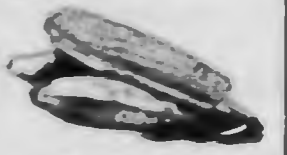


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\$3.6 million school bond issue in trouble

By Sally Jamir

A resolution for a \$3.6 million bond issue was tabled by members of the Hoke County Board of Commissioners at a joint session of the commissioners and the board of education Monday night.

The source of contention between the two bodies was whether or not a \$250,000 land acquisition figure should be included in the bond.

The figure was included for the purpose of purchasing land in the future as a site for the construction of a school facility. The board did not make plans for the specific use of the money as regards the actual land to be purchased or the kind of structure to be constructed.

The general consensus of the commissioners was that they could

not approve the bond issue with the inclusion of this figure, especially with no specific use connected with it.

Regarding this issue and the question of the type of additions to J.W. Turlington School of classrooms or multi-purpose rooms Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson presented to the commissioners a letter from Chairman Bill Cameron on behalf of the board.

The letter stated that both kinds of rooms were needed but that initially "classrooms can be constructed without interior load-bearing walls so that at some future time, when needs change, the facility could then be modified into a multi-purpose room by the elimination of the interior walls."

The commissioners responded

favorably to these plans.

Regarding the \$250,000 site acquisition figure, the letter conveyed that the board had no plan to purchase land until a specific plan for such was developed and they "most certainly have no specific piece of property in mind. At this time, we have not looked at or considered any land..."

Both Cameron and board member Shirley Gibson reinforced this statement with comments clarifying the school board's intentions.

"It was not discussed when or where the land would be purchased," Gibson said.

"There is no truth to the rumors about the site. No site was mentioned and none was picked out," Cameron said.

The commissioners questioned school board members as to whether or not redistricting would be part of the board's long-range facilities improvement plan.

Nelson responded by saying that "no school system is so stable that it doesn't have to periodically redistrict. There has been no decision by the board...there is the possibility of redistricting at Scarlock and some other schools."

Nelson said that modification to the schools would be done so that redistricting would be kept to a minimum.

A question was raised by the commissioners as to the size of school facilities which may be constructed in the future.

"Like anyone else we cannot tell the future...a study by the Blue

Ribbon Commission indicated that possibly a middle school that would house twelve to thirteen hundred students would be adequate or two smaller elementary schools which would house six hundred students each," Nelson responded.

Discussion concerning the bond issue lasted over an hour and a half, during which commissioner Cleo Bratcher twice moved to adopt the proposal. "I don't have a problem with it, I move we sign the resolution and let the people decide," Bratcher said.

Bratcher referred to the draft of the "notice of intent" document to be made public in the event the proposal is approved and cited the statement: "Any citizen or taxpayer who objects to said

bonds...may file...a statement setting forth his objections within seven days from the date of publication of this notice."

Chairman John Balfour said a delay in the decision of the board in reference to the bond would throw off the calendar of actions necessary for a bond application.

During the remainder of the commissioners meeting the Board of Education met among themselves to discuss the matter of the \$250,000 land acquisition figure. They reached no decision.

According to Don Steed, business administrator, they "decided to meet at their scheduled meeting on July 1 when all members of the board would be present to decide whether or not to take this item out (see BOND, page 12)

Kidnapping reported

A Laurinburg man was kidnapped and robbed last Tuesday by four men also from Laurinburg, according to records at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

John Henry Johnson was assaulted by four men while giving them a ride to a residence in the vicinity of Wagrum, according to a report filed by Detective Walter Patterson.

The report states that Johnson had been at The Pantry convenience store on South Main Street in Laurinburg at 2:00 a.m. While there, he was approached by three men requesting a ride to a nearby location.

Johnson gave the men a ride to the location and returned to the store about 15 minutes later. The men again asked Johnson for a ride, this time to a mobile house

residence at a hog farm near Wagrum.

Johnson agreed, and before leaving for the location, they were joined by a fourth man.

Records say that at 3 a.m. on the way to a Hoke County mobile home on RP 4102 near Hilltop approximately one-half mile from 1104, the four men attacked Johnson. Johnson attempted to escape but was overcome and beaten up by the men.

The men took control of the car and drove to Robeson County. According to Johnson's statement, the men blindfolded him and drove for a long period of time over a rough road.

During this time Johnson reports that the men held a shotgun (belonging to Johnson) to (see KIDNAPPING, page 13)

Coach sees challenge ahead for new season

By Sally Jamir

Football tryouts begin August 1, and Walter Barnhill, new head coach at Hoke High, sees a challenging season ahead.

"It's going to be a tough football conference with the competitors being Scotland, Richmond and Lee counties. It's hard to compete with them mainly because of the sheer number of athletes that they have to choose from," Barnhill said. "Having more skilled athletes to choose from because of the larger population in other areas makes the difference between the teams."

Barnhill states his goals for the season as being able to "have an injury free season, get 500 in the conference and shoot for better than that."

"You've got to win the games you need to win, win a couple of upsets and possibly get in the conference race if we have a good

year. We always have the goal of winning the conference."

Barnhill was assistant (offensive line) coach and baseball coach from 1980 to the present. During this time he also taught physical science and physical education. He was appointed head football coach June 4.

As head coach, he will continue his teaching duties either in the same areas, in weightlifting or any that are assigned to him.

"I want to continue my work in education and coaching is part of it," Barnhill said. "I enjoy it. I like working with the young men, and then seeing them go out and perform, seeing their enthusiasm. They're very dedicated."

"There are young men on the team who have never been a success. I strive to teach them success and when they achieve it, it's a good feeling," Barnhill said. "It's (see COACH, page 12)



Summer's here

A water fight at the Raeford Swimming Association pool on College Drive keeps these young men cool on a sweltering Monday afternoon. Summer officially began on Saturday bringing with it temperatures

well into the upper 90s by the beginning of the week. Forecasters say the hot weather will be with us through the weekend.

Raeford attorneys receive Pro Bono award

Raeford attorneys Philip Diehl and Millicent Gibson Diehl have been named the recipients of the 1986 Pro Bono Service Award by the North Carolina Bar Association. The award was presented June 20 during the NCBA's Annual Meeting in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The award was established to recognize North Carolina attorneys who have shown outstanding commitment to serving the legal needs of the poor and disadvantaged by providing pro bono (no fee) services.

Partners in the firm of Diehl & Gibson, the Diehls were honored for the more than 200 hours of pro bono legal assistance they have

provided to parents of mentally retarded children in the Robeson County School's Trainable Mentally Handicapped classes.

These children were being physically punished as part of the "authorized" corporal punishment" allowed within the school system. With the cooperation of Carolina Legal Assistance, the Diehls filed a class-action in federal court seeking declaratory and injunctive relief on behalf of the children.

Before the suit came to trial, the defendants presented the Diehls with a proposition that appeared to provide adequate relief for the children, but they insisted that the

Diehls waive any claim to statutory attorneys fees. The Diehls immediately responded that they would waive all fees if it would hasten meaningful relief for their clients.

The settlement eventually reached in the case was favorable to the children and represented a milestone in this area of law. As a direct result of the Diehls' efforts, the school system agreed to develop behavior management programs suitable to each handicapped child and to initiate in-service training for teachers and aides working with handicapped children.

Mr. Diehl is a 1961 graduate of

the Wake Forest School of Law. He has served on the boards of numerous agencies in his community, and has been chairman of the boards of the Sandhills Mental Health Center, 4-County Community Service, Inc., and the North Carolina Community Action Association.

Mrs. Diehl is a graduate of St. Andrews Presbyterian College and received her law degree from the UNC-Chapel Hill Law School in 1974. She is a board member of the Hoke County Youth Services Task Force and chairman of the Hoke County Adolescent Pregnancy Task Force. She is a former chairman of the Moore County Youth Services Commission.

Around Town

Sam Morris

The summer season has finally arrived and with it the hot weather. The temperature reading Monday afternoon was 95° and if it hadn't been for the breeze, it could have been 100°.

We have had some rain and maybe it will continue to rain in the afternoon even though this hot weather could bring the thunder and lightning.

The forecast is for continued hot weather but not as hot as it was on Monday.

Last week in this column I wrote that Wilson McBryde said his corn crop was ruined. Now maybe Wilson meant that his crop was not as good as it should be, because last Saturday he came by the house and left a dozen ears of nice corn.

So maybe if I would write his watermelons are not doing well, a nice melon would appear. Anyway the crops are not as good as usual.

Bob Gentry, chairman of the American Legion Golf Tournament, left a note on my desk last week and it said he would appreciate any plug you can give on the attached.

According to the note the tournament will be held July 4th at the Arabia Golf Course. The price for the event will be \$25 for non-members and \$20 for members of the Arabia club.

The fee will include a breakfast at Edenborough Restaurant beginning at 7 a.m.

Also included are green fees, cart fees, refreshments and prizes galore.

No early registration is required. The fee can be paid July 4th at the breakfast and also your handicap will be established.

Gentry said that the tournament is a fun affair and that most of the golfers win prizes. This event has (see AROUND, page 12)

Committee formed to take action on four-laning 401

By Sally Jamir

The Raeford-Hoke Economic Development Commission last Tuesday formed a joint ad hoc committee of the commission and the Chamber of Commerce to study ways of taking actions in connection with the widening of Highway 401 in Hoke County.

According to commission director John Howard, the commission discussed the status of the Department of Transportation's Highway Improvement Program and set up the ad hoc committee based on the

project being a number one priority.

"The committee was formed to review a strategy for what we can possibly do to develop a position on widening 401 rapidly," Howard said.

"We will present that possibility to the full Economic Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce and city and county agencies."

Sitting on the committee are commission director Howard, Commission Chairman Tom

Howell, Chamber President Terry Houston and Chamber Director Warren Pate.

Howard states that "organization and leadership effort will come from the office of the economic developer."

As a part of efforts toward this highway project Tom Howell, John Howard and Buddy Blue attended a regional Department of Transportation (DOT) hearing on May 15 in Sanford to present their case.

Division 8 of the DOT Highway

Improvement Program includes the counties of Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Randolph, Richmond and Scotland.

State Highway Commissioner Richard Pugh presided over the hearing which reviewed this program and heard supporting input from counties effected by the program.

The program plan of improvement for the on-going ten year period of 1986-95 for Hoke County lists three items. Firstly, the (see 401, page 12)