

# Duplin Times

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## Magnolia Awaits OK On Projects

Contracts totaling \$1,409,000 for a proposed water and sewer project for Magnolia now must be approved by state and federal agencies before work can be authorized, Mayor Pro Tem Melvin Pope said last week.

The low bids exceeded the original funds available for the project by nearly \$700,000, he said.

The town sought additional grants and loans from the Environmental Protection Agency for the sewer project and from Farmers Home Administration for both projects.

Pope said he received word from 3rd District Rep. Charles O. Whitley, D-Mt. Olive, Thursday that a sup-

plemental grant of \$249,974.70 will be received by the town from the EPA. Earlier in August, FmHA authorized a supplemental grant of \$338,400 and loan of \$47,000 to meet the added costs.

The original cost estimates, made in 1976 and 1977, were too low for the inflated costs of late 1979 when the first bid call was issued. The first bids were received in December 1979. The low bids were double the original cost estimates of \$710,300 and were rejected.

The original Farmers Home Administration grants totaled \$197,400 and were made in 1978. The city also received a clean water bond grant of \$121,600 from the

state in 1978. EPA allocated the town \$262,500 at that time.

FmHA also loaned the town \$192,900 in 1978 for the project.

Magnolia residents authorized issuance of \$75,000 in sewer bonds and \$165,000 in water bonds through a referendum in 1977.

The water system bids total \$336,181.10. Bids for the sewer system and treatment plant total \$1,073,554.14.

Pope said he hopes final approval of the bids can be obtained by the end of the year. The system will have 245 customers.

When the new system becomes a reality, the rate for customers will be a minimum of \$6.25 per month for the first 3,000 gallons and \$1.10 per 1,000 gallons and any amounts over 10,000 gallons will be 50 cents per 1,000. The water fees are expected to bring in \$25,669.80 a year.

Plans call for 183 customers for the sewer system initially. A minimum charge of \$6.50 per month will be made. An additional charge of \$2 per month will be added for each 1,000 gallons of water used by the customer over 3,000. Sewer fees are expected to bring in \$26,180.40.

Engineers estimated 109 customers will be in the minimum water rate group, and 89 in the sewer minimum rate group.



COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE JUDGES - Four Duplin County towns were visited by members of the N.C. Department of Commerce last week. The Department of Commerce representatives were inspecting Beulaville,

Magnolia, Rose Hill and Kenansville for nominations to receive the Governor's Community of Excellence Award. All the above towns were winners in 1979, and reapplied in the 1980 Community of Excellence program. Pictured

above, left to right, Gray Shope, John Radford, Lew Dunn, Edward M. Stanfield, a field services representative, and Bruce Andrews, all of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Photo by Emily Killette

## Faison Purchases Trash Truck

By Emily Killette

Faison commissioners met in a special session August 18 to open bids for the purchase of a new trash truck.

One bid was submitted and Truxmore of Richmond, Va. was awarded the contract to furnish the town with a 17-cubic-yard trash truck. Truxmore submitted a bid of \$32,000, quoting the town two lease-purchase agreements, 36- or 48-months and \$3,320 down. Financed through Truxmore, the town would pay monthly installments of \$948 under the four-year plan and \$1,184 under the three-year plan. Either plan with Truxmore would be financed with a 16% interest rate.

A second financing option was reported to the board by Mayor Bill Carter. Financing through one of the two banks located in Faison was suggested by Carter. Prior to the meeting, he said, both banks had been contacted and one bank had quoted a 10% interest rate.

According to Carter, the town had requested a single annual payment on the trash truck. Truxmore quoted only monthly installments. And, the town had not included monthly trash truck payments in the budget. A loan through the local banks would provide both a lower rate of interest and annual payments, Carter explained. The first annual payment on the truck would not be due until the next budget year.

A motion to purchase the truck was made by Commissioner William Igoe, and Carter was authorized to obtain the lowest interest rate possible to finance the truck. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fred Wheelless and passed unanimously.

The new trash truck arrived in Faison August 20. Mayor Carter reported financing the truck with Southern Bank and Trust Co. at a 10% interest rate.

Police Officer Ray King requested the board's approval of additional space for the police department. He explained the police department needed additional interrogation rooms. King offered the use of two rooms in a downtown building he owns. The downstairs portion of the building is used as a game room; the upstairs is vacant. King offered the space rent-free, and the town would pay the cost of utilities for the space occupied by the police department. Repairs would also be financed by the town; \$500 in repairs would be needed, Mayor Carter said. Carpet on the floor and paint for the walls would be the extent of the repairs, and an additional \$500 would be needed to pay the utilities,

Carter said.

Commissioner Rachel Clifton made a motion to approve the use of \$1,000 to provide the additional space for the police department. But, in the next year's budget, Clifton said, rent for the space used by the police department will be set and paid to King. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Helen Britt and passed unanimously. Town Administrator Neil Mallory was instructed to draw up a town use agreement for King's property.

Commissioner Billie Hollingsworth stated a recommendation had been made by the recreation commission to raise the salary of Recreation Director Charles King. The salary increase of \$10 per week would be in accordance with other town employees, Hollingsworth said. The board approved the request.

The board also approved the issuance of \$261,700 in bonds to finance the town water system. The bonds will be available to private investors at a 5% interest on each \$100 bond. The remaining bonds will be purchased by Farmers Home Administration.

Pope is acting as mayor in the absence of the elected mayor, Marjorie Pickett, who refused to be sworn into office after winning the election last year. Pope, the former mayor, was elected mayor pro tem by the council.

During the filing period for town offices, Pope had declared he did not want to continue as mayor and filed for a board seat. He said the office was forcing him to take too much time from his furniture and appliance business.

He as agreed to act as mayor, he said, because no one else would take over the position and "someone has to do it."

## Community Of Excellence Inspection

# Officials Visit Duplin Towns

By Emily Killette

Four Duplin County towns were visited by the Governor's Community of Excellence inspection team last week. The team is visiting as a possible industrial client.

Beulaville, Magnolia, Rose Hill and Kenansville were visited by the inspection team this week. The team was headed by John Radford of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Other members included Gary Shope and Bruce Andrews, also with the Department of Commerce, and Lew Dunn of the Pender County Economic Development Commission, and Edward M. Stanfield, field representative with the state

Industrial Development Division.

According to Radford, 69 of the 77 communities that received the award in 1979 reapplied for the Governor's Community of Excellence award this year. And, 46 new communities applied for the first time, he said. In the state, there are 432 communities which qualify to enter the Community of Excellence program; these communities have a population of less than 15,000 people.

"Of the communities receiving the award last year, 50 have received a new industry or an expansion of an existing industry in the past year," Radford said.

Last year Duplin had six

communities entered in the CEA program, all of which received the Governor's Award. This year, Duplin's same six communities have reapplied for the award, Warsaw, Wallace, Rose Hill, Kenansville, Magnolia and Beulaville. The town of Warsaw was the first community visited in the county, and was approved at that time. The towns of Beulaville, Magnolia, Rose Hill and Kenansville were visited last week, and Wallace will be inspected in September.

"This year the team is acting as a board of directors looking for a site to locate their plant," Radford said. "If you can sell your town to us, then we will recommend the town to the Governor."

Acting as the chairman of the board was Andrews. Dunn participated as vice-president of site and building, and Shope acted as vice-president of personnel. The company represented was an electronic component industry.

Each town visited by the inspection team prepared a slide presentation of their community and distributed community information packets to the members. A scrapbook of the town was also on hand for the team. A tour of the communities involved visits to designated and possible industrial sites. The presentation made by

the communities addressed these topics: transportation, utilities, finances, labor, site and buildings, education and training, taxes and government, and livability.

In Kenansville, the team was greeted Thursday morning by Mayor Douglas Judge, President of the Kenansville Development Commission Amos Brinson, Director of the Duplin Industrial Development Commission John Gurganus, Town Administrator Woody Brinson, President of the Kenansville Chamber of Commerce Rich Boyd, and United Carolina Bank representative Carey Wrenn.

## Rose Hill Could Lose HUD Grant For Sewer System

Rose Hill faces possible loss of a \$813,000 rehabilitation grant from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development unless it can obtain a waiver of a state building moratorium due to its overloaded sewer treatment plant, according to Tom Ramsey of the district HUD office in Greensboro.

The town board received this information last Thursday at a special meeting that had been called to make adjustments in a new sewer rate.

The grant would rehabilitate 45 dwellings in the town. The homes involved are in an area that does not have sewer lines. The project would include laying sewer lines and connecting them with the city's system.

The state Environmental Management Commission has ruled that the town can connect only homes built on an existing sewer line until it increases the capacity of its treatment plant. No new service lines may be added now, according to the ruling.

Town officials will meet with Environmental Management Commission officials September 11 to ask for a waiver of the ruling. If the

town obtains such a waiver, it must notify HUD officials immediately to save the grant. The final decision on the grant is expected to be made September 12.

Residents of Rose Hill are scheduled to vote a second time on a proposed bond authorization to finance sewage treatment plant improvements. Mayor Ben Harrell called the proposed \$375,000 bond issue a "barebones proposal."

If the town loses the HUD grant, it will need a bond issue of about \$600,000 to fund the sewer system and treatment plant it will be required to build by environmental protection rules, according to Town Planner Woody Brinson.

A public hearing bond referendum has been scheduled for 8 p.m. September 2 in the town hall.

The board also adjusted its new sewer rates. The sewer rate established in July was tied to the amount of water used and called for a \$3 minimum plus \$1.50 for each thousand gallons of water used over the first 1,000 gallons. The board Thursday night ruled that a new sewer rate will be the same as the water charge.

By Emily Killette

The Auxiliary of Duplin General Hospital is a volunteer organization which began in July. The first group project was to provide mail delivery for the hospital patients.

The second project the group will undertake is to man an information desk in the hospital lobby. The desk will be located across from the insurance department, Hospital Administrator Richard Harrell said. And, volunteers will be at the desk during visiting hours, 2-4 p.m., and from 6:30-8 p.m. The information will provide visitors with room numbers and the location of various hospital departments, Harrell said.

The auxiliary renders a valuable service, one the hospital cannot afford otherwise," Harrell said. "And studies show patients do not hesitate to ask a volunteer for help, but often will not ask someone on the hospital staff to do something for them."

Volunteers in the auxiliary will be wearing yellow smocks during their duty at the hospital. There are 37 members in the organization, who come from all parts of

the county, Harrell said. Volunteers are also being recruited from the south Lenoir area, Harrell said, as Duplin General serves citizens in Lenoir County.

"Basically, the auxiliary started with members close to the hospital in the Kenansville, Beulaville and Warsaw areas," Harrell said. "The goal is to encourage members from all parts of the county. And, as we start having more patients from other parts of the county, there will be a greater participation in the auxiliary."

Two years ago, Harrell said, the hospital tried to organize both a chaplain program and an auxiliary. The chaplain program was organized, and, he said, it has been an asset for the hospital. And now the auxiliary has been organized and operating since July. According to Harrell, the group includes a mixture of ages, with a group of junior volunteers who are supervised by the adult members.

"The auxiliary offers teenagers some valuable experiences on which to make career decisions," Harrell said. "The teenager can get to know and see how a hospital works, teaching

them the different jobs of hospital employees."

Future projects the auxiliary plans include a library service and a gift cart. In the future, Harrell hopes to see the auxiliary begin to assist with the transporting of patients to and from their rooms. And, the auxiliary will be assisting with projects

to raise money for equipment.

"Any person who is here to serve, as a rule, will make a good volunteer," Harrell said. "Most people who have an interest in mankind and come to serve will make a useful contribution."

The auxiliary meets monthly, each third Monday

of the month at 9 a.m. in the hospital cafeteria. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the meetings. Information can also be obtained by contacting Mrs. Stuart Hall at 296-1827 or Sandy Williams at 293-3193. The organization has an annual membership fee of \$3 per individual.

sheriff, directing these persons to come and list their taxes. If they fail to heed the summons, an arrest warrant will be drawn, Moore said.

Named to three-year terms on the Airport Commission were Clarence Lingle of Faison, Charles Hughes of Kenansville, S.E. Godwin, Jr. of Warsaw, Annie Catherine Bland of Rose Hill and Bennie Wilson of Warsaw.

Lingle, Hughes and Godwin had been nominated by the towns. Ms. Bland and Wilson were named to represent the county as a whole.

## Auxiliary To Man Information Desk At Duplin General Hospital

## Duplin Board Insists On Title To Old School

A request by the county Board of Education to transfer \$42,000 in its budget without any property conditions died for lack of a motion at the Duplin Board of Commissioners meeting in Kenansville last week.

The school board's request said the transfer, from its capital outlay fund to its current expense budget, was needed "to avoid charging (students) an instructional supply fee."

Last month the commissioners had approved a \$100,000 transfer from

capital outlay to current expenses on condition that the school board give the county title to the old Kenansville Elementary School property. The school board has not transferred the title, so no fund transfer has been made.

The board also instructed Tax Supervisor Frank Moore to follow the letter of the law in getting all property in the county listed for taxes. This means that 50 persons Moore reported as having failed to list are subject to arrest.

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