



First place winner in the All Male Beauty Pageant was Joe Whitford of Reelsboro.



Croaker Festival Pictures
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"And what is your greatest accomplishment, Miss Hot to Trot," asks Rae Porter of Oriental, emcee of the All Male Beauty Pageant held Friday evening, July 4 as part of the Croaker Festival activities. "Miss Hot to Trot" (John Bond of Oriental) took second place.

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County Budget \$72,695 Higher Than Last Year's

The ad valorem property tax rate in Pamlico County will stay at 74 cents per \$100 valuation, and, with a few exceptions, county employees received a two and a half percent salary increase this year.

County revenues for fiscal year 1986-87 are estimated at \$3,306,782. With expenditures of \$3,726,668 projected, \$419,886 in fund balance monies was also appropriated. Last year's budget was \$3,653,973 with actual expenditures expected to reach \$3,850,154. The actual expenditures for 1984-85 were \$2,974,932.

The single largest source of revenue comes from ad valorem taxes for the current year, \$1,626,912. Taxes due from prior years total \$59,400.

Other sources of revenue will be presented with their respective departments.

The governing body's, the commissioners', expenditures were budgeted last year at \$68,372; actual expenditures for 1985-86 are estimated at \$70,854. This year the budget calls for \$61,734 in expenses.

The commissioners also received a 2.5 percent salary increase. With the exception of the chairman, board members will be paid

\$1,956 each over the next year; the chairman will earn \$2,340.

A county car purchased last year—a \$10,000 budget item, accounts for the majority of this overall budget decrease for 1986-87.

Twenty thousand dollars has been allocated for miscellaneous expenses, \$10,000 of which has already been earmarked for the new athletic field at the high school.

The county manager this year will receive \$29,780 in salary and longevity and experience (L-E) pay.

The budget for his office shows few other changes.

The commissioners also approved expenditures of \$3,000 for replacement ballot boxes and voting booths.

Last year, elections' budget was \$27,205 with the estimate for actual expenditures set at \$32,282. The increased amount was due to additional outlays for equipment (\$1,522 up to \$2,722), employee training (\$1,000 budgeted vs. \$1,485), salaries and wages (\$7,573 vs. \$10,114) because of the elections, and printing and binding (\$1,000 vs. \$1,858).

(See County Budget Page 11)

Teacher Supplements Cut

School Board Dismayed Over Funding

Pamlico County teachers won't be getting their annual \$100 supplement this coming school year. The supplement is normally paid from monies appropriated to the school system by the county, but, facing a \$67,198 cut in local funding, the Pamlico County Board of Education Tuesday night, July 1, took action that deleted \$37,198 in budgeted items, among them the teacher supplements.

The supplements accounted for \$11,598 of the cut; in addition, the supplemental pay for support personnel, a total of \$600, was also deleted.

Board members were visibly distressed Tuesday night during the meeting that lasted until around 11:30 pm and had some harsh words about the actions of the county commissioners.

Superintendent George Brinson, at one point during the meeting, remarked to the board that the commissioners had been warned in

past years that the schools would be seeking large amounts of new county funds as the schools' fund balance was slowly eroded away by routine expenditures. "And this is the year that it hit," he stated.

Brinson said that he had recommended that the county appropriate to the schools all the revenues generated by the half-cent sales tax for capital outlay. "But to say it very quickly, we got our forty percent of the half-cent sales tax." The county did budget another \$50,000 in funds to the schools for capital outlay, money which will probably have to be transferred to meet the current expense budget.

Last week, the commissioners, after receiving from the schools a request for additional funds, suggested that the \$50,000 in capital outlay funds be transferred to current expense and approved the move.



First place winner - Best decorated Homemade Float

Beaufort County Tax Rate Set At 35 Cents

The Beaufort County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to accept a county budget of \$13,231,849 at their monthly meeting on July 1, setting the tax rate at 35 cents per \$100 property valuation.

Due to the absence of chairman Ledrue Buck, the meeting was conducted by vice-chairman Frank Bonner.

County manager Don Davenport said, "This 1986-1987 budget is about \$1 million more than last year's."

Some county residents have voted to pay more than the .35 rate to assure themselves of special services. Chocowinity taxpayers will remit an additional 3 cents in fire taxes, Richland Township, a 2 cent fire and rescue tax, Bunyon, 2 cent fire tax, and Washington taxpayers, an additional 5 cents in school taxes.

Tax supervisor Buddy Stowe reported that two or three people a day are coming into his office protesting the re-evaluation of their property. Some, he said, claimed they were not aware of the deadline for valuation review or that they did not receive their notices in time to take action. Stowe said that in addition to notices being mailed out in ample time public notices were published in the local newspapers.

County attorney William Mayo said that the law does not make allowances for protests after June 3, the date of the last meeting of the Board of Equalization and Review. He stated, "These taxpayers must wait until next year in April to protest their re-evaluation."

The commissioners discussed whether or not to invoke a penalty clause in the contract of the appraisal company, W.P. Ferris, Inc. Stowe reported that Ferris has not completed the job since the tax supervisor's staff finds frequent errors.

Mayo suggested that Ferris be contacted and told that the county "will pay the remaining charges in the contract if Ferris will correct the errors still in the system."

William C. Wilkins from Blounts Creek requested that the commissioners ask the state to make another study of the no wake zone south from north of Crisp Landing through Cotton Patch Landing to Highway 33 to prohibit skiing. Wilkins said that the area is hazardous to fishermen and skiers because of pilings just below the surface of the water.

He commented, "Someone is going to get killed in this area unless something is done."

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and cordial and now that dagger in my back really hurts."

"This is the first year we've had a major and sizable cut in current expense and nothing makes next year look any better," said board member Roger McDaniel. The commissioners "can't go over 74 cents (in ad valorem property taxes) and that's a cardinal rule," he continued, adding that he believed the needs of the schools were the last to be considered. "They don't look like to me that they have even examined what these (requests) are all about."

Superintendent Brinson added that the state may require a \$75 a month increase for all non-certified personnel which would further cramp the budget.

Said Doug Brinson, "If the people of Pamlico County are satisfied with the cuts in education, I'll be shocked."

"We've tried to be diplomatic but it isn't getting us very far,"

The \$105,000 remaining in sales tax revenues is restricted and can only be used for capital outlay needs.

"(The transfer) doesn't do much for the capital outlay budget but we have to have programs," Brinson commented.

Other changes in the current expense budget include a \$3,000 cut in utilities and \$1,000 in heating fuel.

Board member Doug Brinson asked how the schools could operate with such decreases.

Superintendent Brinson replied that the fuel tanks at Pamlico Junior High School and Pamlico County High School have been "topped off", giving the system some reserves. A little extra money in the fuel budget has, in the past, allowed the schools to buy fuel when prices were low.

However, if the fuel is used up this winter, "we'll have no fuel balance just like we have no fund

balance" and additional monies will be needed in future years to replace the heating fuel, probably at a higher cost, he said.

Booker T. Jones, board member, asked Superintendent Brinson if he knew of any other school systems that were cutting teacher supplements.

Brinson said he didn't, adding that most were trying to increase the supplement in order to attract the better teachers. He said that he didn't think teachers would be that upset over losing the money realized from the \$100 supplement, which was only \$50-\$60 a year after taxes, but that they would be concerned that the cut demonstrated a "lack of support." He added, "It's a very small amount to say 'thank you.'"

Regarding the funding appropriated by the commissioners, Doug Brinson stated: "At all the meetings they've (the commissioners) been so nice and friendly

said Jones, commenting that perhaps the problems might need to be worked out "between their attorney and our attorney." He added, "The day may come when we will see (that) happen."

Another of the cuts was for part-time physical education and music teachers for elementary students, areas the board has expressed concern about deficiencies in in years past. "If we're going to get these things, they're going to have to come from local money," noted Superintendent Brinson.

"Seems sad to spend all this money for the gymnasium and now we won't have a teacher," said Doug Brinson.

"Like buying a combine and not planting corn," said board chairman Lenwood Spruill, who is also a local farmer.

McDaniel commented that a lot of people won't understand why (See School Board Page 11)