

Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Industrial Director Rusher Resigns New County Board Sworn Into Office

In the final action Monday of the previous Duplin Board of Commissioners, the Board accepted the resignation of James T. Rusher, Duplin Industrial Development Director, effective December 31st.

The Board then adjourned for new members Calvin C. Turner, Allen Nethercutt, and S. Franklin Williams to be sworn into office.

The new Board members were appointed to a committee to study the county manager form of government.

Williams indicated his support for hiring a county manager. He said about 80 counties in the state use a county manager or administrator system, and suggested a central purchasing agency be studied as well. Commissioner W.J. Costin agreed. "A county manager would tie the county government together, rather than allowing it to go off in all directions," Williams said. He also said a commissioner tends to push his own area or department at the expense of others, while a county manager would examine all departments.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell strongly disagreed, contending that a county manager would create "just another department that costs \$40,000 to \$60,000 in county money. The department heads know more about what they're doing than any county manager, and if they are not doing their job, they should be released. If each of us represents a department, we should be able to carry things out the same as a county manager."

Nethercutt said he believes it would be "hard to run a business when you only tend to it twice a month."

Costin was named chairman of the Board, and Williams was named vice-chairman.

Chairman Costin requested each Commissioner to act as liaison between the Board and the following departments, respectively: Fussell - Mental Health, who commented that he has acted in this capacity for nine years, and feels he should not serve any longer, and wished to resign the position. After discussing the importance of his serving in this capacity during the period of transition,

Fussell agreed to serve. Commissioner Nethercutt - Public Buildings and Maintenance; Commissioner Williams - Landfill, Garage, and Mosquito Control; and Commissioner Turner - Emergency Medical Services, Jail, and Airport.

Costin requested the Clerk to the Board to instruct all department heads to meet with the Board at the next meeting. The Board discussed department heads providing quarterly activities reports, and the need for informing the public on services.

Dr. E.J. Raman, Mental Health Director, extended an invitation to the Commissioners to visit the Mental Health facilities of the county and the state. He also discussed the merging of the Duplin-Sampson Area Mental Health programs.

Sheriff T. E. Revelle met with the Board to discuss complaints received on the Beulaville Drive-in Theatre showing X-rated movies, and Fussell discussed with the Sheriff and the Board a complaint received regarding inhumane treatment of dogs. The Sheriff said he would check into the matter.

Woody Brinson, Kenansville Town Administrator, met with the Board to discuss Community Development funds and program priorities. He reported that January 22, 1979 is the deadline for submitting applications and that two public hearings must be held prior to January 10th in order to get the applications in. Duplin County is high on priority for funding, he stated, and the maximum application is \$500,000 for any one community. Brinson told the Board that a Citizens Advisory Committee should be appointed to assist the Commissioners in making decisions. Committee appointments will be discussed at the next meeting. The hearing will be held December 21, 1978, and January 4, 1979.

A financial status report was presented to the Commissioners on each department.

A report on unobligated cash balance was presented, with the total amount to date \$329,953.84.

A letter from the County Attorney to the Eastern Construction Company calling for a \$1,000 penalty was presented to be made a part of the minutes.

Son Of A Gun By Joe Lanier

The builder of Duplin's new jail said he would be finished and out by January 1, 1979 -- that is, he said that before it was disclosed that the room in which the radio equipment is to go is too small. . . . Seems the radio console is 8 feet long, and the room is 7 feet long. . . . The new commissioners were told this Monday, and they are looking for ways to build a wall, or something. . . . Why would a radio room be built too small? . . . There could be a great number of reasons why. . . . One possibility -- back when the plans were first brought in to the Commissioners for approval by Architect J.Y. Peggart, the Sheriff's Department and the Magistrate's office was all there in the new jail. . . . However, the Emergency Services Coordinator, Hiram Brinson, convinced the Board his office should be in the jail, also. . . . The architect said there was no need for the Sheriff's office in the new jail -- that it would be cheaper if it were out. . . . He stated this was the reason. . . . However, the Commissioners did not heed the architect's advice. . . . The building was changed with a cost increase of some \$34,000, and the EMS-office was added. . . . And now, once again, it seems extra tax money is going to be spent. . . . And we scratch our heads and wonder -- Why hire a professional if you are not going to listen to his advice? . . .

I was at Warsaw Elementary School Tuesday night to a Reading Lab Program explanation. . . . I came away thinking I was deprived when I was going to school. . . . (I didn't use the word educated because the more I see, the less I think I am educated -- or perhaps I should say, the more I need educating). . . . However, Sadie Faison, a Reading Lab teacher, was demonstrating a set of radio headphones in which six different programs could be received simply by changing channels on the side of the headset. . . . She told us to put the headsets on for a trial run -- which we did. . . . She talked through the headsets, and I took mine off to look it over while she was talking. I heard her say, "If everyone can hear me, raise your right hand." . . . She said it several times, and then she said, "If you don't hear me, push the little black button on the side of the headset." . . . I then hear her shut off the headsets, giggling. . . .

Television Show At Liberty Hall

Liberty Hall will be the topic for several television features this Christmas season. Rich Boyd, general manager of THE LIBERTY CART, is working with the Kenansville Beautification Committee and The Liberty Hall Commission in staging "Christmas at Liberty Hall."

He said at least four television features will be done during the Christmas season. "Already Sims Short of WNCN-TV in Greenville has taped a segment that will be aired this coming Friday on 'Carolina In The Morning.' WCTV-TV of New Bern will be at Liberty Hall on December 9th to do a feature that will be part of their news program, and 'The Carolina Traveler' of WRAL-TV in Raleigh will feature the house

Drug Awareness Meeting Held

"If there is one child involved with drugs, then we have a problem," said Deputy Glenn Jernigan at the Drug Awareness meeting Thursday night in Warsaw.

The public was invited to the meeting to make residents of the area aware of the problems and possible solutions offered through the schools, law enforcement departments, the Mental Health Department, and the home.

A panel spoke to the 100 plus attending the meeting. The panel members included Mary Brinkman, Home Drug Awareness; Bill Taylor, principal of James Kenan High School; H.E. Bowden, principal of Warsaw Junior High; J.F. Strickland of the Board of Education; R.P. Wood, Warsaw Chief of Police; Glen Jernigan of the Sheriff's Department; Bateman of the S.B.I.; and Lethco Wrenn, a N.C. Vocational Rehabilitation staff member.

The public attitude toward teaching drug awareness classes in school had changed from opposition to insistence in recent years, J.F. Strickland said.

"When you are talking to your kids about drugs, the scare approach just doesn't work. They probably already know more about drugs than their parents, anyway," said Mrs. Mary Brinkman of Faison, a recovered alcoholic.

She commented, "Even though our children had the same drug or alcoholic problems we did, we still were not able to communicate. We sought counseling," she added. Mrs. Brinkman said she had been "on the wagon" for 10 years, and her husband for nine. She said all three of their children had suffered drug and alcohol-related problems. Two of the children are now in college, studying in the field of social problems, she said. Mrs. Brinkman said she had offered her services to the Duplin County School system as a result of her own personal experiences and from studies she had taken this past summer at Rutgers University.

"There is a drug abuse problem in all North Carolina schools," Bill Taylor, principal at JK, said. At James Kenan, he said, students suspected of using drugs are put under surveillance. The school is small enough that such problems are easily spotted, he added. He said six students had been suspended this year in a marijuana case, and last year three cases of marijuana and four cases of wine use were spotted.

He advised, "When and if a parent is called about a child, the parent should come to the school with an open mind and not a belligerent attitude in defense of the child."

Warsaw Police Chief Wood said parents call him to their homes to talk about problems they are having with their children or to identify sub-

Drug Awareness Meeting Held

stances they have found. He said most of such problems with which it comes in contact are problems of the home. Wood said two pushers and 24 users of marijuana have been arrested in Warsaw this year. Wood noted that parents are becoming more aware of the drug problem. He added, however, that most parents still don't want to believe their child is involved in anything. "They want to think someone has planted the drug on the kids," he said.

Deputy Sheriff Glen Jernigan said their department has undercover people working in the county. He said that so far this year, 21 persons have been arrested for possession of marijuana in the county, eight for manufacturing, and three for possession of drugs other than marijuana. He said there are plenty of users in the county, but few pushers. "Some people are getting away with growing their own marijuana because even the experts don't always recognize it," he added.

"Education is the answer to eliminating the market -- which is the best way to eliminate the problem," according to Paul Bateman, SBI agent.

According to Lethco Wrenn of the N.C. Vocational Rehabilitation, Duplin has the second highest number of people admitted to Cherry Hospital at Goldsboro for drug and alcohol problems among the 33 counties served by the institution.

DEPUTIES TAKE OATH - Duplin Clerk John A. Johnson gave the oath of office to the following Duplin County deputies on Monday at James Sprunt Institute: Dalton Jones, Rodney Thigpen, Graham Chestnutt, A.E. Basden, Snyder



NEW COMMISSIONERS SWORN IN - (L to R) Duplin County Clerk of Superior Court, John A. Johnson, is shown administering the oath of office to the new county Board of Commissioners, Franklin Williams, Calvin Turner, and Allen Nethercutt. The term of office is four years.



FIFTH TERM FOR SHERIFF - (L to R) Superior Court Judge Henry Stevens, III, gave the oath of office to Duplin County Sheriff, Elwood Revelle for his fifth term on Monday at James Sprunt Institute.



CLERK TAKES OATH - (L to R) Superior Court Judge Henry Stevens, III, is shown as he swore in John A. Johnson for his third term as Duplin County Clerk of Superior Court on Monday.

Boots Randolph Concert Scheduled For December 11

The second in a series of four concerts sponsored by the Duplin County Tarheel Fine Arts Society is scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 8 p.m. in the Kenan Auditorium in Kenansville. Boots Randolph is a co-headliner with the Masters Festival of Music; he has been booked by leading night clubs across the country.

His compositions include "Yakety Sax," "Cacklin' Sax," "Little Big Horn," "Click in the Rough," and "Simple Simon."

All tickets to the performance have been sold. There will be no ticket sales at the door.

Tarheel Fine Arts Society members and ticket holders are reminded of the remaining concert dates: The New Christy Minstrels, March 9, 1979; and An Evening with Rodgers & Hammerstein, April 10, 1979.

Notice

Duplin County Department of Social Services advises that since there will be changes in the Food Stamp Program effective January 1, 1979, the last day that food stamps may be bought for December will be December 20, 1978. This will allow the agency time in which to implement these changes.