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Commissioners Continue Growth Center Designation Battle

The Pamlico County Commissioners contained their battle to obtain designation as a county growth center at Monday's meeting with Arnold Zogry, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Management in the Department of Administration; Drusilla Williams, a member of Zogry's staff; representatives of the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Committee.

The county has been at odds with the Interim Balanced Growth Board since June when the county put in an application to be designated as a growth center.

On June 23, the Interim Balanced Growth Board decided that a county did not qualify as a growth center under the board's criteria. The board then granted the county a 30-day extension to come up with a community to designate as a growth center.

At the August 7 Interim Balanced Growth Board meeting, it was decided, since no response was received from the county concerning the extension, that the Bayboro-Stonewall-Alliance cluster would be recommended to the governor as the growth center for Pamlico County.

HISTORY

Arnold Zogry, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Management, told the Pamlico commissioners that the idea of balanced growth began under the administration of Dan Moore in 1966. In 1979, the legislature passed the Balanced

Growth Act. Under the act, every county in the state must have a designated growth center.

The Interim Growth Board was formed to draw up the criteria to be used in determining growth center status. Zogry said that the growth center essentially focuses on a municipal urban area and a built up area around the municipality. "The attempt really was to provide some flexibility for each area to draw its own boundaries," said Zogry.

After the Interim growth board developed the criteria for a growth center; the board developed the process for applying for a growth center. After many statewide meetings, local input was incorporated into the criteria and the governor adopted the criteria and application.

LAW

Zogry told the commissioners that under the law, each county must have a growth center. He added that since Pamlico County did not qualify, and did not alter its original application, the interim board recommended that Bayboro-Stonewall-Alliance be designated as the growth center. "Under the circumstances," said Zogry, "The board felt it really had no choice." The interim board, Zogry added has recommended to the governor that the 3 town cluster be named the growth center. "It is not the only recommendation that could be made," stated Zogry.

Zogry said that the county could choose another area within the county to be a growth center, but the county could not ask that the entire county be designated.

The county, said Zogry, had the possibility of designating 5 or 6 growth centers within the county. He suggested the areas of Oriental, Arapahoe, Vandemere, and Minnesota Beach for example. "The board could not arbitrarily make that decision," said Zogry. He continued, "It (the interim board) just took the minimum action that it had to take to comply with the law and not penalize the county."

CRITERIA

Throughout the controversy, Pamlico County has been trying to prove to the state that the county is a community and therefore does come under the criteria for a growth center.

County Manager Bill Rice told Zogry that under the interim board's published criteria, a Community of Excellence is automatically designated as a provisional growth center. Said Zogry, "The other areas of the criteria override that."

Bernard Hollowell, Pamlico County Attorney, stated, "It's hard to understand why we're (the county) unique for Community of Excellence purposes and we're not unique for growth center purposes." He continued, "It seems to me that your position frustrates the whole process for Pamlico

County. I think a very good case has been made that Pamlico County is unique." Hollowell stated that he did not see why the state could not accommodate the county in earning growth center status. "Why didn't somebody say that a county couldn't be a Community of Excellence?" questioned Hollowell.

The county has contended all along that it fits into the growth center criteria and that the criteria must be stretched to approach fitting a county municipality in. "Only by forgetting what you (the interim board) wrote in your criteria do the municipalities qualify," said County Manager Rice.

Drusilla Williams stated that the Bayboro-Alliance-Stonewall cluster did indeed fit into the criteria. Under the criteria for population, Williams said that there are roughly 1930 people in the 3 town cluster, representing about 19% of the population. Under the criteria, said Williams, this is enough population for growth center status. Under the criteria for community attitude and willingness, Williams said that since the county submitted an application, a group of people must be interested in the designation. Under the heading of economic development promotion, she said that the county has an ongoing effort to promote areas of the county, including Bayboro-Alliance-Stonewall. Under the heading of potential, Williams said that the Bayboro-

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Extended School Day Program Possible

At Monday night's Pamlico County Board of Education meeting, the board supported the concept of the extended school day program and authorized school officials to do the necessary surveying of potential students and also to seek funds to support the program.

The extended school day program would benefit those individuals who dropped out of school and have not been back in at least six months. The classes would be held in the evening if it becomes feasible to implement the program.

Superintendent George Brinson told the board that the occupational education people are pushing for this type of program for high schools. He added that there are funds available from the disadvantaged and handicapped fund which could be used toward the project.

Brinson said that also if there are a certain number of students, probably somewhere around 25, interested in enrolling in the program, then the school could get an additional state allotment of one teacher. This teacher position, said Brinson, could be divided up into as many segments as needed. For example, he said, three teachers could teach two hours each night under one allotment. Brinson also projected that there may be CETA funds available for teachers.

The school board members' primary concern was whether the program would take away from any educational activities going on during the regular school day. Said board member Lenwood Spruill, "If it's going to take away from those kids currently in school, I'm not in favor of it."

It was brought out that if the other funding comes in, about the only expense of the extended school day program would be the heating, lights, etc. needed. Paul Delamar stated that two sections in the new library complex are already lighted and heated until 9:00 p.m. anyway.

Said the superintendent, "This is something that is being encouraged all the time to meet the needs of those who have dropped out."

Spruill asked if any of the CETA funds would be used to

subsidize students participating in the extended school day program. It was answered that the funds would not be used to pay students.

Said board member Duvall Hardison, "I actually feel good towards those who are making an effort for a second chance. If they're interested and willing to come and get it, I think it will be one of the nicest things that could happen to them."

JR. HIGH HOURS

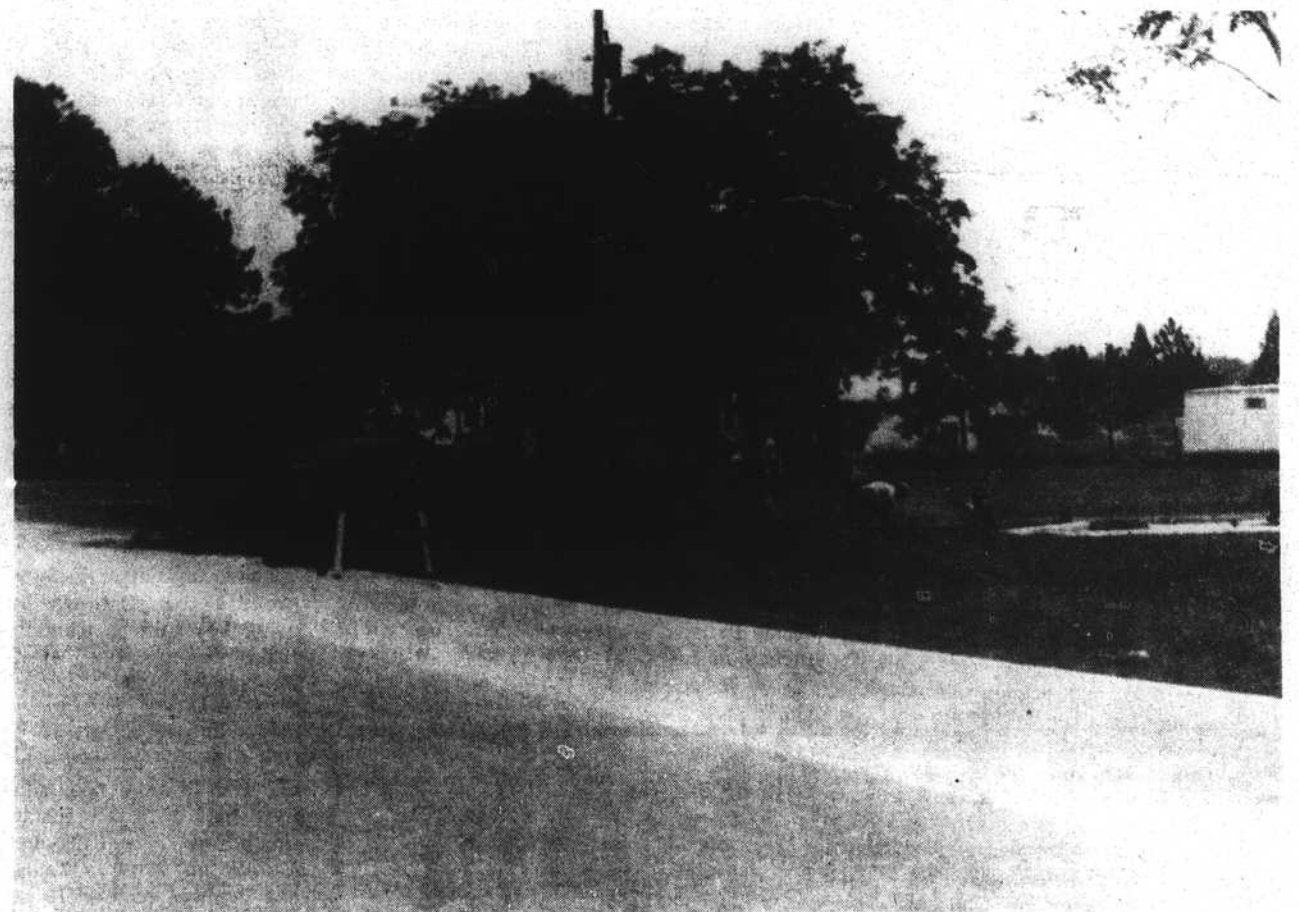
The board had a request from teachers at the junior high school requesting that they be allowed to leave school grounds immediately after the school buses have left for the day. The teachers felt that since they were logging more student contact time than teachers at any other school, they should be allowed to leave 15 minutes early.

The school board had previously set the teacher work day from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for teachers at all the schools.

Board member Lenwood Spruill stated that there was a "lot of unhappiness" among teachers at the junior high school. "They get their students first and they're the last to turn them loose." Spruill said that junior high teachers have approximately 50 minutes more a day of student contact than teachers at the other schools.

The superintendent told the board that this had been a problem for quite some time. Brinson told the board that dual transportation was allowed by the state. Dual transportation would mean that the county would have buses serving Fred Anderson and the junior high and buses serving the high school. This would mean sometimes having a bus go down one road to pick up a student and then another bus having to go down the same road to pick up a student in a different school. It is not known presently how inefficient this type of transportation would be for the county schools. Said Brinson, "We're studying it this year and if it can be done, we'll do it."

The board decided to continue to observe the school day as it was previously set.



Construction began last week on the extension to the waterlines in Aurora.

5 Pamlico Citizens Presented Awards

In a ceremony at King's Restaurant in Kinston

Jim Hunt presented five volunteer awards to Pamlico County residents. The awards were presented to Leland Brinson, who was given the Outstanding Individual Human Service Award; Dallas Taylor, who accepted the Outstanding Community Organization Award for the Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Patrick Parvin, who accepted the Outstanding Church/Religious Award for the Pamlico County Ministerial Association; Jeannette Hudson, who was honored as the Outstanding Individual Community Leader; and Hazel Alcock, who was honored as the Outstanding Volunteer Administrator.

The ceremony was one of three in the state this fall. Volunteers and volunteer organizations from Eastern North Carolina were chosen by local county committees and honored at this time.

Leland Brinson
—Individual Human Service Volunteer

Mr. Brinson has been the Sheriff of Pamlico County for over 10 years. Before this time he was a member of the N. C. House of Representatives. He has been active in the Pamlico Chamber of Commerce and is a past president. He is an active member of the Pamlico County Rescue Squad and serves in the capacity of Chaplain. He is on the Board of Trustees of the Pamlico Technical College, a 32nd degree Mason, Sunday School teacher at the Arapahoe Baptist Church, and an active member of the Economic Development Committee for Pamlico County.

DALLAS TAYLOR,
President of Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce

The Pamlico County Chamber of Commerce has been instrumental in recent years in the growth of the County. The Economic Development Committee, a

committee of Chamber members, has worked to have Pamlico County designated a Community of Excellence for two years in a row. It has also promoted an Industrial Park site, and was instrumental in having the commissioners hire a County Planner for Industrial Development. In conjunction with this position, the Chamber paid to have an Industrial Brochure printed and a vacation brochure printed. It is at present in the process of having a county map printed to be distributed in the area. The Bloodmobile is a fairly new project of the Chamber. Since the Chamber has taken on the project the County has met its blood quota. This year the Chamber sponsored the 1st Annual Potato Festival, in order to bring people into the county.

PAT PARVIN, President of the Pamlico County Ministerial Association

The Pamlico County Ministerial Association is a new organization in the

County, having been organized a little over a year ago. Shortly after being organized, the Association sponsored the Ted Stone Crusade in the county which was very effective in the Junior and Senior High Schools where he spoke. They have organized several County-wide services. On July 4th the Association sponsored the Flags for Hostages Program. They distributed flags and had special services for our hostages in Iran.

Jeannette Hudson
—Individual Community Leadership

Jeannette Hudson has played an active role in the American Red Cross Bloodmobile in the tri-county area for 15 years. She is a Board member of that organization. Because of her tireless effort with the Pamlico County Bloodmobile for the past year, it has proven to be very successful. She has spearheaded the Bloodmobile for the Cham-

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The Women of Kingdom Church celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Sunday School in America on Sunday, October 5th. In addition to special costumes the

congregation had a birthday cake and special Sunday School services.