

The News-Journal

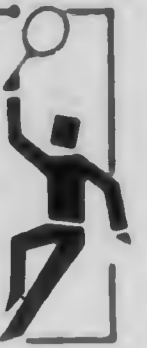
Covering Hoke County Like A Roof Since 1905

RAEFORD, NORTH CAROLINA

Happy Fourth
of July

Weekend tennis
tournament results

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Hoke school board subtracts \$250,000 from bond proposal

By Sally Jamir

In a three to two vote the Hoke County School Board moved to eliminate a \$250,000 land acquisition figure from the proposed \$3.6 million bond referendum in their meeting Tuesday night.

The figure's inclusion in the bond proposal without a specified use was objected to by the majority of Hoke County Commissioners. As a result of their objection, the issue was tabled at a joint session of the commissioners and the school board on June 23.

Various options were discussed in regard to the figure. Board member Walter Coley suggested the funds be included but used for repairs to county schools rather than the purchase of land.

Discussion on repair priorities centered on the elimination of the asbestos problem in school facilities.

Board member Eddie McNeill

commented that by developing the bond proposal the board had done well in planning short range goals for the immediate needs of the schools as well as long range goals.

However, in reference to the \$250,000 figure McNeill said, "rather than jeopardize the first goal at this time, we ought to take it out."

Superintendent Dr. Bob Nelson said he would be in touch with County Attorney Duncan McFadden about the bond application procedures.

According to Nelson, if the county commission approves the bond proposal, the referendum would most likely be voted on in the November general election.

The next meeting of the commission is July 7.

In other business, the school board approved the final 1986-87 budget of \$1,306,735, a 4% increase over last year.

Upchurch vandalized

Upchurch Junior High School was again the target of vandalism last week when a subject broke into the school and damaged vending machines, according to records at the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Principal Allen Edwards reported that someone entered an unlocked utility room at the school sometime between 7:00 p.m. June 27 and 9:15 p.m. June 29.

The subject used a chair to break open a snack machine and a Coke machine, records say. No money was taken, and it is not known how

much merchandise is missing.

In another incident, David Wookhouse of Hope Mills Road, Fayetteville, reported there was a breaking and entering and larceny at the home of David Rice of Rt. 1, Raeford (June Johnson Road).

The home was apparently entered by unlocking a window through a broken pane sometime between 3:30 p.m. June 21 and 3:20 p.m. June 28.

Records say a carpet, value unknown, was stolen.

Glenda McGregor of Rt. 5, (See VANDALS, page 2A)

Low water pressure stops midnight showering Friday

The city's water pressure was down so low Friday night, residents found it impossible to take midnight showers.

A thunderstorm late Friday afternoon knocked out a signaling device that activates automatic pumps which send water from the Raeford Water Plant to the city's two elevated water tanks. As the water level in the tanks decreased so did the city's water pressure, according to Raeford City Manager Tom Phillips.

When the elevated tanks are full, there is between 40-50 lbs. of pressure. On Friday night the city's water system was supplying 5 lbs. of pressure because only 2 ft. of water was in the tanks. Normally the tanks hold 20 ft. of water.

"There was plenty of water, just no pressure," Phillips said. "We have a million gallons of water in the ground at all times."

Not only did the storm knock out the signaling devices at the water plant, it also knocked out an alarm system in the police station which tells the dispatcher if something is wrong at the water plant.

"It's routine for one system to go out in a storm, but it's unique for both systems (the signaling devices and the alarm) to go out at the same time," Phillips said.

The alarm at the police station and the signaling devices at the water plant work together as a double safety system.

Phillips received a telephone call at his home Friday night around midnight from a caller saying there was no water pressure on the west side of town.

The city manager in turn contacted a water department employee; the two met at the water plant. After a couple of switches were thrown, the two elevated tanks began filling up with water. By 4 a.m., the water levels in the tanks were back to normal.

The situation never reached a critical stage.

"The low pressure could have been a problem if there was a fire, but we would have corrected it immediately," Phillips said.

Although city water may have appeared somewhat cloudy on Sunday, Phillips said there was never a health hazard.



Local man gets two years for striking law officer

A local man was sentenced to a two-year prison term after pleading guilty in District Court last week to a charge of striking a law enforcement officer with the Hoke County Sheriff's Department.

Merrill Franklin Cox Jr., Box 304 A, Aberdeen, is to begin serving the prison term after he completes a term he is serving for a previous offense.

Records say Cox began kicking the officer in the right side and the back while the officer was attempting to arrest him for drunk and disruptive behavior at a private residence located on Rural Paved Road 122B, Raeford, on Saturday, June 21.

Cox also pleaded guilty to a charge of delaying and obstructing a law enforcement officer. The two charges were consolidated for judgement.

In addition to these charges Cox pleaded guilty to the charges of drunk and disruptive behavior, trespassing at a location near Rt. 1, Aberdeen, and two counts of communicating threats.

Cox received the sentence of one year imprisonment for these charges and was given credit for five days that he has already served.

In another case, Jerry Jerome McLaurin, 20, 706 Saunders Street, Raeford, pleaded guilty to a (See DWI, page 7A)

County adopts new \$5,704,708 budget

By Sally Jamir

Members of the Hoke County Commissioners Monday night unanimously adopted a 1986-87 budget of \$5,704,708 voting to maintain the current 3 cent tax rate.

The tax rate of 81 cents per \$100 valuation is 6 cents lower than the 87 cents originally proposed by County Manager William (Hub) Cowan.

The tax rate is based on an estimated tax collection rate of 92%, one percent higher than last year.

This was possible by reducing expenditures by \$105,763. In order to do this the county's percentage of the current optional one-half cent sales tax was increased to 60%, or by \$53,400, from 50%; the fund balance appropriation was reduced by \$40,000 to \$349,790; and \$92,573 was appropriated from the schools' reserve fund to retire a current school bond debt of \$53,400.

This is the first year the county will lose revenue sharing funds. Only \$71,725 is expected as this source of income is being phased out.

This year capital reserve funds of \$264,457 will offset the loss of revenue sharing funds. Next year \$297,000 in this category will be available.

"Basically we are banking on the additional one-half cent sales tax passing in order to make this a recurring savings to the county," Cowan said. "Based on the latest information, having talked to Danny DeVane this (Tuesday) morning, it looks real good, it looks like it will pass."

Hoke County schools will benefit by receiving \$45,000 more in current expenses, a total of \$1,171,735 and \$50,000 in capital outlay for roof repairs.

Finance Officer Charles Davis remarked that "the superintendent seemed quite pleased" with the county's provision for the schools. In addition, \$25,000 of the

school finance officer's salary will be assumed by the state, a greater share than previously given.

Sandhills Community College will receive \$7,000 to offset their use of the high school. The figure is based on a previous actual budgeted amount of \$6,067.

The greatest area of expenditures reduction was in school capital outlay, a \$79,000 figure which had been double budgeted in both capital outlay and current expenses of the school budget.

Public assistance was reduced by \$15,000 and recreation by \$5,000.

The largest increases were in the areas of salary adjustment in the Sheriff's Department and Extension Service, decided after an executive session which lasted approximately one and a half hours.

Among county employees receiving raises were Sheriff Dave Barrington with an increase of 7.5% bringing his salary from \$24,959 to \$26,831. Deputy William Morrison got a 12.2% increase, bringing him to \$15,110 from \$13,456. County Manager Cowan received a raise from \$30,000 to \$32,635 and Register of Deeds Della Maynor went from \$17,625 to \$18,594, an increase of 5.5%.

The county portion of the \$900 raise for seven Agricultural Extension staff was increased by 5.5%. Agriculture Extension Director Willie Featherstone will go from \$31,063 to \$32,142 and Associate Agricultural Extension Agent Alice Pettitt will go from \$26,358 to \$27,377.

The new county pay plan provides a 2% cost of living raise for all county employees and upgrades the county hiring rate by an average 3%. Fifty-one of the 135 county employees received a reclassification of their position class based on their duties and responsibilities.

After a computer check (which took approximately one hour) the budget was officially accepted by the commissioners.

EAS remains on schedule

Rumors that the establishment of Extended Area Telephone Service (EAS) between Raeford and Fayetteville will be delayed because of a recent strike against American Telephone and Telegraph (AT&T) are not true, a spokeswoman for Carolina Telephone Company said on Monday.

"We haven't had any changes in our schedule due to the strike or for any other reason," said Brenda Dougherty, community relations manager for Carolina Telephone's Fayetteville office.

"The North Carolina Utilities Commission said EAS must be in operation on or before July 1, 1987; our planning schedule shows we will have it in operation by then," Dougherty said.

But whether or not Carolina Telephone will have EAS in operation before the deadline is not certain.

"It's a possibility that it could be earlier," Dougherty said.

The strike referred to in the rumors began on June 1 when approximately 150,000 members of the Communications Workers of America walked off their jobs demanding higher wages, more benefits and better working conditions. The strike against AT&T ended on June 26.

Dougherty said she didn't know how the rumors got started because the strike was against AT&T and not Carolina Telephone.

"Our employees weren't on strike," Dougherty said.

A poll conducted by Carolina Telephone in January shows that 74.7% of the Hoke County customers who responded are in favor of establishing EAS between the 875 exchange and Fayetteville.

Once EAS is established, the approximately 4,700 customers on the Raeford exchange will be able to call over 90,000 telephones for local rates.

Around Town

Sam Morris

Summer came on June 21 and has been with us every day since arriving, with the temperatures being in the 90s. We have had some rain and this has been good for the crops. It doesn't cool off much at night, so it doesn't take long for the heat to get to you in the mornings.

The forecast is for the hot weather to stay with us and for afternoon and evening thunderstorms. The lightning and winds have been worse in the Rockfish section than any other part of the county.

The death of Senator John East came as a shock to most of us. He had been in bad health for several

months and did not seek reelection.

I would predict that Governor Jim Martin will appoint Jim Broyles to take Sen. East's place. In case he should win the election in November, this will give him seniority over many other new senators. This means a lot in the makeup of committee appointments in the senate.

Don't forget the American Legion Golf Tournament to be played July 4th at the Arabia Golf Club. There is no early registration for the event. Just go down to the Edenborough Restaurant at 7 a.m. Friday morning for breakfast. (See AROUND, page 2A)



Shy beaver

This Hoke County beaver runs back to his dam Friday after being photographed by Becky Jones. Jones has been attempting to take a picture of the animal since early spring. When Jones pulled into her driveway Friday afternoon, the beaver was in her front yard.

Williamson retires after 30 years with local ASCS

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in Raeford suffered a loss on June 30 when Jeannette Williamson retired after 30 years of service.

Williamson was honored at a reception Tuesday evening at the Civic Center given by ASCS office employees and area farmers. According to office manager Thomas Starling, over 90% of the farmers in Hoke County attended the gathering.

Williamson has held several positions while at the ASCS office here. She has served in the capacities of counter clerk, agricultural program clerk and compliance clerk. She has worked with ASCS programs in tobacco, feed grain, cotton, and wheat. She

was responsible for compliance in these programs, measuring acreage and taking sign ups and certifications.

In addition, she handled tobacco leases and sales applications, designations of warehouses and answered questions which were called in or brought into the office.

During her stay at the ASCS office there have been numerous changes in United States Department of Agriculture regulations which effect the agriculture programs. Williamson has risen to the challenge of keeping abreast of these changes in agricultural assistance programs.

"It's very complex. You need to keep up with the changes on a daily (See WILLIAMSON, page 2A)