

# Duplin Times

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## Kenansville Retiring Police Chief Honored

Tyson Bostic served the town of Kenansville 20 years as police chief and five years as a public works director. Last week the Kenansville town board and former commissioners and mayors honored Bostic with a retirement dinner. The Rev. Lauren Sharpe was the guest speaker. While serving as mayor of Kenansville, Sharpe hired Bostic to work for the town. Bostic was presented a resolution of appreciation for his dedication

to the town of Kenansville as police chief. Earl Hatcher, current mayor pro tem of the Kenansville Board of town Commissioners, presented the resolution. John Hall, a former member of the town board, and Woody Brinson, former mayor, presented Bostic with his badge and gun. Pictured above, the incumbent Kenansville Mayor Don Suttles, retiring police chief Tyson Bostic and Mayor pro tem Earl Hatcher.

## Faison Budget Calls For No Tax Hike In 1984-85

While the 1984-85 Faison town budget passed by the Board of Commissioners at the June 6th meeting calls for no tax hike, an increase in water and sewer rates was approved.

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. Effective July 1, with the newly adopted town budget totaling \$310,285, Faison's water rates for up to 3,000 gallons of water will be \$5 and the sewer minimum charge for up to 4,000 gallons will cost \$4.50.

Along with the increase in water and sewer rates in the 1984-85 budget, Faison commissioners approved an overall salary increase

of five percent for town employees.

Survey maps were presented to the town board for the annexation of about five acres of property off Winnifred Street and the Faison Cemetery for the perpetual care project. Faison Town Attorney Garrett Ludlum was instructed to begin legal procedures in the annexation project. Commissioner Jane Hollingsworth reported the cemetery project would be ready to submit to the town board at the July meeting.

Ludlum was given four names of Faison citizens not abiding by the town sewer use ordinance. According to the town ordinance Faison residents with sewer lines running by their homes must connect to the system and pay fees. Ludlum was instructed to have letters sent to the four residents in violation of the ordinance and request connection to the town sewer system.

Faison Commissioner Jane Hollingsworth presented estimates for

street improvements to the town board. Streets included on the priority list for improvements during the up-coming budget year were Fourth, Hill, South Williams, Ellis and Precythe. Among the top priorities of the Board is Fourth Street and due to an incomplete estimate on the repair work, no decision was made to begin the project. The total estimates submitted for work on the streets was \$27,895 and the town expects to have \$32,000 budget for repair and improvements to town roads during 1984-85. Currently only \$18,000 is on hand. An additional \$15,000 of revenue sharing funds is expected in October for use in street paving and repairs.

The Board approved a motion to grant Faison Clerk Hazel Kelly the authority to accept or refuse check for payment of fees for town services. The motion came as a result of a series of worthless checks written to the town of Faison.

## Beulaville Town Budget Calls For No Increases

Beulaville Commissioners approved a \$505,400 budget for 1984-85 during the June 4 meeting of the Board. No increase in taxes, or water and sewer rates was included in the budget.

The new budget was approved with funds available for overall salary increases of 4.5 percent for Beulaville town employees. However, the Board did not move to award the raises when approving the new budget.

Beulaville's current tax rate is 60 cents per \$100 evaluation. Rates for water and sewer services are \$1.26 per 1,000 gallons.

The Commissioners approved a two-year contract for the town account with First Citizens Bank. Currently the town banks with First Citizens. Bidding for the account were First Citizens and United

Carolina Bank. According to Beulaville Town Auditor Doug Clark, the bank bids only differed on the minimum required in the checking account. UCB requested a checking minimum of \$23,200 while First Citizens required \$6,000. Commissioners also unanimously approved a motion to place \$150,000 in certificates of deposit for the next six months.

In other business, the Board voted to pay Leo Jarman \$475 to settle the cost of repainting his two automobiles. Jarman's autos were spotted when the Beulaville public works department painted a building near the Jarman home on a windy day.

The purchase of a back wash pump was approved by the board. Commissioners allocated \$6,000 for the purchase and installation of the pump. The pump will be connected

to the sewage treatment plant filtration system.

Carl Pate was reappointed as Beulaville's representative on the Duplin County Airport Board.

According to a report to Commissioners from the Beulaville Town Library, more than 3,000 books are now available for check-out, along with records, films and some magazines and newspapers. Since the town library reopened, its lowest daily attendance has been 11 people and the highest 28. The lowest daily check-out of books has been 10 and the highest, 95. The library is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The Board received one bid on the 1980 police car advertised for sale. James M. Williams submitted a bid of \$1,002. Upset bids for the automobile will be received before the final sale.

## Summer School Dates Set In Duplin County Schools

For the first time, the Duplin County school system will operate summer school for students in grades nine through 12 in two locations.

The Board of Education agreed last week to open summer school June 18 and close July 13. Sessions will be held at James Kenan and East Duplin high schools.

A fourth tuition fee to cover the county's costs of paying teachers. Students may register for summer

schools from 9 a.m. to noon June 14 in the James Kenan school cafeteria and East Duplin school library.

Gary Sanderson, assistant superintendent, said the summer sessions are designed for students needing remedial or makeup work. Except for seniors needing to complete requirements for graduation, the session is not designed for students wanting to take new courses.

Students will have to furnish their own transportation, since no school buses will operate, Sanderson said.

A fine arts class will be available to potential 1985 North Carolina Scholars if enough students sign up for it. The class is suggested for students who need such a course to meet the requirements for the scholars program, Sanderson said.

Sanderson estimated that 300 to 400 students, about twice the usual number, will attend the summer sessions. Sanderson attributed the expected increase to the stiffened requirements for high school graduation.

## Muddy Creek Bid To Be Reviewed

A.D. McLamb & Son Construction Co. of Shallotte last week submitted the lowest bid for Phase 2 work in the Muddy Creek watershed project in eastern Duplin County.

The bid of \$212,242.50 will be reviewed by state soil conservation service officials in Raleigh. Kenneth Futreal, Duplin district soil conservationist, said that if everything is in order, a contract will be awarded in about a month.

The second phase of the watershed project includes 6.78 miles of channel clearing and deepening in Muddy Creek and 9.29 miles of channel clearing and restoration in smaller branches feeding into Muddy Creek. These are called "laterals" in project terminology.

The main channel work will be on Muddy Creek from N.C. 41 a mile northeast of Chinquapin to about a mile southeast of Beulaville.

Channel improvement in Muddy Creek from N.C. 41 to where the

creek flows into the Northeast Cape Fear River about 1½ miles west of Chinquapin made up the first phase of the project. That work has been completed at a cost of \$73,500.

Futreal expects construction on the second phase to begin Aug. 1, the earliest that channel improvement work can start because of environmental considerations. Such work is banned from March to August because it endangers fish propagation.

The McLamb bid calls for \$190,867.50 for channel restoration at \$2.25 a lineal foot, \$4,000 for eight sediment basins at \$500 apiece, \$14,237 for loose rock rip-rapping at \$62.50 a ton and \$3,000 for assembling equipment to start the work.

Sediment basins are deep spots in the channel to permit silt to settle. They can be cleaned out periodically. The silt otherwise would gradually fill in the channel.

Other bidders were R. Jerry McLamb Construction Co. of Shallotte, \$239,678.40; Carlisle Bulldozing Co. of Autryville, \$236,647.10; Phelps & White of Windsor, \$250,341; Robbinsville Construction Co. of Robbinsville, \$277,757; and Mac Construction Co. of Shallotte, \$292,931.50.

Bids were opened in the commissioners' room of the Duplin County Courthouse in Kenansville by Calvin Mercer, chairman of the Duplin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Futreal said design work should be completed on the third phase of the Muddy Creek project by late next winter so contracts can be awarded in the spring of 1985. That phase will include 35-40 miles of lateral improvement or construction.

He estimated the cost of the entire watershed project at \$500,000 to \$600,000.

## Duplin Board Approves Budget For 1984-85

A budget of \$10,698,551 for Duplin County in fiscal 1984-85 was approved last week by the county board of commissioners.

The property tax rate will remain at 75 cents per \$100 assessed valuation.

The approved budget is an increase of \$1,981,343, or 22 percent, over the 1983-84 budget of \$8,717,208.

An estimated \$865,000 from federal revenue sharing money and \$600,000 from the new half-cent local sales tax are included in the new budget. These are both new sources of revenue, not included in the 1983-84 budget. They make up nearly \$1.5 million of the increase.

Income from the county property tax is estimated at \$4,993,990, based on a 95 percent collection rate. The county received \$4,837,875 from property taxes for the 1983-84 fiscal year.

Residents of the Oakwolfe Fire District will pay an additional six cents per \$100 assessed valuation for an estimated total of \$8,404 to support the fire department.

The board pared \$955,629 from the proposed budget submitted by the county manager, Ralph Cottle.

The school system will receive \$2,100,000 for current expense compared with \$1,890,586 last year. The board of education requested \$2,709,400. A school capital outlay appropriation of \$335,000 was approved, compared with \$200,000 last year. The board appropriated \$420,631 from the half-cent sales tax for a school capital outlay reserve fund. The fund already included \$100,000 appropriated by the commissioners two years ago.

By a split vote, the board approved \$103,268 for the Duplin-Sampson

Area Mental Health Department, compared with \$96,500 last year. Earlier, the board had agreed to keep the appropriation at last year's level. Commissioners W.J. Costin, Calvin Coolidge Turner and Dovie Penney voted for the increased appropriation. Commissioners Allen Nethercutt and D.J. Fussell abstained. An abstention is considered a "yes" vote, but commissioners can express their displeasure by abstaining.

Nethercutt, they charged, only abstained after the vote: "We don't stick to nothing. We do it one time and then change the next day. I don't know where we stand."

The new budget provides \$150,000 for Duplin General Hospital at

Kenansville compared with \$75,000 last year.

Some other appropriations are:

- \$120,000 for a six percent across-the-board pay increase for the county's 235 employees. No general increase was approved last year.
- \$178,000 for watershed drainage projects.
- \$312,000 for James Sprunt Technical College current expense, compared with \$282,550 last year, and \$100,000 for capital outlay, compared with \$46,364. A \$50,000 reserve fund also was appropriated.
- An increase of \$50 a month to county fire and rescue units.
- \$270,000 for county capital outlay. Among items are five cars for the sheriff's department.

## Duplin Voters Pick Winners

In Tuesday's second primary, 5,418 Duplin County voters went to the polls with the majority of votes going with the winners statewide.

Attorney General Rufus Edmisten received 3,358 votes, while Eddie Knox received 2,012. Edmisten, the winner in Duplin and statewide, received 51.9 percent of the vote. In Duplin County, he won in 17 of Duplin's 20 precincts. Knox was the winner in Rdse Hill, Rockfish and Charity.

In other returns, N.C. Commissioner of Labor, incumbent John

Brooks was the clear winner with 3,436 votes to Richard Barnes' 1,428. Brooks was the state winner as well.

Duplin County Republicans picked John Carrington for lieutenant-governor with 49 votes while Frank Jordan got 39 votes. Carrington was the state winner.

In November, Rufus Edmisten will face Republican challenger Jim Martin for governor. In the lieutenant-governor race it will be Bob Jordan, the Democrat, against the Republican, Jim Carrington.

## No Land? No Sale, Says Duplin County Board

The case of a man who bought "nothing" for \$250 came before the Duplin County Board of Commissioners in Kenansville this past week.

The board agreed to return the man's \$250 plus \$15.75 he had paid in property taxes.

The case began in 1979, when Charles Newkirk bought a lot from the county in a sheriff's tax sale "at the courthouse door."

As usual in such cases, the buyer was issued a deed without warranty, meaning the county guaranteed nothing described in the deed.

Newkirk paid \$250 but never had the title searched or the land surveyed. After paying taxes of

\$5.25 a year on the property for three years, he found he had a deed to apparently non-existent property.

"All I own is a piece of paper and I have \$1,600 tied up in it," he told the board.

After making the purchase, Newkirk said, he paid off a \$700 lien "to a dollar-down company."

County attorney Russell Lanier said that apparently the property supposedly involved in the deed had been double-deeded and double-listed.

Commissioner D.J. Fussell commented, "I don't see how we can sell the man nothing."

With that, the board agreed to return Newkirk's money.

## Plantation Day To Feature A Variety Of Music

Duplin County residents are in for a musical treat on Sunday afternoon, July 8. In celebration of the summertime, open house at Liberty Hall and the Duplin County recognition of the NC 400th, Plantation Day will be a public event sponsored by the Duplin County Arts Council, United Carolina Bank, and seven other organizations in the county.

The music will be provided by several groups. The Charlie Albertson Show will be a featured attraction as will the Joe Pierce Family Band. The latter comes from Richlands and features an old-timey sound and a wide variety of acoustic instruments such as guitar, auto-harp, banjo and fiddle. Albertson's group is a Duplin favorite with

country, swing and country-rock favorites in their repertoire.

In addition, Gary Mitchell and Julia Howard from Ocracoke Island will be presenting sets of sea chanteys and sailors' tunes. These are the result of the couple's research to find tunes that might have been sung by or about the pirates and seamen who sailed the coast during the times of early discovery and settlement attempts.

One other source of music and talent for the afternoon will be the cast of the Liberty Cart.

The free concert will be from 3-7 p.m., Sunday, July 8 on the grounds of Liberty Hall in Kenansville.