

The Pamlico News

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Many of the Grantsboro-Silver Hill firemen attended the County Commissioners meeting.

Efficiency Involved in Topics For Pamlico County Commissioners

The Pamlico County Commissioners met on March 20. Vice Chairman Jimmy Spencer called the meeting to order in the absence of Chairman Robert Paul.

Mike McMahan representing MICA, a consulting organization from Durham, presented a proposal to help the County in the areas of purchasing, personnel management, resource development, investments, capital improvements, data processing, solid waste collection and disposal, and budget analysis. MICA has 30 professionals in these fields and all of them have worked either with business or with local or State government.

Mr. McMahan emphasized that it is a "no risk" contract with his organization. Unless the Board feels the savings have taken place, no fee is paid. The one year contract for a maximum amount of \$10,000 can be paid (if savings justify the payment) in three ways, on two types of installment basis or in a lump sum. He felt that a one year contract is all that is necessary; that an ongoing contract will not be called for except for occasional consulting services.

Mr. McMahan praised the job that Budget and Finance Officer Bill Rice is doing and said the firm looks forward to working with him. He also said that he looks forward to working with Ross Boyer, County Coordinator, in continuing the good work he has started in resource development.

Commissioner John Bond asked Mr. Rice and Mr. Boyer for their recommendations.

Mr. Rice stated that there is a big job to be done and that it comes down to a matter of time.

If the job is to be done as quickly and efficiently as possible he felt that MICA would be the way to go. If the job can be extended over a period of years, he felt that the talent is on hand with the present County employees.

Mr. Bond said that one advantage that he could see is in the fact that MICA is working with over 50 other governmental units in the State including New Bern, Jacksonville, and Havelock, and that their expertise would give Pamlico County the same degree of efficiency and opportunity as other localities.

Mr. McMahan agreed, saying that technology and methods that work in one place can be tailored to work in another.

Mr. Boyer said he felt that the acceptance of the proposal is a matter of setting priorities, that there is a lot to be done, and it depends on how fast the County wants it accomplished.

Charles Alexander moved and Patsy Sadler seconded the motion that the contract be accepted with payment being made in a lump sum after savings had been agreed upon.

Jim Baluss of the Social Service Department reported on the County Based Alternative Bill mandated by the 1975 Legislature dealing with juveniles under 16 who have committed non-violent crimes: truancy or running away, for example. The State does not believe that these children need to be in training school and that the counties and towns should provide alternative situations for them.

Mr. Baluss requested that the Board appoint a committee to help implement the plan and to decide how the \$3,700 grant should be applied.

When asked how many status offenders the County has, Mr. Baluss said that there had been two in the last six months. Social Services had gone through the necessary legal motions to place these two in foster homes. However, specialized foster care is necessary for these children and Mr. Baluss suggested that individuals interested in providing foster care for children with problems be paid \$130 a month and provided with travel expenses for six week training program at Neuse

Mental Health Center. He said that Social Services has a number of very fine foster care families and that he knows of some individuals that would be interested in taking care of children with problems. He agreed that the group home proposed by the Neuse Council of Governments would have been the best situation, but since that was turned down, the County needed to provide its own plan.

Mrs. Sadler said that she felt that there would be more children who would use this service if it is provided. She said there are "abused parents" who need help, but will not send their child to a training school, and would welcome an alternative.

Mr. Baluss said he didn't know whether he was dealing with this problem as a Social worker or as a HB 456 worker and that he needs active community support. He noted that other ways the money could be spent are in implementing the SOS program suggested by the Junior High School principals for children with disciplinary problems, or the money could fund a teacher or counsellor. He felt that the foster home approach might be best at this time for the County.

Mr. Bond moved and Mrs. Sadler seconded the motion that Mr. Baluss put in a request for the funds, the County put up its 20%, and that the Board go on record in support of a group home in New Bern.

Tom Harvell and Bob Pittman, engineers with Rivers and Associates, appeared before the Board to give a status report on the Countywide water system.

Mr. Pittman said that the possibility of purchasing the Bayboro water system would depend on additional grant money that would have to be applied for by March 31. He also said that 35 to 40 miles of pipe had been added to the project since it was first planned, due to the response of prospective users. The engineers had no firm idea of the cost since they had not opened bids on water

Aurora To Get Fossil Museum

At the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners meeting that was held on March 7, Rusty Walker made a presentation to the Commissioners concerning a fossil museum to be placed in Aurora and also to present ideas as to the method in which to build the tourism industry in Beaufort County. Mr. Walker informed the Commissioners that he represented several groups located in the County that wish to have a complete tourist program, one such group is the Bath Drama group. Mr. Walker pointed out that Beaufort County has tremendous tourist potential in all areas of the County, since there are many areas of historic interest all over the County. Mr. Walker said that the groups want to set up a "package deal".

The groups have gotten together and have planned a tourist brochure, 50,000 copies of which will be distributed in May from Virginia Beach down to Myrtle Beach. The theme of the brochure will be Blackbeard, who will be pointing out all of the historic areas of Beaufort County. When Aurora's fossil museum is finished, this should pull people across the river on the ferry. A fossil museum is ideal because of the fossils that Texas-Gulf has uncovered during their mining.

The Town of Aurora has rented a building in which to house the museum and the Aurora Jaycees have begun scraping paint. At the entrance of the museum will hopefully be the replica of a shark's head

that will show what sharks were like 30 million years ago. There will be an environmental ecology display which will show what is in the river. A short film will be shown to visitors as they begin to enter the displays in the museum. There will be a map of the coastline as it was millions of years ago and a projection of the coastline in another thousand years. Probably the most visited part of the museum will be the touch display where children can actually pick up and hold fossils that are millions of years old.

Mr. Walker pointed out to the Commissioners that the Pamlico River system is a very well studied riverine system and much is known about the system and the museum will reflect this.

Mr. Walker told the Board that CETA funds have been secured to staff the museum and that it will take an additional \$134,000 to get the entire Beaufort County project off the ground. There is \$10,000 on-hand money at this time and so an additional \$3,000 is needed to make this project a reality. Four thousand dollars was secured from the State to cover the printing costs of the brochures; the Bath Drama Commission has \$4,000 to apply to the project; \$1,000 was donated by industry; and \$1,000 by the Washington Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Walker came before the Board to ask for the additional \$3,000 to be available for the group to use when they need it. The money would go for many different things such as a movie projector, cabinet,

aquariums, TV spots, and two large billboards to be placed on Highway 17 North and South.

The museum, according to Mr. Walker, will hopefully be open in June. Texasgulf has donated many cabinets to be used in the museum for displays and they have also donated all of the fossils. The Smithsonian will also be involved with the museum.

Mr. Walker said that the group is asking the Commissioners for an investment. If the program goes into effect, it should increase the tourist traffic by 10-15%. The people of Beaufort County would also benefit by this because many residents of the County have not taken full advantage of the many places of historic interest.

Mr. Walker told the Commissioners that he had looked at the State brochure which gives places of interest to visit throughout the state of North Carolina. He pointed out that in this particular brochure, there was no mention of Bath or of Beaufort County, and yet the brochure used Blackbeard as the theme.

Commissioner Dilday asked Mr. Walker if the County "will be able to accommodate people once we get them here?" Mr. Walker replied that this is a concern of the group also. He stated that he had talked to some of the hotels in Washington and that they can handle a significant increase in people except on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

According to Mr. Walker, this would work out well because the significant increase in people would be on weekends since the Bath drama takes place then.

All the Commissioners seemed interested in the project and felt that this type of thing would benefit the citizens of Beaufort County. Commissioner Dilday made the motion to contribute \$1,000 to the project and also to match dollar for dollar any other money raised up to \$1,000. Commissioner Dilday pointed out that if the group raises the \$1,000 on their own, with the contribution from the Board and the match, the group will have the \$3,000 which they requested. Commissioner Dilday's motion was seconded and approved.

Don Carter, Recreation Director, Leaving Pamlico County

Pamlico County is losing its Director of Recreation, Don Carter. He will leave this month to become Sports Coordinator at the Twenty-nine Palms Military Base in California, located about one hour from Las Vegas and about 21 1/2 hours from Los Angeles. On this Marine Navy Base, there are about 10,000 citizens including civilians, so Don will be working with about the same number of population as here in the County, but will be under Civil Service. He takes with him his wife, Cindy, and son, Donald, age 18 months. And he takes with him the good wishes of the County.

Mr. Carter came to Pamlico County in September of 1976 from a position of athletic director in Southern Pines. He was the only full time County employee, the three others being employed under CETA or

Coastal Progress. The recreational program for the County, outside of school activities, included midget flag football, adult basketball, adult softball, and Little League baseball.

As Mr. Carter leaves, the County finds itself in the process of developing a master plan for recreation, because during his tenure here, so many activities have been added. There are now year round activities for any age group. The football, basketball, and softball programs have been expanded. The summer playground that was provided last year at five different locations for daily indoor and outdoor activities will be repeated this year. The Recreation Department bus was purchased in May of 1977 and has been used by every age

group for trips to parks, movies, bowling, skating, and special events.

The Arts program has also become an important part of the Department with the dramas and art exhibits and other cultural activities brought to the County by Terri Capps, who was employed last fall.

Mr. Carter is particularly pleased about the success of last year's first Special Olympics in which 40 children participated in the County with 20 going on the regionals and 4 to the Statewide competitions. This year's event will be held on March 23. He also expressed his thanks to the support the County officials and citizens have given him and to Department employees, Tom Clark, Ray Connis Duseley, Rudolph Gibbs, Terri Capps, Peggy Jones, and Doug Credle.

Pamlico County to Host Second Special Olympics

By C. Ray Dudley
Thursday, March 23 will mark the second local Special Olympics held in Pamlico County at the Pamlico County High School Football Field. The events this year are the same as last year with the exceptions of the addition of soccer fundamentals. Those other events are the 50 yard dash, 220 yard dash, 440 yard dash, softball throw, standing broad jump, and the running broad jump.

Over the past three months, the Special Olympics Committee has been busy in coordinating the local Olympics and even talk of the Area Special Olympics and the State Special Olympics—all which we took part in last year. The Special Olympics Committee includes Linda Brown, Coordinator and Instructor at Pamlico County High School; Mrs. Etheridge,

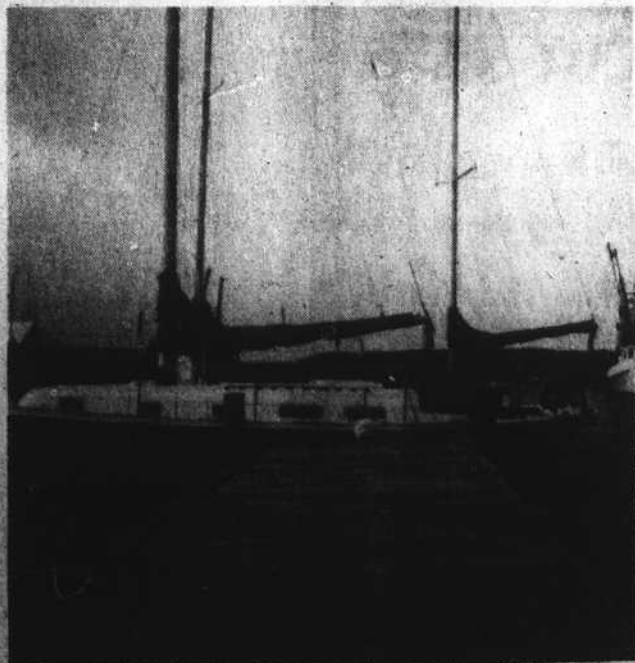
Instructor at Fred A. Anderson Elementary School; Mrs. McDonald, Instructor at Pamlico County Junior High School; Mrs. Smith, Instructor at Pamlico County Junior High School; Peggy Farmer of Neuse River Clinic, Wayne Hill of the United States Marine Corps and Peggy Jones, Don Carter, Rudolph Gibbs, Douglas Credle, and C. Ray Dudley of the Pamlico County Department of Parks and Recreation. Even though the number of participants are less this year than last year's the program format will remain mostly the same.

Special Olympics originated back in Chicago in 1968 and has grown over the past ten years to a variety of events and covering the contributions of the Special Population. Our "exceptional" children and young adults are

given a chance to develop and test their strength and coordination—to learn skills, to follow rules, to stretch the outside limits of their capabilities—physical, social and intellectual. In the Special Olympics program, the whole community is involved. Citizens

of Pamlico County, attend the 1978 Local Special Olympics on Thursday, March 23. If you still would like to sponsor a child in the local, area, and state games, the cost is only \$10.00 to cover everything.

The meet is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. We hope that your will come out on Thursday at the Pamlico County High School Football Field to witness a second year of history in the making in Pamlico County as the second edition of Special Olympics unfolds.



The Sequoia from Morehead City and Cherry Point was peacefully moored in Oriental Sunday morning. On board were Jeannie, Chantal & Bryce Buckley. (photo by Sandy Winfrey)

745-3636 Is Fire Number in Pamlico County