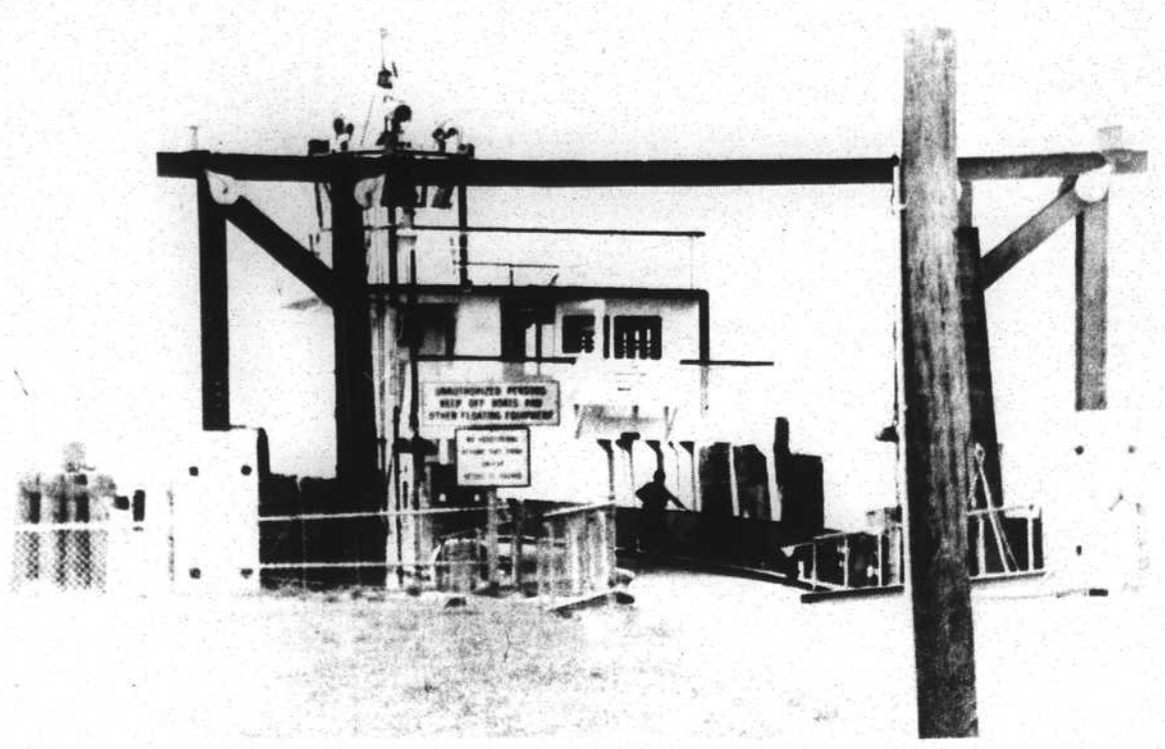


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The Pamlico News

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No Change In 74¢ Tax Rate

Pamlico Commissioners Approve \$3.7 Million Budget

For the fifth consecutive year, Pamlico County's tax rate will remain the same. The tax rate was set Monday night, June 16, at 74 cents per \$100 valuation when the Pamlico County board of commissioners adopted a \$3.7 million budget following a brief public hearing.

No citizen was present during the hearing to provide input. In order to balance the

\$3,726,668 1986-87 budget, the board found it necessary to appropriate \$419,146 in fund balance monies.

The budget for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, is \$3,477,281.

The county budget will be examined in detail in a future issue.

Dan Jones, director of the mental retardation division of the Neuse Center, appeared before

the commissioners Monday night to request their support for the construction in Pamlico County of a group home for mentally retarded adults.

Jones explained that federal HUD funding is currently available for the building of such homes and that the local Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) has already sent in the \$850 fee to indicate their interest in be-

ing considered for the application process.

Homes for mentally retarded adults are currently operating in New Bern and Vanceboro with a third scheduled to open in Newport later this month.

Jones pointed out that funding for such projects is likely to become "slimmer and slimmer" in the future years.

Three residents of the home, he

said, must come from a institution. Jones commented that Pamlico County citizens would be given priority for all slots.

During the day, residents will be involved in such things as the Adult Developmental and Activities Program (ADAP). They are not allowed to remain at the home.

The proposal was due June 16, he said, but an extension until the end of the week was granted. The proposal will include a budget, which will be prepared by Neuse Center, a letter from the area mental health agency (Neuse Center) committing funding, a pledge of \$2,500 "seed money", which in this case is being provided by ARC, and letters of support.

Jones said the proposal would name Neuse Center as the operator of the home. A home can be operated by a non-profit organization such as ARC or a mental health agency under the direction of a local advisory board.

The commissioners adopted a resolution of support.

Recreation department director Betty Mason was present to discuss proposed plans to move her department to another part of the courthouse.

Presently located in a three-office suite on the second floor of the annex, the commissioners had proposed to move the recreation department into the office now occupied by emergency management and building inspections. The building inspections department, with two inspectors and a full-time secretary, would be moved to the annex suite; emergency management coordinator Charles Toler would take over Gene Broughton's office and recreation and emergency management would share a secretary.

Mason told the board, "Our department is being sacrificed because of changes in other departments."

She explained that the move would mean a loss in storage space and private office for the employees and that five people would be expected to work in a

(See BUDGET, Page 11)

Carteret County Residents Express Concern About Septic Tank Regs At Meeting With State

(Editor's Note: On Thursday night, June 12, a meeting took place in Carteret County on the septic tank denials in that county. Even though the names and communities are different and might not be familiar, the same problem is plaguing Pamlico County and many of the comments made by the Carteret County residents could be, and probably have been, made by Pamlico County property owners. The article, by News-Time staff writer Beth Blake, is reprinted here in its entirety with the permission of The Carteret County News-Times.)

Denial of septic tank permits, particularly east of Beaufort, drew a crowd of more than 150 persons Thursday night at a public meeting conducted by N.C. Secretary of Human Resources Phillip J. Kirk.

The meeting staged at the Crystal Coast Civic Center, Morehead City, was requested by Billy Smith, chairman of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners.

Inconsistency, unfairness and refusal to compromise were allegations made by speakers, several of whom claimed they had

lost income because their property had been found unsuitable for a septic tank.

Secretary Kirk said the purpose of the meeting was to listen to the concerns, not to change decisions of state or county health officials.

Other state officials in attendance were Dr. Ronald Levine, state health director; Steve Steinbeck, state on-site sewage disposal director; Dr. Martin Hines, advisor to Secretary Kirk; Malcolm Blalock of the on-site program; Jim Stamey, environmental health section chief; Dr. Robert Uebler, state soil scientist; and Linda Sewall, assistant chief of the environmental health section. Mr. Steinbeck and Secretary Kirk were the only state officials who made comments during the meeting.

Local officials included all five county commissioners, County Health Department Director Gordon Davis and County Board of Health chairman Elmer Dewey Willis. Mr. Davis and Mr. Willis welcomed the public, but commissioners made no comments.

A lack of communication and a lack of understanding of health regulations, especially of the appeals process, were two observations that Secretary Kirk made after the three and one-half hour meeting.

"Don't get the idea that decisions will be reversed," he said at the close of the meeting. "But that doesn't mean they won't be reconsidered."

He warned that some land was

unsuitable for septic tanks.

Land that is at or near sea level.

(See CARTERET, Page 11)

Beaufort School Board Discusses Possible Uses Of Bond Monies

The Beaufort County Board of Education discussed the school bond referendum and phase one of the recommended facilities needs in the county, but took no official action at their meeting on Tuesday night, June 10.

County superintendent Clifton L. Toler read the recommendations that have resulted from a state and private studies. They included a consolidated high school for Bath and Belhaven, a vocational building at Aurora High School which will also include home economics, six or seven classrooms at Bath elementary school, six or seven classrooms in Aurora to house a middle school and two or three classrooms at Chocowinity.

Toler said, "I feel like all these things can be done as well as enlarging the libraries at Belhaven, Pinetown, Aurora's Snowden Elementary and Chocowinity."

If the \$12 million bond referendum is passed by county voters in November, the county's share of the bond money and the money

currently being held by the county will be nearly \$9 million.

Board member Garry Jordan, from the Aurora school district, said that he realized that facilities did need upgrading but that he was concerned about upgrading the curriculum for the 229 students at Aurora High School.

Jordan and Calvin Pittman, Chocowinity school district, expressed the need for a new high school consolidating Aurora and Chocowinity on the south side of the river.

Chairman Jimmy Raper

(See BEAUFORT, Page 11)

Pamlico County, Mesic Seeking CDBG Funding

Pamlico County and the town of Mesic have each applied for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for housing rehabilitation for fiscal year 1986. And, according to the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Community Development (NRCD), for the fifth consecutive year, requests far exceed the amount of money available. This round, 133 local governments have asked for \$68 million; \$22.2 million is available for community revitalization pro-

jects. The county has requested \$538,470 for their project and Mesic is seeking \$255,139.

NCRD's Division of Community Assistance will review and rate each proposed project. Factors considered include the severity of need, the feasibility of the project, the benefit to low and moderate income persons and the local government's commitment to community development.

Grant awards will be announced in late July or early August.

Outbreak Of Parvo, Coronavirus In Area

If that four-footed member of your family hasn't been protected against parvovirus and coronavirus, it would be a good idea to take him to the veterinarian. There has been an outbreak of these two potentially fatal diseases in the area, according to a local vet.

Dr. Kirby Harris of Countryview Animal Clinic in Bayboro and Countryview Animal Hospital

in Kinston says that the office has been receiving a number of calls recently from people explaining that their dog, who didn't seem just right for a few days, suddenly became very ill.

Symptoms of parvovirus and coronavirus are similar, although they don't seem to be quite as severe for coronavirus, she says.

(See DOGS, Page 11)