



Decreased Enrollment And Repairs May Result In Move To High School

North Duplin school district seventh and eighth graders may move from a junior high school west of Faison to the North Duplin High School campus near Calypso in September.

The Duplin County Board of Education tentatively agreed to the move Tuesday night because of decreasing enrollment and the need for extensive repairs to the junior high building, the former P.W. Moore School.

A public hearing on the proposed move will be held at 8 p.m. June 18 in the North Duplin High School library. The board will make its decision after the hearing.

Supt. L.S. Guy told the board that 164 pupils — 77 in the seventh and 87 in the eighth grades — would be involved. The building can accom-

modate 350.

School authorities project a continued decline in enrollment in the district. Kindergartens in district schools had 43 pupils last year. In seven years, therefore, 43 pupils would be enrolled in seventh grade if every child remained in school in the district and no additional students moved in. The eighth grade would have 45 students in seven years.

The building needs a new roof, which would cost about \$38,000, and new pipes in the steam heating system. Repairs for short-term use would cost about \$3,500, Guy said.

Guy acknowledged that having seventh and eighth graders on the same grounds as high school students "is not the best situation to have." He said breaks can be scheduled so the junior high and the upper grades will not be out of

classes at the same time.

The school system bought two mobile classrooms from Red Springs last winter. These 14- by 70-foot units will be moved to the North Duplin campus to house the seventh and eighth graders.

In other action the board approved summer programs, including these:

- Remedial classes at James Kenan High School starting June 17. Tuition will be \$50, \$10 higher than last year. Last year 205 students enrolled in a similar program.

- A three-week science, mathematics and computer enrichment program for eighth and ninth graders, starting June 24. Tentative sites are Wallace-Rose Hill and East Duplin high schools. Guy said 40 students have qualified by completing an algebra course and achieving a score of 87 percent or

higher on the California Achievement Test.

The remedial and enrichment classes will meet three hours a day, five days a week.

- Computer camp for seventh and eighth graders at four sites — starting July 8 at James Kenan, July 12 at North Duplin, July 15 at East Duplin and July 19 at Wallace-Rose Hill. Admission will be free. Duplin County industries and businesses contributed \$5,500 to finance the program.

- Computer school July 8, 12, 15 and 19 for fourth through sixth graders of Warsaw and Kenansville Elementary schools.

The board scheduled for 10 a.m. July 13 the auction of a 1,393-square-foot house built by Wallace-Rose Hill high school vocational classes.

Kenansville Hopes To Hold The Line On Taxes

Kenansville's tax, water, sewer and trash collection rates will remain unchanged in the next fiscal year, according to the new budget presented to the Board of Commissioners last week.

The board set the annual budget hearing for 7:30 p.m. July 1 at the town hall.

Town Clerk Mary Ann Jenkins compiled the proposed budget from discussions by the board in the previous month.

The proposal calls for general fund expenditures of \$217,687 with a tax rate of 69 cents per \$100 assessed valuation. Water and sewer rates have been the same since 1981.

Included in the new budget is a \$24,000 payment for a new town hall, the first to be owned by the town.

Kenansville bought the former Federal Land Bank building on Routledge Street last year and converted it into the town hall. Town offices had been in the fire station since 1971. Before then, the town government had operated from the back of Holmes' Jewelry Store.

The proposed budget shows no increase in the town's tax base — the amount of property that is taxed — because tax-exempt governmental agencies bought three buildings.

The town bought the former Federal Land Bank building, the state bought the former Coastal Production Credit Building and Duplin County bought the former combined Federal Land Bank-PCA farm credit services building.

Jenkins said the sanitation department revenue should show a slight increase from the current \$21,635 because a Hardee's restaurant will open next month and two residences will be added to the route.

The budget proposal calls for the five town board members to get a pay increase from \$25 to \$50 per month and for the mayor to receive an increase from \$50 to \$60 per month. The total increases would cost the town \$1,620 yearly.

The town clerk would receive a 12 percent pay increase and other employees, 10 percent. Pay of the seven town employees would increase from \$79,001 in the current fiscal year to \$87,136. Each town department head would receive \$200 in Christmas bonuses and each employee, \$100.

Water and sewer department revenue is estimated at \$100,768. A debt payment of \$35,980 will come out of the water and sewer fund.

Proposed general fund expenditures are \$62,925 for administration; \$46,432 for police; \$12,700 for fire department; \$57,375 for streets;

\$33,400 for sanitation; \$3,705 for parks and recreation; and \$750 for cemetery upkeep.

The fire department fund would be \$600 higher than for the current year with \$8,500 for operating expense, \$2,100 for firefighters' retirement and \$2,100 for capital outlay.

Income sources include \$87,172 from current year property taxes and \$2,500 from prior year property taxes, \$21,166 from sales tax, \$21,636 from sanitation fees, \$31,400 from franchise taxes, \$11,000 from interest on investments, \$21,636 from sanitation fees and \$46,874 from miscellaneous

sources.

The board will send a delegation to the next Duplin County Commissioners' meeting to present the county with \$3,500 for its general fund and \$1,000 for its drainage fund from Kenansville Alcoholic Beverage Control store profits. The town received \$5,000 for its general fund and \$500 for its law enforcement fund from ABC profits.

The ABC store has given the county \$9,166 for the drainage fund since the store began operation. Board members contend the town receives little or no benefit from the funds.

The board agreed to have a

tree Street between N.C. 24 and N.C. 50 near the elementary school graded at the request of Earl Hardy, who said: "If you can't pave it, at least put the blade to it. I've seen fifth middles in tobacco fields in smoother shape than this street."

The board endorsed the concept of a county exposition center involving the former Kenansville Elementary School grounds and the auditorium and amphitheatre grounds. Roy Houston and Lois Britt, spokesmen for the Duplin Agribusiness Council, presented the plan, which calls for a 100-by-200-foot building for livestock and other shows.

Williams Found Guilty In Fire Case

Melvin Guy Williams, 42, was found guilty Monday in Duplin County Superior Court of three charges in connection with the burning of his house in 1979.

Williams was convicted of fraudulently setting fire to a dwelling, conspiracy to set fire to a dwelling and making a false statement to collect insurance.

The jury, made up of Onslow County residents who were bused to Kenansville from Jacksonville each day of the trial, returned the verdict at about 5:15 p.m. The jury began its deliberations at 2:30 p.m. Monday. It returned at 5 p.m. to ask Judge Mary McLaughlin Pope for an explanation of the charge of fraudulently burning a house. The jury retired for a few minutes before returning with the verdict.

As the verdict was read, Williams began sobbing loudly. While the jury was polled individually, Williams was removed from the courtroom because of his uncontrollable sobbing.

Judge Pope was to hear motions and sentence Williams at 11 a.m. Tuesday. The maximum sentence for the charge of fraudulently setting fire to a house is 10 years in prison.

Defense lawyer John Martin of Kinston, in summation Monday morning, contended the state's key witness, Paul C. Osik, 27, lied on the witness stand last week. Osik pleaded guilty June 3 to fraudulently burning a dwelling and conspiring to burn a dwelling. He testified he set the fire Oct. 3, 1979, at the request of Williams. Osik testified he had been paid \$2,000 to set the fire. He was serving time on a previous conviction of livestock larceny. He said he had been told, as part of a plea bargain, that his new sentence would run concurrently with the sentence he is serving.

The prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney Leonard Thagard, insisted

in his closing argument that Williams should be treated no differently than Osik even through Williams had been involved in Duplin County Democratic politics. He is a former county party chairman.

Thagard said Williams could have sold the house for \$31,000, but burned it to get \$43,490 from insurance and later sold the lot for \$4,000. He contended Williams made \$16,000 more by burning the house than he could have by selling it.

The house was in northern Duplin County about two miles from Pink Hill and the Duplin-Lenoir county line.

The trial began June 3.

UNC-W Scholarships Awarded

The following area students have received Minority Achievement Award Scholarships to attend the University of North Carolina at Wilmington:

Carol Jones of Kenansville, Sherry Jones of Jacksonville, Sherry Judge of Beulaville, Jestina Shannon of Warsaw.

Beulaville Board Approves Pay Increase For Employees

Beulaville Commissioners passed the 1985-86 fiscal budget which called for no tax increase and the board voted a five percent salary increase for town employees.

The board held two public hearings prior to the regular June meeting last week. The hearings on the proposed 1985-86 budget and revenue sharing funds were held but lacked public attendance.

Later during the regular meeting, Beulaville Commissioners passed the proposed budget. The tax rate remains at 60 cents and water and sewer fees are unchanged from the current fiscal year.

Commissioners unanimously agreed not to respond to a request from Charles Blanchard, assistant principal at Wallace Elementary School. In a letter to the town board, Blanchard had requested Commissioners adopt a resolution to support complete funding of the proposed Duplin Board of Education budget by the county. To completely fund the requests by the Board of Education,

Beulaville Mayor Wilbur Hussey said, a 10 cent tax increase would be necessary.

"The county commissioners are elected and in a better position to know where the money is needed than we are," Commissioner Elvis Sumner said. "I'm not in favor of trying to tell the county how to spend their money." The towns of Wallace and Greeners have agreed to pass the requested resolution.

The town will be getting a new lighting system. The board approved the street lighting change which is expected to yield 20 percent more light in the town at a cost of \$50 less each month. The proposal calls for the installation of 17 new street lights and two size lamps; smaller bulbs yielding as much light as the current fixtures and larger bulbs along NC 24 and NC 41. The town currently has 120 street lights. The new system will change the current mercury vapor fixtures to the more energy efficient sodium lights.

A bill by town employee Morris

Strickland was rejected by Beulaville Commissioners. Strickland had submitted a bill for 32 hours to the Board for time spent operating the town's backhoe. However, the Board rejected the bill because Strickland has been working independent of the town and under contract with Duplin County to install a water line. The town was also paid a rental fee for use of the backhoe by the county. In past circumstances, when the town rented the backhoe the employee operating the tractor had been compensated for his time.

Commissioners agreed unanimously to advertise the town auditor's contract for the upcoming budget year. The contract is currently with Doug Clark of Kenansville.

A motion to have the town perimeter surveyed was unanimously passed by the Board. Also, included was surveying and establishing markers for the extraterritorial zone extending approximately one mile behind the city limits.



Shadow Program

Mary Gardner, accounting major at James Sprunt Technical College, spent a day at a seminar on computerized accounting as part of a "Shadow Program" sponsored by the Kenansville-Warsaw Rotary Club. The shadow program puts students in the field, working with a professional in their career major, to give them a first-hand look at what their career will be like. Ms. Gardner's experience enhanced her ability to apply her classroom accounting and computer training to real-life application. The seminar she attended was sponsored by Quinn Company for their retail grocers on the use of computers for inventory and accounting applications. Ms. Gardner (above) gets instruction at the seminar from Bob Brunlove, comptroller of Quinn Company.

JSTC Achieves 100% Pass Rate On State Nursing Exam

James Sprunt Technical College was one of eight institutions in the North Carolina community college system to post a 100 percent passing rate for registered nursing students who took the state board of nursing licensure examination this past February.

According to Dr. Vencie M. Hardee, coordinator of health occupation programs for the Department of Community Colleges, graduates from community and technical college programs are continuing to achieve higher and higher passing scores on the licensure exams. "I believe this is related to improvement in nursing curriculum and

competency expectations of the graduates," said Hardee.

The associate degree nursing program is a two-year curriculum. After graduation, students must pass the licensure examination to be licensed as registered nurses.

A total of 194 students took the exam in February, and 182, or 93.8 percent, passed it. These scores slightly surpassed the 92.8 pass rate for students taking the examination last July.

The community college system produces most of the two-year associate degree nurses and licensed practical nurses in North Carolina.

Cold Pizza Results In Jail

The law caught up with a man accused of selling fake jewelry when he refused to pay for delivery of a cold pizza.

The pizza was delivered to Craig Coligny Gore, 38, at the Ramada Inn in New Bern. A motel employee paid for the pizza, then sent it to Gore's room. After Gore refused to reimburse the employee, saying the pizza was cold, a warrant was issued for his arrest on a charge of defrauding an innkeeper.

A routine check by New Bern police with the Police Information Network showed outstanding warrants against Gore from the Warsaw Police Department on charges of false pretense, said Sgt. Gary Cook, a detective with the WPD.

Gore, who has Georgia plates on his 1982 Lincoln Continental and addresses in Fayetteville and Columbia, S.C., was charged in November 1984 with eight counts of false pretense. He is accused of setting up a costume jewelry table at several schools in Duplin County and telling teachers his merchandise was 14-karat gold, Cook said.

He said cheap watches designed to look like, and represented as, Rolex watches, were offered for \$100. That would be a substantial discount from the price of a bottom-of-the-line Rolex, which sells for a minimum of \$795, according to Bill Zimmer of Reed's Jewelers in Wilmington. The counterfeit watches were worth about \$15, Cook estimated.

Gore told his customers he was selling the watches cheaply because his company, Jewelry International

in Columbia, S.C., was getting rid of merchandise left over at the end of the year, Cook said.

Cook said Gore had "a right good bit of change on him" when arrested — about \$1,600. Although Gore was released from jail on an \$8,000 bond, Cook said, he believes Gore will show up for his court appearances because Gore's bondsman has his Lincoln.

Each false pretense charge carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. Defrauding an innkeeper is a six-month misdemeanor.

Faison Approves Budget, Tax Rate Unchanged

Faison Town Commissioners adopted the 1985-86 fiscal budget June 5 during the regular meeting of the board. No changes were levied on the town tax rate or water and sewer fees.

Citizens of Faison will continue to pay 57 cents per \$100 evaluation as town taxes for the upcoming year. Faison Commissioners approved a \$195,783 budget for 1985-86 which begins July 1.

Town citizen Ted Bailey appeared before the Commissioners last week. Bailey was among the more than 30 citizens appearing before the Board two months earlier in support of an entire town face-lift in conjunction with the merchants which had

formed a Faison Revitalization Commission. Bailey thanked Board members for the town's cooperation in clean-up and repair efforts of the local citizens.

David Miller appeared before the Board requesting a privilege license to operate a taxi business in the town of Faison. No action was taken by the Board on the request since Miller was appearing on behalf of the taxi operator.

A request to open a poolroom in Faison was granted Raven Foss. He appeared before the Board and stated plans to open immediately. No pool or game room has been in operating in downtown Faison during the last eight months.