

Duplin Times

PROGRESS SENTINEL

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Duplin Budget Requests Viewed

Initial 1982-83 budget requests of Duplin County department heads to the County Board of Commissioners total \$9,350,269, not including proposed fund transfers and carry-overs.

The requests exceed the current comparative budget by \$560,427. The 1981-82 budget totaled nearly \$8,790 million.

The initial requests will be pared down during budget sessions of the commissioners in the next week or two. Board members and County Manager Ralph Cottle have said there will be no ad valorem tax increase in the county this year. The present tax rate is 70 cents per \$100 valuation.

"Under present economic conditions in Duplin County, a tax rate increase is not recommended," Cottle said this past week.

At the 70-cent rate, the owner of a home and per-

sonal property assessed at \$50,000 paid \$350 last year in county ad valorem taxes.

Cottle noted that a recently completed review of assessed valuations of three rural townships in the county showed an increase of only 1.47 percent, due mostly to construction of several new poultry houses. Taking 1.47 percent as the overall valuation increase in the county for this year, he said, would place the estimated real and personal property value of the county at \$649,476,827.

Based on a 95 percent collection rate, 1 cent of tax levy will bring the county \$61,700, Cottle added. On this basis, the 70-cent levy would bring the county \$4,319,000.

The difference between the sum brought in by the ad valorem tax and the final budget total is provided by state and federal revenue sources. However, counties are required by law to de-

velop balanced budgets.

The departments' general fund requests total \$8,863,863. The board approved \$8,489,412 for the general fund last year. Most county departments as well as the school system and social services department are included in the general fund.

The school system is requesting \$3,143,297. Its 1981-82 county funding totaled \$2,470,594. North Carolina public school systems receive most of their funds from the state.

The Social Services Department is asking for \$917,477. Last year, it received \$826,350 from the county.

No new positions or programs are included in the proposed budget. The proposal does not include a general pay increase although it provides for step or grade increases.

Rose Hill Panel Examines Budget

Between mid-April and June 30, the Town Board of Rose Hill will wrestle with a 1982-83 budget proposal calling for spending \$507,600.

The town's 1981-82 operating budget totaled \$488,700, about \$6,000 higher than the 1980-81 figure.

The initial proposal calls for general fund expenditures of \$204,200. It calls for a water and sewer department expenditure of \$154,400, balanced by anticipated income of \$154,400.

The proposal anticipates \$100,000 in revenue sharing income which would be divided among public safety, health, transportation, recreation, general government, library and environ-

mental protection expenditures.

The proposal includes \$26,000 from state Powell Bill funds for street work and \$23,000 set aside for debt retirement.

The town's assessed valuation is estimated at \$16 million, \$1 million greater than a year ago. The budget anticipates holding the tax rate at 70 cents per \$100 valuation. If 100 percent of the levy were paid, it would raise \$112,000, but the proposal anticipates collection of \$75,000 in ad valorem taxes.

If the levy remains unchanged, the owner of a \$50,000 home and \$5,000 in personal property would pay \$385 in town ad valorem taxes next fall.

Revenue from sources other than ad valorem taxes expected for the 1982-83 fiscal year is estimated at \$129,200, including \$34,500 in garbage collection fees, \$29,000 in local option sales tax refunds, \$30,000 in unspent funds from the 1981-82 budget, \$14,000 in franchise tax receipts, \$4,000 in state sales and gasoline tax refunds, \$3,000 in interest on investments and \$3,000 in intangible tax receipts.

Major items on the proposed budget include \$57,000 for police, \$34,500 for sanitation, \$24,000 for streets, \$18,000 for payroll taxes and retirement, \$14,000 for the town administrator and \$13,000 for the fire department.



One man died and three people were hurt when a tractor-trailer rig loaded with eggs and a car collided Wednesday one-half mile west of Warsaw on N.C. 24. A passenger in the truck, James Dean Garner, 21, of Warsaw, was killed. The rig driver, Donald Keith Tucker, 28, of Warsaw, suffered several fractured bones and was described as seriously injured. He is being treated in Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville. The driver of the car, Arlene Hill Stokes, 50, of Warsaw, and a passenger were treated and released from the hospital. State Highway Patrol Trooper C.D. Rogers Thursday said charges are pending outcome of the accident investigation.



Magnolia Negotiating CP&L Payment

Magnolia officials will try to negotiate a settlement with the town's engineering firm to pay part of the \$6,300 the town will have to pay Carolina Power & Light Co. for three-phase power service to two sewage lift stations, the town board decided at their meeting last week.

The engineering firm, Rivers & Associates, designed the lift stations for three-phase power, which is more expensive to install than single-phase. The construction firm, Sopar Utilities of Jacksonville, refused to pay for the difference between the cost of single- and three-phase installation, claiming three-phase is unnecessary.

CP&L has also indicated single-phase power would be sufficient.

The town submitted the matter for arbitration. Mayor Melvin Pope told the board Tuesday the town lost its case and would have to pay the additional cost.

Rivers sent the town a bill for \$4,000 — later reduced to \$1,500 — for services during the arbitration procedure.

The board authorized Pope and town attorney Garrett Ludlum to seek a settlement with the engineering firm that would pay the town at least part of the additional cost because the problem stems from the design of the lift stations.

"As I understand it, three-phase would be nice but it's not necessary," Ludlum said.

In other business, the board directed Bob Sanderson and Doug Daughtry of Harrells, who want to establish a mobile home park with 23 spaces on a 6,600-square-foot lot on the southwest side of town, to have an engineer establish grades on the property so a sewer line could be extended to it.

By a split vote, the board decided to seek additional payment from Mike Newkirk for an unusually high water bill. Newkirk contended his bill was normally \$19 a month, but that the bill jumped to \$84 one month. The town office accepted and cashed Newkirk's check for \$19, on which he had written "paid in full."

Ludlum told the board that

when such a check is accepted on a disputed bill, the bill is considered paid in full.

Voting to seek the additional money were board members Hubert E. Tucker, Hubert Howard and Randolph Beeton. Voting to let the matter drop were Ruth Quinn and Bill Usher.

The board voted to hire a public works employee for the summer to mow grass, trim weeds and brush and help with garbage for \$3.35 per hour.

Waste Industries Inc. of Wilmington has proposed providing once-a-week garbage pickup service for either \$3.85 or \$4 per month, depending on the number of customer signups in the county. Pope said the town's present \$4-a-month fee enables the town garbage service to pay its own way.

Brothers Found Dead

Two elderly brothers were found shot to death Sunday morning behind one man's house on Calico Bay Road, Route 1, Teachey.

E.G. Baker of the Duplin County Sheriff's Department said Floyd and Herbert Wilson, both in their 60s, were found lying dead side-by-side behind Herbert's

house around 10 a.m. A .22-caliber pistol was found beside the bodies, Baker said.

The Wilsons lived next door to each other and were both employed as brick-masons.

Autopsies have been scheduled and an investigation is continuing, Baker said.

1 Dead, 3 Hurt In Collision

WARSAW - One man was killed and three injured last Wednesday evening in a collision between a car and a tractor-trailer, on N.C. 24 around 5:15 p.m. about a half-mile west of Warsaw, the Highway Patrol reported.

The dead man, a passenger in the truck, was identified as James Dean Garner, 21, of Warsaw.

The truck driver, Donald Keith Tucker, 28, also of Warsaw, was seriously injured in the crash. The truck, operated by ECX of Raleigh, was loaded with eggs. After colliding with the car, the truck smashed cab-first into a ditch, scattering eggs all over the highway. The accident also severed a utility pole, knocking out power in

the area and starting a small brush fire. Investigating Highway Patrol Trooper C.D. Rogers said the cause of the accident was still under investigation late Wednesday night.

The truck and trailer, valued at \$70,000, were declared total losses and remained at the scene while troopers awaited the arrival

of a crane to carry off the wreckage. Traffic was blocked on the highway for about an hour following the wreck and one lane remained closed late Wednesday night.

Firefighters from the Kenansville Fire Department were called to extinguish the fire. Rescue squads from Warsaw and Kenansville

carried the injured to Duplin General Hospital in Kenansville.

The others injured were the driver of the car, Arlene Hill Stokes, 50, of Warsaw, who had minor injuries and an unidentified 72-year-old woman who was a passenger in the car.

Rose Hill Likely To Back Waste Pickup Plan

The Town Board of Rose Hill looked favorably last week on a proposal to pick up residential garbage for \$4.65 a month, but it took no action pending developments in other Duplin County towns.

Mayor Ben Harrell said he thinks the proposal would save the town money. Board members nodded in agreement.

Waste Industries of Wilmington Inc. has made similar proposals to all towns in the county. The basic rates of once-a-week pickup would be \$3.85 per month per household if all the towns signed up for the service, and \$4 per month if a minimum of 1,700 households were signed up.

Rates for businesses would be based on the number of

pickups per week and cubic footage involved.

Harrell said Rose Hill would want service twice a week from May through October and once a week for the remainder of the year. Waste Industries spokesman

Carolyn Buchanan said the firm proposed a charge of \$4.65 year-round for such a service.

She said 12 garbage trucks now operate in the county. If Waste Industries can contract with all the towns of the

county, she said, it could provide garbage pickup service with three trucks based in Duplin and one backup truck.

Board member Keith Hinson said Rose Hill now charges \$4 per month for trash pickup. Hinson said the

fee will be increased to \$5 a month in the proposed 1982-83 town budget, "and that won't even pay for the service."

The town has 580 garbage customers, according to town clerk C.T. Fussell.

Alumni Association Meeting Rescheduled

Due to inadequate response to the notification of the meeting of the JS alumni association, the barbecue supper meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 24, has been postponed until a later date. An announcement will be made on the progress

of the alumni association.

The alumni association is still in the infancy stage and is making efforts to build its membership. The purpose is to keep communications and ties strong among past and present students of the college and to bring more public interest to the activities and

needs of the college. With these goals in mind, an advisory council has drawn up a working constitution and plans to contact all persons eligible for membership. Anyone who has completed a minimum of two consecutive quarters (24 credit hours) in a curriculum

program is eligible for membership. For further information, contact Mrs. Cindy Dail at JSTC in Kenansville, 296-1341, ext. 239, or write to James Sprunt Technical College, P.O. Box 298, Kenansville, NC 28349. Watch for later news.