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Bond Referendum May Be Only Answer

Schools Request 5.5 Fold Increase For Capital Outlay

On Wednesday, May 9, Pamlico County commissioners met in their first meeting to look over the budget estimate for the fiscal year 1979-80. Represented in the budget estimate was a deficit of \$644,948. Budget and Finance Officer Bill Rice said that there is very little capital outlay in the county departments which could be cut to decrease the deficit, except in the schools.

By Monday night's board meeting, the estimated deficit had been amended to \$536,631. This was due to an increase in the final revenue estimate as opposed to Wednesday night's (May 9) initial revenue estimate.

SCHOOLS

At Monday night's meeting, Superintendent of Pamlico County Schools George Brinson and the school system's finance officer Milton Day were present to plead the schools' case.

The schools are asking for a 5.5% increase in local funds for current expense or roughly \$20,000 additional local dollars. Last year's current expense allocation was \$378,584 and this year's request is \$398,626. The schools' capital outlay request is a 5.5 fold increase over last year's. Last year, the schools received \$74,192 and this year's request is \$428,000.

Brinson told the board that the large capital outlay request represents only a portion of the needs of schools in that area. Although the amount was requested and is needed Brinson said, "I realize the commissioners can't give us the total we requested under capital outlay this year."

Board member Jimmy Spencer told Brinson that there were many things in the county's budget which the county is mandated to pay, especially in the area of social services.

County Attorney Bernard Hollowell said that the Board of Education should strongly consider floating a

bond referendum. A bond referendum, said Hollowell, would seem to "be the only way to get the local money into capital outlay where it ought to be."

Brinson said that the schools used to get 52% of taxes. He said, "I have trouble seeing how the schools have dropped down (in priority) so far." Brinson added that it seemed as if when an additional program is added in the county, the money to fund the project comes off the schools.

Budget and Finance Officer Bill Rice said that the mandated services have increased drastically. Rice said that this year, AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) increased 30% and Medicaid almost doubled.

Said Brinson, "Isn't it a shame that the mandated things deprive the county of so many needed things (in terms of the schools)?"

In looking at the capital outlay requests, Brinson said that it looked as if the first priority, high school gymnasium renovation would have to wait. The school has \$155,000 in fund balance to apply toward the \$500,000 project and \$43,000 from the last state bond money allocation.

Brinson told the board that the gym project was originally bid as part of the library and additional classrooms project but could not be renovated because of a shortage of funds. He said that the gym is sorely needed especially since the ninth grade is now in the high school. Brinson said that with the increased load in physical education, it was "hard to offer a student a shower"

Brinson said that there is money set aside in the budget request for roof renovations. Said Brinson, "I wouldn't sacrifice a dime of that". He added, "I'm purely ashamed of leaking roofs wherever they are."

Board member Patsy Sadler concurred that the roofs do need repairs and said that she was at Anderson one day when it was raining and trash cans

were being used in order to catch the water leaking from the ceiling.

BOND REFERENDUM

Discussion then again turned to the need to float a school bond referendum.

Brinson told the board that the School Board had discussed the possibility of floating a school bond referendum at great lengths in many of their meetings but had elected to hold off in order to determine if the state would initiate a statewide bond referendum of which Pamlico County's share would be somewhere around \$900,000. He said that it had been determined that the statewide bond referendum would not be this year but it could possibly be next year.

Charles Alexander, Pamlico County Commissioner, said that in his opinion, he did not think that a countywide school bond referendum would pass primarily because of the Arapahoe School. He added that there was still some ill-feelings that Arapahoe was able to keep their community school when other communities lost theirs. But Alexander said that he would be in favor of a bond referendum. Said Alexander, "I'm ready for them (the school board) to call one (a bond referendum) 'cause I'd support it." Alexander said that the time was certainly right "financially" for a school bond referendum.

Commissioner Patsy Sadler said that in her opinion the people would support a countywide bond referendum. She added, "I think that people are ready for the schools to move ahead."

Brinson said that another problem facing the schools is the sewage treatment. Treatment is an expensive process and the permit for the schools lagoons will expire in 1981. Brinson said that the new handicapped regulations making every area of the schools accessible would also have to be handled in the near future.

Said Brinson, "We'll operate whatever kind of school we can pay for."

Action Taken During Monday Night (May 14th) Meeting

Commissioners To Seek Legal Council For Sheriff

On motion by Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in Pamlico County Robert Paul, unanimous approval was given for the county to seek legal council for Sheriff Leland Brinson in regards to a suit filed against him.

The suit was filed against Brinson by Reginald Frazier, the defendants' attorney. Linda and Robert Rappes.

The suit, filed on May 10 must be answered by Sheriff Brinson in 20 days. The suit charges that Brinson "did intentionally and wantonly violate the plaintiff's 13th and 14th Amendment rights to the United States Constitution, by initiating a flagrant scheme to oust and financially ruin the plaintiffs in Pamlico County by improper use of state police power; all in violation of their constitutional rights of the Constitution of the state of North Carolina and of the United States of America."

The suit also asks that "the plaintiffs (the Rappes) recover against the defendant the sum of \$250,000 (Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) as compensatory damages and \$50,000 (Fifty Thousand

Dollars) as punitive damages."

The Rappes claim over \$1000 worth of damages to their personal property while the sheriff's department was executing an eviction notice.

Brinson appeared before the Board of Commissioners at Monday night's meeting to inform the commissioners of the summons. With regard to the Rappes, Brinson said, "I feel like my

department has done what they should have done." Brinson added, "It's just pathetic that sheriffs all over North Carolina have to be sued like they're being sued."

Brinson told the board that this was the fourth suit to have been brought against him in his years of being sheriff. The prior three suits were dismissed or ruled on in favor of the sheriff.

Brinson said that every consideration was given to the Rappes with regard to the eviction notice. He said that Deputy Ensley had informed the Rappes of the notice on the Saturday before the Monday they

were evicted and that Deputy Ponds had informed them before that. Brinson said that the Rappes were given another day of leeway in that he did not want to

evict them on a Sunday. Brinson added, "The law doesn't require you to wait a minute."

The Rappes' personal property, according to Brinson, was not harmed in the least bit and that the deputies went so far as to pack up the meat in the refrigerator so that nothing would be upset when the refrigerator was removed. Brinson stated, "I'd gamble

County Attorney Bernard Hollowell informed the board that "the law authorizes you to defend a county official." The board unanimously voted to secure legal council for the sheriff. Budget and Finance Officer Bill Rice will also check to see if this would be covered by the county insurance.

Aurora Accepts House Shells Bid

The Aurora Town Board, on May 8, voted to accept the bid from Carolina Builders of Fayetteville for up to 20 house shells for the Community Development relocations.

Project bids had to be let twice because under the law, it is required that three bids be received. Only two sealed bids were received the first time. When the bids were relet, only one complete bid was received. The other was incorrectly filled out and legally could not be considered a bid.

The bid accepted included two two-bedroom and two three-bedroom house shells with the

town to have mix and match ability. The two-bedroom houses had to be 550-600 square feet according to the bid proposal. The three-bedroom house shells had to be 700-1000 square feet.

Carolina Builders bid included a 500 square foot two-bedroom shell for \$6800; a 572 sq. ft. two-bedroom shell for \$7007; a 768 sq. ft. three-bedroom shell for \$7872 and a three-bedroom 800 sq. ft. shell for \$8300.

The shells included framing, subfloor, stud wall framing, masonite siding, roof, shingles, gable ends, metal chimney,

exterior metal doors, insulated glass windows and two coats of exterior paint. The shell is basically exteriorly complete.

Community Development has the option to purchase up to 20 house shells in any combination of shells.

The town is taking an innovative approach to the CD program. By using the bid approach, the money that would be given to families for relocation would be managed by the town to provide safe, sanitary and suitable habitat. Those families located in dilapidated houses, or houses which are not economically

feasible to fix up, are given, under the CD program, money to relocate.

The innovative approach operates on two principles. The first is to revitalize a neighborhood by keeping the individuals, who would be relocated, in that neighborhood by revitalizing the houses. The second benefit is that, by utilizing the bid method, it gives the people the most for their money. This project will aid in building up the housing stock in the town.

Hot Water Heaters
The Aurora Town Board also approved a bid for up to 20 hot

water heaters from Longley Supply of New Bern for \$1618. Two bids were received, but under the law, if the amount is under \$2500, the low bid can be accepted without rebidding.

Other Business
In other business, the Aurora Town Board:

Approved an off-premises beer and wine permit for Ben's Convenient Mart.

Objected to an on-premises beer application from Willis Exxon.



Dr. Madeline Tripp, State Consultant, joined the visitation team at the Arapahoe School and toured the school with Arapahoe School Principal Otis Peele.

Accreditation Team Visits Arapahoe School

Arapahoe School was visited by the Southern Accreditation team Monday and Tuesday, May 7 and May 8. Heading up the evaluation team was Dr. Tryon Lancaster, Assistant Superintendent with Cumberland County Schools. Other visitation team members were Mrs. Margaret Munford with the Durham Schools and Mr. Ernest Perry with the Fayetteville schools. Joining the visitation team were Dr. Madeline Tripp, State Consultant for the Southern Association and Dr. Mayland McDonald, Southern Association Consultant.

The Southern Association is a voluntary cooperation program. The visitation team is selected by the State Committee and is made up of non-paid professional people in other member school systems.

In order to become a member of the Southern Association, a school must operate according

to the standards of the association which entails entering into a program of continual improvement. The program of improvement begins with a self study, made by the applying school. According to Dr. McDonald, "The Southern Association is not a stamp of approval but a program of improvement."

The process of compiling a self study is a long and drawn out one. In 10 years Arapahoe School, as the other member schools, will have to go through the entire process, from self-study to visitation, again. Five years from now the Arapahoe School will be revisited by an evaluation team in order to determine the progress made by the school.

The function of the visitation team is to visit the school in order to determine if all the strengths and weaknesses of the school were correctly identified.



The Arapahoe Jr. Woman's Club members were responsible for serving the delicious refreshments for the accreditation team and the school staff.

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