut back on our staff to survive," Buie said.

"We would have tried to continue as total volunteers," Buie added.

"Working that way would have been difficult, but I would like to

think that we could have done it," Buie said.

"Thanks to the commissioners we won't have to find out," Buie noted.

At present, the literacy council is back on its feet and "striving for reading ability."

Buie believes that the commitment the commissioners made to literacy kept the council from eventually dying out in Hoke County.

... Local Link Checked

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found nothing, Hoke Detective Ed Harris said.

Although the pilot was not found, officers confiscated the plane and its contents.

According to Harris, the passenger seats had been removed from the plane, and nine fuel tanks had been installed in the craft.

There were four tanks in each wing and one in the nose of the plane, Harris said.

The seats had been removed to apparently provide storage space for the 26 compressed bales of marijuana.

Barrington said the plane was registered to a Mid-South Airliner Company in Memphis, Tennessee.

"They are a brokerage firm that buys and sells planes," Barrington said.

"We are checking their records to see if anything turns up," Barrington said.

"The investigation is most definitely continuing. We will just have to wait and see what turns up," Barrington said.

...Governor Ponders

(Continued from page 1A)
Cozort said that the appointment would take time but things should continue to "run smoothly."

"The governor is not going to make this appointment in haste. He considers this to be one of the most important decisions he

makes," Cozort said.

"He will not do it until he is absolutely satisfied that he has all the information he needs and is sure he has the right man for the job," Cozort said.

Although the appointment might not be made for three or

four weeks, Cozort said that the governor's office was "moving as fast as we can."

"The Governor feels that is important to take the time and find out as much as we can," he said.

"This must be done right," Cozort added.

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