

Board is still looking for county agent

By MIKE McLAUGHLIN

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners is continuing to resist state efforts to combine its county agricultural extension chairmanship with that of an adjacent county.

The board reiterated its support for a separate extension chairman for the county at its Monday morning meeting. The post has remained vacant since the retirement of Richard Bryant last May.

State officials sought a meeting with the commissioners on Thursday (today) to discuss the matter. The commissioners, however, have asked that the state meet with them at their next regular meeting on Sept. 17.

After the rejection of a proposed combination of the Perquimans County chairmanship with that of Chowan County, the state apparently approached Pasquotank County about a similar combination with Perquimans.

At the direction of the Pasquotank County Board, however, a letter was written to the state extension director expressing the board's disapproval of such a combination.

"I have discussed this matter with other members of the Pasquotank Board of Commissioners and they instructed me to advise you that they are absolutely and totally opposed to the combination of the Pasquotank County office with the Perquimans County office or any other county," wrote W. Raleigh Carver, chairman of the Pasquotank County Board.

Carver wrote that he felt the consolidation of the two offices under one head would hurt agricultural extension service in Pasquotank County. He argued against recommendation from the state advisory committee that extension offices in Northeastern North Carolina be combined.

"There is more commercial farming in Northeastern North Carolina than in many of your larger counties west of Raleigh," wrote Carver. "We feel that the farmers in Northeastern North Carolina should have an effective extension program headed by a county chairman located in the county," he wrote.

The Perquimans Board decided Tuesday that it will also write a letter to the state outlining its opposition to any combined agricultural chairmanship. "I would like to

assure the citizens of the county that we're pursuing this issue," said Joe Nowell, chairman of the county board.

In other business the commissioners authorized the school board to offer \$52,500 for the purchase of 14 acres of property surrounding the county high school.

The school board began condemnation proceedings to secure the property in 1976, but the issue got bogged down in federal court. Recently the courts said they had no jurisdiction in the matter.

School system superintendent Pat Harrell said that the appraised value of the property has nearly doubled since the board first sought its purchase.

The commissioners also heard a report from Keith Haskett, head of the county tax department, that tax notices will be mailed Sept. 17. The bills will reflect a 5 cents per \$100 valuation increase in taxes.

Haskett's recommendation that Anna Smith be hired to replace Vicky Winslow, who is resigning from the tax office, was accepted by the board.

Haskett said that because of low wages, the tax office is training employees, only to have them accept alternative employment. "We've got to start paying salaries comparable to other work in the county," Haskett said.

A representative of Motorola told the commissioners that because of a mixup, the company had put an unauthorized antennae on the county radio tower. Though the tower is designed to accommodate only five antennae, the unauthorized antennae brought the total number of antennae on the tower to seven.

The representative was instructed to write the firm which constructed the tower, inquiring as to whether or not the tower will safely handle the extra antennae. In the meantime, Motorola will be allowed to keep its antennae on the tower.

In another matter, the commissioners lent their tentative approval to the purchase of an antique chest that would be used for storage in the courthouse meeting room.

Commissioner Lester Simpson made the motion that the county buy the chest "if we like it" and the motion was unanimously approved.

The chest is of the same period as the courthouse, which was constructed in 1732.



TOTALED — Shown is the remains of the automobile involved in an accident with a tractor-trailer truck on U.S. 17 at Winfall. (Staff Photo by Jack Grove)

Accident injures six Virginians at Winfall

A Sunday night accident injured six Norfolk residents on U.S. 17 just north of the fire tower in Winfall.

A car driven by Keith James Miller, 16, entered the highway from state route 1301 when it was struck by a southbound tractor-trailer truck driven by Isaac Dennis Allbritton of Haw River, N.C.

The accident took place at 7:30 p.m. on rain-slick pavement. Miller sustained head injuries and lacerations to an elbow. Most seriously in-

jured was Aaron Lee Darden, 38, who sustained collapsed lungs and head injuries. He was admitted to the Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City and was listed in critical condition.

Receiving lesser injuries were Linda Hyman, 34; Ann Miller, 58; and Barbara Briggs, 40.

According to investigating officer, Trooper Y.Z. Newberry, a second tractor-trailer truck managed to avoid colliding with the acci-

dent vehicles but ended up jack-knifed in a ditch. Both trucks are owned by Burlington Industries.

The 1974 Pontiac in which the injured were riding was termed a total loss. Newberry said that the estimated damage to the truck involved in the collision was from \$12 to \$15,000.

Four Highway Patrol officers were on the scene: Trooper Michael J. MacArthur from Chowan County; Lieutenant Butler of Troop A Headquarters in Greenville;

Sgt. Hinson of the Elizabeth City office; and Newberry.

Two units from the Perquimans Rescue Squad responded to the call along with two units from the Hertford Fire Department and three units of the Winfall Fire Department.

The accident severed a saddle tank of diesel fuel from the truck which coated the roadway with fuel. Highway 17 was closed to all traffic for three hours while the wreckage was being cleared from the road.



GOLDEN HARVEST — Corn is loaded into a truck during the Floyd Matthews operation in New Hope recently. The corn had a reported 28 per cent moisture content. Matthews will dry and store the corn. (Staff Photo by Jack Grove)

Police chief proposes curfew

By NOEL TODD-McLAUGHLIN

Police Chief Marshall Merritt proposed an 11 p.m. curfew for minors at the Tuesday night meeting of Hertford's Town Council.

Merritt said there has been an increasing number of juveniles loitering in the business district and disturbing the peace.

Merritt also proposed an ordinance closing pool halls on Sundays.

Town Attorney, William Bentley said that the curfew law was "within the town's scope" but that he would have to check into the legality of restricting pool halls. No action was taken on either matter.

Merritt further reported that the police department made 29 arrests during the month of August. Offenses

ranged from public inebriation to breaking and entering and larceny.

Liquor sales increased over \$3,000 this year according to ABC Board Chairman, Cecil Winslow.

The Councilmen also heard a summary from Lewis Taylor, a representative of Capp's Community Development Firm.

Taylor updated the progress of moving King Street residents to alternative housing in various areas.

The Development Project, funded by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, is presently upgrading the substandard King Street area. Condemned structures are being demolished and new homes will be built in their places.

These homes will be offered for sale to the public.

DUI arrests increase

Charges made by the State Highway Patrol for driving under the influence (DUI) were up 6.7 per cent for the first seven months of this year as compared to 1978, according to State Patrol Commander John T. Jenkins.

The Patrol made 28,465 DUI arrests from January to July 1978, compared to a

total of 24,809 for the same period in 1978.

Last year was a record year. The Patrol made a total of 42,381 arrests — more than in any year in its history.

"Our main concern is to protect motorists by removing as many drivers under the influence of alcohol or drugs from the highways as possible."

Elections are announced

The municipal elections for the Town of Hertford and the Town of Winfall will be held Tuesday, November 6.

The filing period for candidates will be from noon, September 14 to noon, October 5. The registration books will close for this election on October 8.

All prospective voters must be 18 years old and residents of their respective precincts for 30 days. This applies to new applicants for registration only. Those who have been regularly voting do not have to re-register unless they have moved into a different precinct. If a

voter has moved, then he must come in and transfer to the new precinct.

To be voted on in this municipal election are the mayor and two councilmen for Hertford and the mayor and two councilmen for Winfall.

The election office will be open for registration from 9 a.m. to noon on September 29 and October 6 for those who are unable to get to the office at regular office hours (9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays).

The office is located in the Agriculture Building on Dobbs Street, phone: 426-5545.

Sheriff's car is damaged

By JACK GROVE

Sheriff Julian Broughton was involved in an accident last Thursday morning which occurred between Morgan's Corner and South Mills on U.S. 17. The Sheriff's patrol car struck the rear of a car driven by Charlie Lawrence Sawyer of Elizabeth City about 8 a.m. Both cars were proceeding north.

According to Broughton,

he was temporarily blinded by the sun when the accident occurred.

Damage to the 1978 Plymouth of the Sheriff's Department was estimated at \$1,200 while damage to Sawyer's 1972 Pontiac was estimated at \$800. There were no personal injuries as a result of the accident.

Broughton was cited by the Highway Patrol for failure to reduce speed to avoid a collision.

Fire wives meet

Members and families of the Hertford Fire Department held a cookout on August 29 at the fire station.

The wives of the firemen held an organizational

meeting for a Ladies Auxiliary. Carolyn Lane was elected president, Nancy Newbern, vice-president, Candice Eley, secretary and Thelma Skinner, treasurer.

James on gasohol committee

House Speaker Carl J. Stewart, Jr., of Gastonia has announced his appointments to the Legislative research Study Committee on Gasohol Production and Distribution. Appointed were: Representative Vernon James of Elizabeth City, Co-Chairman,

Representative Dave Bumgardner of Belmont, Representative Tim McDowell of Mebane, and Hank Finch of Fayetteville.

The Study Committee on Gasohol Production and Distribution was set up by the 1979 General Assembly.



ANNIVERSARY MODEL — Trooper Charles H. Mims holds his personal presentation model of a .44 magnum pistol commemorating the 50th anniversary of the N.C. Highway Patrol. The pistol carries the inscription "1929 High Patrol 1979" on the barrel. Under the cylinder it is inscribed "NCHP 0248" which refer to Mims' present seniority in the patrol. The pistols were purchased by officers wishing to own them. (Staff Photos by Jack Grove)



Motorists asked to use caution

With schools reopening, State Highway Patrol Commander John T. Jenkins has called on troopers to closely monitor the operation of school buses. Although North Carolina has an excellent school bus driver training program, Jenkins is directing this special attention of troopers to ensure maximum safety of students.

Eight students were killed in school bus accidents during the 1978-79 school year. According to Trooper Charles H. Mims, the last school bus related fatality in Perquimans County was 12 years ago.

Troopers will monitor not only school buses, Jenkins said, but all vehicles along school bus routes.

School board to make land offer

The Perquimans County School Board will apparently offer \$52,500 for the Urquhart property which lies adjacent to the county high school.

The school board instructed that attorney John Matthews should make the offer at its Thursday night meeting.

The board has been attempting to acquire the property since 1976 and plans to use it for expanding parking and athletic facilities at the school.

Condemnation proceedings against the property began two and a half years ago but the issue became tied up in federal court. A federal judge recently ruled, however, that the court had no jurisdiction in the matter.

The county commissioners granted the school board power to offer the most recent appraised value for the property. If this offer is not accepted, however, the school board must confer again with the county commissioners before taking further action.

The board also authorized

the expenditure of some \$2,900 for putting tinted rather than clear glass in the high school addition, and gave schools superintendent Pat Harrell permission to authorize roof repairs at the high school.

In other action, the board filled out the North Carolina School Board Association's 1980 legislative questionnaire. The questionnaire is intended to probe the feelings of local school systems across the state so that the association can develop a legislative program for the coming year.

Responding to the questionnaire, the board endorsed such items as requiring one year's experience for school bus drivers and seeking increased cooperation between vocational education programs in community colleges and high schools.

The board opposed, however, such proposals as requiring a public hearing before each change in school board policy and allowing the non-instruction use of school buses.

Meetings slated for health plans

Citizens of Perquimans County will have the opportunity to learn more about prepaid health plans as a possible method of holding down health care costs at a public hearing at the Willis Building Auditorium in Greenville.

The hearing is one of six scheduled for September across the state by the N.C. Commission on Prepaid Health Plans which has been studying the issue for the past year. The purpose of the hearings is to familiarize health care providers, consumers and employers with the commission's findings and recommendations.

Most prepaid health plans, or Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), provide most basic health services to those enrolled for a fixed prepaid monthly fee, regardless of how many services are used. Individuals opting for such a plan are assured of medical care on a twenty-four hour basis and often avoid costly hospital visits.

According to Commission Chairman Glenn Wilson, evidence from other states indicates that savings occurring from reduced hospital use can be utilized to provide more ambulatory care.