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I-40 Connector Picks Up Powerful Allies

State senator Harold Hardison, one of North Carolina's most powerful legislators, said this past week he will "support anything that will speed construction of I-40."

Hardison, whose district includes Lenoir, Duplin and Jones counties and part of Pender County, was referring to the freeway that will link the Interstate highway system to the Wilmington port. A funding plan proposed by state Representative Harry Payne, D-New Hanover, was thwarted in a House committee two weeks ago. Gov. Jim Hunt opposes the Payne proposal, which would earmark up to \$50 million in federal funds for the I-40 connector.

Hardison, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said "We'll just have to muster up some more votes to get the job done."

Duplin County's state representative also vowed this past week to back Payne's campaign to secure continue

funding for the freeway.

State Representative Wendell Murphy, D-Duplin, of Rose Hill, who represents Duplin and Jones counties, said, "I'll trade any of my political future for I-40. It's the most important issue to come before our area. We've been left out since the road building program began. No question but that we'll get the road. The question is how soon."

"I strongly support Harry Payne and his efforts to get money committed to the project," Murphy said. "There's doubt in my mind that he'll be able to get what he wants unless he can get the leadership to go along with it."

In a reference to highway spending under former Republican Gov. Jim Holsauser, Murphy said, "...the money went west and we were left out, and we haven't been overly blessed since then."

Discussing other legislative issues, both Hardison and Murphy said they be-

lieve Hunt's estimates of state income for next year are too high. Murphy said he believes income was overstated by about \$80 million.

He said a big question before the legislature is that of lifting a state employees' wage freeze. "I believe it's safe to say it will be lifted," he said.

Hardison wants any additional money for state wages spread across the board. Only about two-thirds of the state employees would receive increases under a merit plan, he added.

Murphy, who is serving his first term, described his initial months in office as a "learning experience." He said the General Assembly wastes a lot of time, as for example, in its debate on a nuclear arms freeze resolution. "Everyone's against a nuclear war but we're not the ones to deal with this," he explained.

The legislative session should start later in the year, he added. "Some say a later start would merely mean a

later adjournment, but we don't know much about the state's income until later and so we don't have the information to set up the budget until long after the session begins."

Extending school hours or days is out of the question, Murphy said. "The funds are not available."

Murphy, a hog producer, called the Watson Seafood & Poultry Co. financial problem "a disaster to Duplin County and Southeastern North Carolina."

He said he sympathizes with everyone involved, particularly the growers who will lose income from not having broilers to put in their chicken houses but must continue paying for the houses.

Murphy said he continues to favor the safe roads act, even though it might create a backlog in court. "If it cuts down on drunk driving it'll be worth the trouble," he said. "Only time will tell."



FLAG POLE FOR WARSAW RECREATION PARK - B.G. Kennedy and his dad, Billy Kennedy, are shown stringing the flag for the flagpole at Warsaw Recreation Park. The sign was made by Joe Lanier of Warsaw.

flagpole was a part of B.G.'s Eagle Scout project. The pole is at the rear of the newly-erected 'routed wooden sign.' The sign was made by Joe Lanier of Warsaw.

Town Hall Renovation Plans Requested By Beulaville Board

By Emily Killete

A set of plans for the renovation of the old town hall was requested by the Beulaville Board of Commissioners during the May 2 meeting. Members of the citizen renovation committee were advised to present plans and written estimates at the June meeting of the town board.

"A set of plans will be needed before a building permit can be issued," Beulaville town commissioner Elvis Sumner said. "I don't think you can renovate that building (old town hall) for \$12,500. I think you can tear it down and construct a better building, cheaper."

The citizen committee for renovation of the old Beulaville town hall, appointed by the town board, reported a \$12,500 estimate to restore the structure at the April meeting of the commissioners. Commissioners S.A. Blizard and Elvis Sumner had reported a \$23,640 estimate to restore the old town hall and recommended the

construction of a new building to replace the old structure if need existed for additional space, during the February meeting of the town board.

Beulaville citizen Sarah Bolin appeared with representation by attorneys Hubert and David Phillips of Kenansville requesting sewer service to property on West Stanford St. Bolin's property includes one dwelling which the Duplin County health department has proposed to condemn unless connected to proper sewage facilities. The home is serviced by a septic tank which was covered when an addition was built onto the house. Attorney David Phillips requested the board service the Bolin property using Clean Water grant funds earmarked for sewer expansion in the Stanford Street section of Beulaville. Phillips pointed out the Board's lack of action on the sewer project since the \$19,655 grant was approved in May of 1982.

"I have had the opportunity to sell two lots on Stanford

St.," Bolin said. "But, the Farmers Home Administration won't approve them without sewer service. And, if the funds are available for the sewer lines, why not use them?" Bolin's real estate on Stanford St. is classified farm property.

According to Woody Brinson of McDavid and Associates in Kenansville, engineers for the proposed project in the northwest section of Beulaville, the Board of Commissioners held up the job due to the town's lack of matching funds. The total project was estimated to cost \$78,621. Brinson said, "The funds obligated to Beulaville under the North Carolina Clean Water grant cover about 25 percent of the project. Included are approximately 3,000 feet of sewer lines and a lift station. The funds are under a three-year obligation to the town."

Action on Bolin's request was scheduled for the June meeting of the Beulaville town board.

The town commissioners requested Mayor Wilbur Hussey talk with businesses

along the intersections of Lee and Smith Streets with Highway 24 about making the areas open to one way traffic only. According to recommendations from the Department of Transportation, approximately 10 parking spaces would be eliminated at each intersection if two-way traffic continued to flow through Smith and Lee Streets. Opening the streets to one-way traffic would reduce the number of parking spaces eliminated. Hussey pointed out.

Doug Brown of Brown's Construction in Beulaville met with the Board requesting the Commissioners look into extrajurisdiction zoning to continue one mile outside the city limits.

A letter was received by the town board from Beulaville residents requesting the removal of a hog pen on Robertson St. The board requested the town police department contact the owner Dan Moore, and negotiate the removal of the hog pen from inside the Beulaville city limits.

Hussey talk with businesses

Firm Begins Audit Of Duplin Hospital

The Price-Waterhouse auditing firm of Raleigh began its study of the Duplin General Hospital's financial condition and prospects last week.

County Manager Ralph Cottle told the Board of Commissioners last week on Monday that the firm expects to have a report ready for the board by June 3.

The auditor will be paid \$10,000 at the end of four weeks of work. The final cost will be determined when the study is complete. When the contract was authorized last month, the total cost of the

study was estimated at \$18,000 to \$20,000.

Duplin General has lost money for more than a year, due in part to many potential patients going to hospitals in other communities and in part to payment limitations of the Medicaid and Medicare programs for poor and elderly patients.

The board will consider the auditors' report at its June 6 meeting.

A budget hearing was held in a special meeting May 10 in the courthouse in Kenansville.

The board filed two appli-

cations for community development block grants following the final public hearing on them Monday. It asked for \$601,900 for rehabilitation of an area west of Faison called Burning Bush. The application calls for remodeling 39 houses and demolishing 15. In the other application, the board asked for \$148,060 for a recreation facility in the Rockfish area west of Wallace.

County Attorney Rusty Lanier suggested the county negotiate with the Seaboard Systems Co. for payment of property taxes, which the

railroad firm has withheld since 1979 pending resolution of court action on valuation of railroad property. In 1979 the railroad property in the county was assessed at \$1,304,226. With the 1979 tax rate of 68 cents per \$100 valuation, the county received \$8,868.74 in taxes from the railroad.

Sitting as a board of equalization and review, the board reduced the valuation of a structure being built by Cecil Korngay of Glisson Township from \$15,000 to \$10,000 and changed its classification from dwelling to farm storage building.

Duplin Board Solicits Watershed Bids

Sealed bids for the first phase of construction in the Muddy Creek watershed of southeastern Duplin County will be received until 10 a.m. May 17 in the board of commissioners office in the courthouse in Kenansville.

Bids will be opened at that time by Duplin soil conservation district officials.

District Conservationist Kenneth Futreal said the first phase will entail 21,000 feet of channel restoration and installation of three

basins to trap silt. The work will be near the mouth of Muddy Creek, which empties into the Northeast Cape Fear River near Chinquapin. The creek flows westerly from near the Onslow-Duplin County line southeast of Beulaville.

Futreal estimated the cost of this phase at not more than \$100,000. He said last week five prospective bidders had inspected the work area.

While it is a small part of the entire Muddy Creek

project, it will benefit the 31,000 acres of crop and woodlands in the watershed by providing an improved outlet for excess water in the area.

Work is expected to begin Aug. 1, the earliest date permitted under environmental regulations. Channel work is banned from March 1 to Aug. 1 because of possible destruction of marine life during the spawning season.

The remainder of the project is divided into Phase 2A and Phase 2B.

Phase 2A will include about 19 miles of channel restoration. Futreal said he expects to call for bids on this phase in late June. Phase 2B will include 39 miles of channel excavation. Futreal said he hopes to call for bids on that phase this fall.

Futreal estimated cost of the entire project, including land treatment and structures at \$1,780,000 with about \$500,000 of this for channel restoration and \$200,000 for excavation.

Kenansville Board Considers Sewer Extension

Kenansville officials will ask the Local Government Commission to determine the most economical approach to extension of town sewer lines to an N.C. Department of Corrections unit a mile south of town.

Because sewage disposal has become a problem, prison officials have asked to have the unit connected with the city sewers.

Last week the town board studied the question. The town could annex the prison, which would add 115 people to the town population. This would increase receipts to the town from state or federal funds based on population.

Without annexing the prison, the board agreed, the town would permit a prison connection to the sewer system if the state would lay a sewer line to the town lines

and install a pump or lift station. The lift station would be near James Sprunt Technical College between the town and the prison. James Sprunt is connected to the town sewer system.

If the town did not annex the prison, the price for providing sewer service to the prison would be twice the standard rate, which is based on volume of water used.

The town supplies water to the prison which uses about 350,000 gallons a month, at an average price of about \$600.

The Local Government Commission is being asked whether the town would benefit more from annexing the corrections unit or serving it at double the standard rate without annexation.

After no one appeared for a revenue-sharing public

hearing on Monday night, the board voted to add the \$9,765 it will receive in the next six months to the 1983-84 fiscal year general fund. Half of the money will be received in July and the rest in October.

No. 1 NCSU Seniors To Play For Benefit In Kenansville

The Seniors from North Carolina State University, 1983 championship basketball team, will be in Kenansville on Sunday, May 15th. The Kenansville Jaycees are sponsoring the game, which will be at 3 p.m. at Kenan Auditorium with all proceeds going to the health care of Lori Mitchell.

The N.C.S.U. seniors will play a team made up of local

Jaycees and area school district basketball stars.

Advanced tickets will be \$4 and can be purchased at the following area businesses: Kenansville - Kenansville Drug Store, UCB, NCNB; Beulaville - UCB; Warsaw - BB&T; and at Faison Pharmacy.

A special door will be provided for advance ticket purchasers.

Cemetery Committee Appointed In Faison

By Emily Killete

The Board of Faison town commissioners appointed a three-member committee to continue efforts to provide perpetual care for the Faison cemetery, during the May 4 meeting at the town hall.

Appointed to serve on the Cemetery Committee are Anne Taylor, town commissioner Rachel Clifton and Jane Precythe. According to information submitted to the board by Commissioner Helen Britt, 74 families have agreed to participate in the suggested perpetual care project of the Faison Cemetery. And, Britt turned in an estimate of \$2,000 needed each year for the upkeep of the cemetery. The estimated upkeep and agreements to participate had been submitted to Britt by Faison citizen Anne Taylor.

Commissioner Melvin Rogers was appointed by the board to supervise the sale of town water to interested local farmers. A rate of \$3 a 1,000 gallons was set for water sold to farmers. The water may be obtained on the lot across from Rogers' business. Rogers was also authorized to negotiate the sale and

disbursement of the 1976 model Faison police car.

James E. Goodman appeared before the board requesting a license to operate a pool and game room in Faison. Action was delayed until further information on Goodman and the proposed business could be obtained.

Mayor Francis McColman presented a letter from Boney and Associates, town engineers in the recent water project. The engineering firm advised the board of the system's ability to provide an additional 16,000 to 18,000 gallons of water per day to be used in the proposed county project to service the Burning Bush community.

The board was informed of the cost to the Recreation Department to provide utilities for the Faison nutrition site at the town gymnasium at the park.

"The bills have been extremely high. Last month it was \$276 and this month \$206," Frances King, recreation department secretary-treasurer said. "The only thing that has been held in the building in the past months has been the nutri-

tion meals and they only use the lights and hot water heater."

A change was made in the policy for extending water lines and service fees adopted by the Faison Commissioners during the April meeting of the board. Commissioner Helen Britt suggested the policy adopted in April be changed to exclude industry and commercial users along with governmental agencies from the rates adopted. The Board agreed to set rates for commercial, industry or governmental agencies at the time of application for service.

Faison fire chief Glenn Jernigan appeared before the board during the public hearing for revenue sharing funds. Jernigan requested the board allocate \$3,000 to each fire and rescue departments. According to town administrator Neil Mallory Faison expects to receive as much as \$15,000 in revenue sharing funds.

Jernigan also requested the board pass a resolution exempting the Faison Fire Department from HOSEA regulations. He added, a new state law allows towns of less

than 10,000 in population can exempt their local fire departments from HOSEA regulations by passing a resolution to that effect. The resolution was drawn up by the North Carolina Fireman's Association. Town administrator Mallory presented a request received from the League of Municipalities asking towns not to adopt the resolution from the North Carolina Fireman's Association.

"We (Faison fire department) want to be exempted from HOSEA regulations," Fire Chief Jernigan said. "For one thing, we can't afford to comply with their standards. It would cost us \$3,000 to \$5,000 to replace just our turn-out suits alone under HOSEA regulations."

Under the suggestion from the league of municipalities, Mallory pointed out, fire equipment not meeting HOSEA standards would be inventoried and placed on a list to be replaced to meet specifications as the gear wore out. The board unanimously passed the resolution to exempt the Faison Fire Department from HOSEA regulations.