

Duplin Times

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Duplin Squads Win Regional Competition

Duplin rescue squads won the top awards in the Area Three First-Aid competition among 11 participating counties. Magnolia won first place followed by Warsaw in second and Beulaville with third. Magnolia moved from the number two position last year to the top in the 1984 First-Aid competition held in Jacksonville during early May. Hiram Brinson, Duplin emergency services coordinator, pointed out. The rescue squads were honored for their achievement during the May 7 meeting of the Duplin

County Commissioners with certificates of recognition from the Board. Chairman of the Duplin County Commissioners Allen Nethercutt is pictured above presenting certificates to representatives from the three Duplin rescue squads, left to right, Glenwood Thomas of Beulaville, Ruth Quinn of Magnolia, and Kenneth Guy of Warsaw, and Duplin County Emergency Services Director Hiram Brinson.

Expand Disposal Site

Duplin To Buy 133 Acres

Duplin County will exercise its option to buy 133 acres adjacent to the landfill east of Rose Hill. The garbage disposal site will be expanded onto the land.

The price is \$133,000. The county Board of Commissioners voted last week to buy the land even though the results have not been received on soil test borings made by the state.

State regulations do not permit landfills in porous soil because water would pass through buried garbage.

In other business, the board approved a request by Social Services Director Millie Brown to close the social services office May 16 and 17. During those days, the offices of 18 social workers will be moved from

the social services building to the Quinn Building.

The director said serving clients while records were being moved would be nearly impossible. The law requires the agency to act immediately on requests for service if the office is open, she said.

By a 3-2 vote the board refused a request made by Carl Pate of Pate Insurance Agency of Beulaville. Pate had asked for a letter saying the board wanted a county insurance contract bid to be submitted by his agency rather than by an out-of-county agency of the same insurance firm.

County attorney Russell Lanier told the board he wasn't sure such a step would be legal. Voting against

writing the letter were Commissioners D.J. Fussell, Dovey Penney and Calvin Coolidge Turner. Voting for it were Commissioners W.J. Costin and Allen Nethercutt.

The board agreed to seek state permission to change the proposed location of the Rockfish Community Center. The center will be financed by a \$24,000 community development grant.

In the grant application a location near the Swift & Co. turkey plant west of Wallace was proposed. That land sale, however, fell through. The new site is on Secondary Road 1154 beside Rockfish Creek, 2 1/2 miles south of the former site. It includes 22 acres.

Merle Creech, arts council direc-

tor, received permission to seek matching grants for improvements in the former Kenansville Elementary School. The board has appropriated \$25,000 for roofing materials. The value of county labor to install the roof is estimated at \$12,000.

Sitting as the Board of Equalization and Review, the commissioners heard protests about tax assessments.

The board agreed to study a protest by Cecil Bostic of Warsaw, who owns a cemetery called Devotional Gardens. The board will respond to the protest by May 21. The cemetery is between Kenansville and Warsaw on N.C. 24.

Bostic protested the increase in valuation of the property from \$29,500 in 1982 to \$47,000 in 1983.

Almost Half Voters Turn Out

Duplin County voters cast 8,873 ballots in the primary elections last week.

The total was 46.3 percent of the voter registration of 19,161 people.

The hotly contested school board and Board of Commissioners races in two districts brought out the highest percentage of voters, 51.55 percent in District 1 and 53.52 percent in District 5.

Winners were virtually assured of election, since no Republicans filed for the offices.

The District 1 races brought out 1,838 voters out of 3,565 registered.

W.J. Costin retained his District 1 Board of Commissioners seat with 900 votes to 869 for challenger J. Frank Steed. Costin, 58, a Warsaw-area farmer, was seeking his third term. Steed, 53, owns Steed's Tire Service. He is a former Warsaw town commissioner and was seeking his first countywide office.

The district includes Warsaw Township and the Faison precinct of Faison Township.

Two incumbents were pitted against each other in the District 1 school board race in the first year the seat was districted. Previously, school board members had been elected at large.

Two board members with terms expiring this year are from Warsaw, which can now have just one member from its district. As a result, James F. Strickland, who won, and Riddick E. Wilkins, the other Warsaw mem-

ber, sought the same seat.

Strickland, 63, received 968 votes to 744 for Wilkins. Strickland is a 24-year veteran of the school board and a Warsaw hardware store owner. Wilkins, 61, had been appointed to the board in 1981 to complete the term of Patricia Broadrick, who had resigned to move out of state. Wilkins was the first black to serve on the board. He is a retired county agricultural extension agent.

District 5 commissioner and school board races attracted 2,164 of the 4,043 people registered.

It was the first election for the newly constituted District 5 school board seat. The area that now makes up the district, Rose Hill, Kenansville and Magnolia townships, had been unrepresented on the school board for several years.

Amos Q. "Doc" Brinson, 33, a Kenansville pharmacist, defeated Lillie Sanders, 39, of Magnolia, manager of the Duplin Apartments complexes in Rose Hill and Magnolia, by a vote of 1,017 to 953. Ms. Sanders won the Magnolia precinct by 214 to 151 and the Rose Hill precinct by 333 to 325. Brinson won the Kenansville precinct by 533 to 396.

D.J. Fussell, 70, of Rose Hill, a 16-year veteran of the Board of Commissioners, retained his District 5 seat by a vote of 1,130 to 890 for George N. Ammons, 35, a Kenansville farmer seeking his first countywide office. Fussell is a retired contractor and a vintner.

Kenansville To Negotiate Bids For Sewer Hookup

Citing costs higher than engineers' estimates, the Town Board of Kenansville will negotiate bids to connect the state prison unit south of town with the town sewer system.

The low bid was almost \$53,000 higher than engineers' cost estimates. The work entails laying a sewer line to the prison and building a pump station.

T.A. Loving of Goldsboro submitted the low bid of \$187,914.57. The town's engineering firm, McDavid Associates, estimated the project cost at about \$135,000.

The state will pay for the line extension. The prison is south of town on N.C. 11, not far from James Sprunt Technical College, which is served by the town sewer system.

Plans will be reworked by the engineers and a call for new bids will be advertised. The board did not set a new date for bids.

In other business, it was announced that Kenansville police officer Glenn Braswell will be promoted to police chief upon retirement of Chief Tyson Bostic May 24.

Bostic has served the town for 25 years. Braswell's new salary will be established by the board at its June 4 meeting. The board voted to advertise for a police officer to succeed Braswell.

The board also decided to turn complaints by two residents over to an affected department for action.

Sam Middleton complained about repairs to his house made under the town's housing rehabilitation program were unsatisfactory. The complaint will be turned over to Woody Brinson of McDavid Associates, who administers the federally funded housing program.

Annie Washington reported a drainage problem and asked for a ditch to be covered or reworked near her house. The board will order Steve Drew, public works supervisor to study the problem.

The contract for the annual town audit was awarded to Pittard & Perry of Kinston, certified public accountants, on a bid of \$1,125.

The 1984-85 budget will be reviewed in a hearing at 5 p.m. May 26 in the Town Hall.

The board sold a surplus police car to V.J. Basden of Beulaville for \$250. The only other bid received for the car was \$50.

The board decided against paying \$55,000 for the three-bedroom Konegay house next to the former Quinn Store building and Tastee Freeze. The board had been considering the house as a possible town hall.

Proposed Budget Calls For No Tax Increase

The proposed budget presented to the Beulaville Board of Commissioners May 7 by town auditor Doug Clark called for no increase in taxes or water and sewer rates.

The tentative budget was presented with available funds for up to a five percent pay raise for town employees, Clark pointed out to Commissioners. Also, appearing before the Board requesting funds from the 1984-85 town budget were members of the Beulaville Recreation Commission, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, and library.

Recreation Commission member Ken Smith appeared before the board requesting an additional \$2,000 over the funds allocated to the department last year. The request was for \$7,000.

Doug Brown with the Beulaville Volunteer Fire and Rescue requested \$7,000 be allocated to the department. The request for \$7,000 was the same as Commissioners had allocated to the Fire and Rescue Department in the current budget.

The Library Commission in Beulaville submitted a request for \$2,700. The amount requested by the Library Commission is the same as allocated last year by the Board. The town board approved the requests from the Recreation Commission, Fire and Rescue Department and Library Commission as part of the proposed 1984-85 budget.

Clark will present the final copy of the proposed budget to the Beulaville commissioners at the regular

June meeting of the board and a public hearing is scheduled on the budget June 20.

Brown also requested the use of the town computer system by the Beulaville Fire and Rescue department for bookkeeping assistance. The board agreed to provide the fire and rescue department access to the computer system. And, the board agreed to pay a \$243.25 bill for street paving around a hydrant at the fire department building.

Commissioners were also informed of the fire department's decision to change insurance policies. Brown pointed out the new policy would cover fire and rescue members enroute to an emergency and on site, fire and rescue vehicles and equipment, and include a malpractice policy. The new policy including the malpractice and member coverage enroute to an emergency in private vehicles will cost \$400 more than the old policy for minimum coverage. The old policy had not offered malpractice or coverage of members enroute to an emergency, Brown said.

Cecil Lanier of the Beulaville Planning Board submitted a copy of the new subdivision regulations to the Commissioners. The planning board is also preparing a zoning map, Lanier said. The regulations were submitted and if approved by the town board a public hearing will be held before the subdivision zoning codes are adopted by the Beulaville Commissioners as law.

School Officials Concerned About Energy Shift

Energy — mostly for heating and lighting — is one of the major costs for North Carolina's public schools. That cost has steadily shifted from the state government to the counties in the past 25 years.

A quarter of a century ago the state provided three-fourths and the counties one-fourth of these expenditures.

Duplin County officials have blamed a lack of clearly defined responsibilities between the state and the counties for the shift.

Duplin County School Superintendent L.S. Guy said, "I do not know just how it came about. I'm hoping they'll get some resolution about responsibilities of county govern-

ment and state government. There's just not a clear enough understanding."

Traditionally, Guy explained, "Counties provide facilities and state, the programs."

William Peek, associate state superintendent of schools, said, "The General Assembly has not been very responsive to requests of the state board of education in recent years. . . . The legislature hasn't put in enough money to keep up with cost increases. It's a tremendous burden on the counties."

For the 1981-82 school year, the counties provided 66.4 percent of the school energy costs statewide and

the state only 33.6 percent. The total cost was \$75,964,462 with the counties providing \$50,455,181 and the state \$25,509,281.

By contrast, the actual totals for the 1949-50 school year were 74.2 percent of \$1,619,219 from the state and 25.8 percent or \$564,574 from the counties.

The total from both sources for the 1949-50 school year was only \$2,183,835, according to figures provided by the controller's office of the state board of education. The expenditures include costs of heating fuel, lighting, power and water.

While all but a small part of this cost comes out of tax money, the state relies primarily on its income

and sales taxes. Counties must rely mainly on property taxes. The dramatic shift of energy costs has forced property taxes up, or forced school districts to reduce other services or some of both.

In Duplin County, Jane Rich, school finance officer, reported the county supplied \$443,028 for the 1983-84 school energy budget and the state, \$208,932, for a total of \$652,060. The county provided 67.85 percent and the state 32.15 percent of the total. With each cent of property tax bringing in about \$67,000, the county's portion of the school energy cost for the current school year requires about six cents of tax levy.

Rose Hill To Sell Notes For Sewer System

The town board of Rose Hill plans to sell \$375,000 in bond anticipation notes to finance preliminary steps toward improvements to its sewage treatment plant and sewer system.

The board approved the action last week. Mayor Ben Harrell told the board he doubted if the town would need to sell more than \$170,000 to \$190,000 of the notes.

The state Department of Natural Resources and Community Develop-

ment is reviewing bids received last month for the project. The town board has tentatively accepted the low bids, subject to state approval.

Low bidders for the project are Crain and Denbo Inc. of Durham for the general contract, \$898,400; Big John's Electric Co. of Jacksonville, \$41,400 for electrical work; and Kinsey Construction Co. of Dunn, \$92,216.40 for the utility contract.

Town Clerk C.T. Fussell presented

a budget proposal calling for a general fund expenditure of \$236,400 for the 1984-85 fiscal year.

He told the board he expects numerous changes will be made in the proposal before the budget is adopted next month.

Fussell said property taxes would bring in about \$90,000. Other major income sources he listed are local option sales tax, \$40,000; state franchise tax, \$16,500; garbage col-

lection fees, \$39,000; and holdover funds, \$20,000.

The greatest anticipated expense is \$72,000 for the police department, followed by \$39,000 for the sanitation department, \$25,000 for the street department, and \$16,000 for the fire department.

Bond and interest payments will total \$22,000 from a debt service fund budget. Revenue sharing is expected to add \$60,000 and the state Powell Bill street fund \$33,000.

Faison Tax Rate To Remain The Same

Budget office and Commissioner W.J. Igoe informed the Faison Board at the May meeting of a need for a water and sewer fees increase in the 1984-85 town budget. Igoe stated the tax rate would remain the same as last year.

The town of Faison currently has the lowest tax rate in Duplin municipalities. The town's rate is 57 cents per \$100 evaluation. Along with the lowest tax rate, the town's water and

sewer fees are among the cheapest in Duplin municipalities. The town's present minimum water fee is \$4.75 for up to 3,000 gallons and the sewer charges are \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons.

A May 14 work meeting is scheduled by the board to discuss salaries for the new budget. Last year Faison town employees were granted a five percent salary increase. The final budget will be presented to the board at the June

meeting.

A report from Faison Public Works Director Fred Wheelless advised the Board not to accept ownership of a sewage lift station at the Duplin Apartments until repairs are completed by Weil's Enterprises. Wheelless submitted a written statement to the board advising the commissioners of mechanical and potential problems in the working condition of the lift station pumps. Weil's Enterprises began construc-

tion of the Duplin Apartments and an informal agreement was made with the town to assume responsibility of the lift station at the completion of the housing project.

Commissioner Igoe also reported, on behalf of the Faison Historical Commission, plans to install a phone in the town library. The phone is to be installed immediately and be listed as Faison Library and Historic Commission.