

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 38, No. 42

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, October 21, 1982

20 CENTS



First frost

Melting frost glistens from the trees Saturday morning, the first frost of the season.

Citizens press for support of recreation

The Perquimans County Board of Commissioners refused to vote on a resolution to support the county Recreation Department at the board's Monday night meeting, as requested by a dozen Perquimans County citizens in attendance.

The board decided not to go on record concerning the November 2 referendum on the recreation department, indicating, in Commissioner Marshall Caddy's words, that they will "support recreation as an individual, but not as a board."

Their decision followed a prepared statement by George White, chairman of the county's recreation department Advisory Committee and spokesman for the residents at the meeting, in which he said, among other things, that the wording of the referendum was misleading in a way that would cause many people to vote against it.

"A lot of people I've talked to are afraid of the ballot," he said. "They think they're giving you a blank check," and that it was "hard to convince" them otherwise.

The referendum reads: "Shall Perquimans County be authorized to levy annually a property tax without restriction as to rate or amount for the purpose of establishing, supporting and maintaining public parks and programs of supervised recreation?"

Proponents of county recreation believe the phrase "without restriction as to rate or amount" will frighten many voters from voting for the referendum, and thus eliminate county funding for the department.

The county now pays \$30,000 of the department's \$51,000 budget, the Town of Hertford paying \$10,000 and \$11,000 coming from participants' fees. Along with sports and adult education programs, the department also operates the county Senior Center.

In defense of the wording of the ballot, county attorney John Matthews noted that state statutes offer three specifically worded versions of the referendum, one of which the county must follow, and this was the version they chose.

Matthews described it as a "fill in the blanks" situation, the county board simply inserting "Perquimans County" and "public parks and recreation" into the state's wording. The wording, said Matthews, would have been the same for some other tax-supported program.

Board Chairman Joe Nowell said that the wording of the ballot didn't

mean that the board "would go hog-wild" in spending for recreation, and that, in fact, if the referendum passes, the board would have no more powers over spending than it already possesses.

In the discussion of the ballot, Nowell, Caddy and Commissioner Welly White indicated their personal support of the department, while Commissioner Lester Simpson restated his position. "I support recreation in the county," he said, "but I don't think the taxpayer should be paying the bill for it."

Commissioner Charles Ward also indicated his support for a recreation program in the county, but added, "I don't think a hundred percent should be paying for it if a hundred percent don't use it."

In other action, the board:

- Set a November 1 deadline for Water System Inc. of Virginia Beach, the firm which won the bid to drill the wells for the Phase II water project, to obtain a performance bond for its work.

If the board doesn't receive the bond by the deadline, the contract will be awarded to the next bidder.

- Received a letter from Holiday Island General Manager Forest Myers, indicating that the Holiday Island Property Owners Association agreed to pay the county \$40,000 to hook Holiday Island in to the county water system following the completion of Phase II.

The resort's property owners association also agreed to receive its water in bulk from the county, and will administer its own billing to property owners.

This week

Craftsmen get set for this week's Festival of Skills. Turn to page three.

Weather

Cloudy and cool with a chance of showers through the weekend. Highs in the 60s, lows around 50.

Safety patrol proposed at grammar school

By VAL SHORT

Representatives of the Hertford Grammar School P.T.A. appeared before members of the Perquimans County Board of Education Monday night requesting assistance and guidance in developing a safety patrol program for the school.

Chris Kornegay and Michael Reeve pinpointed two locations of concern, through which children travel on foot to and from school each day. The intersection of Edenton Road and Dobb streets and also the intersection of Market, Dobb, and Railroad streets at the railroad tracks are the main areas of concern.

Kornegay said a committee from the P.T.A. had met with Hertford Police Chief Marshall Merritt, who told them he could not supply people for the patrol, but could provide training. He offered to patrol the area during the morning.

Reeve said someone would be needed to patrol the designated areas for a half hour before school and after school to direct children and traffic and to maintain order in those areas.

According to Kornegay, the P.T.A.

could possibly match funds to pay patrollers, if volunteers could not be secured for the program. She said this was a concern of all parents in the area and this program should be set up on a permanent basis because of the ongoing need.

Board chairman Clifford Winslow told the P.T.A. representatives that he supported their idea and the Board would help in any way they could.

Also appearing before the Board was Elizabeth City architect Noel Coltrane, who presented his ideas for the window replacement project at Perquimans Union School.

He said the windows could be easily removed and replaced with Kalwall panels, which are laminated plastic panels approximately 2 inches thick. He told board members that these panels had a U-factor of 0.24 with 20 percent light transmission. With these panels, venetian blinds would not be needed, he said.

Coltrane estimated the cost of these panels at \$10 to \$12 per square foot. He said there was approximately 5,782 square feet of window area at Perquimans Union

which would make the cost of replacement from \$58,000 to \$69,000, installed.

Coltrane said these panels had been used in replacement projects in Lenoir County with good results. He said the manufacturer did not know of a single failure in the 30 years the Kalwall panels had been on the market.

Coltrane also presented a proposal of architectural services his office could provide, which would extend through the bidding process and would not exceed \$4,500.

Donald Riddick was awarded the window renovation project at Perquimans High School at \$58.50 per window. Superintendent Pat Harrell reported to the Board that 24 letters had been sent to area contractors requesting bids on the project.

Riddick was the only contractor who responded to the request. The project will include scraping, priming, putting, replacing and painting approximately 150 windows at Perquimans High.

The Board accepted the solicitation policy which was presented by Ken Stalls, director of Vocational Education for Perquimans, Gates

and Chowan. Stalls served on a committee with Shell Davis and Bill Tice which expanded the old solicitation policy. They used the suggested policies from the state and national school board associations and adjusted them to fit the needs of Perquimans County.

In other action the board:

- Approved the performance appraisal for principals and teachers.

- Approved the purchase of a new air compressor for the auto shop and a new boiler for the gymnasium.

- Appointed Clifford Towe to the local selection committee of the Century III Leaders program.

- Approved an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service giving them the right to inspect the Perquimans Union drainage project yearly.

- Received a report from the superintendent on dropout statistics. Harrell said for the 1981-82 school year, Perquimans had 32 dropouts, less than the 46 the state had projected for the county. This gives Perquimans a 5.2 percent dropout rate. "This is lower than it has been in several years," Harrell commented.

Local electric cooperative holds annual membership meeting

Three incumbent directors, J.A. Whitehurst, John N. Bunch, Jr. and W.R. Lowry, Jr., of Albemarle EMC, were re-elected on Saturday, October 9 during the Annual Member Meeting.

In a report to the members, Edward E. Brown, Jr., manager of the Albemarle EMC, announced that within the next two weeks, Albemarle EMC would be mailing capital credit checks totaling over \$41,000 to members of the EMC who were receiving service in the years of 1967 and 68. In addition, the EMC will

refund over \$20,000 to the estates of deceased members this year.

Brown went on to say, "Through the end of 1981, some \$506,000, over a half million dollars, has been returned to members in general retirement and over \$200,000 has been returned to estates. So, over \$700,000 has been paid out to members since the Cooperative began operation some 37 years ago."

The EMC manager stated that, "In the early years of the Cooperative, the cost of wholesale power was very stable — and very cheap! The cost of

wholesale power was less than a penny per kWh from 1952 to 1972 — for 20 years, in fact."

A graph was shown in the climbing cost of wholesale power. By 1973, the EMC was paying a penny and progressed as follows: 1974 — 1½ cent; 1975 — 2 cent; 1977 — 2.8 cent; 1979 — 3.5 cent and now it is almost 4 cents per kWh.

It was then pointed out to the members present that the biggest single cost for their Cooperative was that of wholesale power. 69 cent of every dollar received by the

Cooperative goes to paying for wholesale power, mainly to VEPCO.

Brown referred the members to the chart where the prices of wholesale power began to rise so did the cost that members paid to rise.

"That relationship will always exist. If the cost of wholesale power increases to 10 cents per kWh by the end of this decade, as many predict it will, you as members will pay at least 12 cents per kWh. That translates into a bill of \$120 for 1,000 kWh which is near the present average kWh usage per member per month," said Brown.

A major concern of the cooperative is that the FERC, the Federal Commission which has jurisdiction over wholesale rates, has taken just the opposite approach to that of the State Commission.

The general manager stated, "The FERC has become pro big business and as such has not only allowed rate increase sought by investor-owned companies, it has also recommended they ask for more!"

Members were informed that a new wholesale rate came into effect on September 2 of this year. The increase, as now in effect will cost Albemarle EMC members another \$5.00 per 1,000 kWh or an increase of approximately 8 percent.

"Frankly we feel that companies like VEPCO are unfairly taking advantage of wholesale customers

during this radical change in FERC philosophy," stated Brown.

James M. Hubbard, Executive Vice President of the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives, of Raleigh, spoke to the membership.

Hubbard reiterated what Brown had said about the FERC. Hubbard

had the following comments: "I am not quite sure how to say this, but their (FERC) overriding concern seems to be the economic health of the power company. I don't want to play demagogue with you. The power

(Continued on page 2)

Date pending on Winfall liquor vote

The Winfall Town Council will hold a special election sometime early next year to decide whether the town will allow the sale of liquor and fortified wine within its borders.

The town council requested the county Board of Elections set a date for a public referendum in Winfall on the liquor question following a recent council vote to hold the referendum.

As yet, the Board of Elections has not set a date for the referendum, though Winfall Mayor Lloyd Ray Morgan expects it to be sometime in early 1983.

The wording for the actual ballot has not been drawn up, though Morgan said the vote

would consider whether the town will repeal its restrictions on the alcohol content of wine and allow a liquor store to be opened within the town limits.

"We want to give the people of the town a chance to vote on it," said Morgan.

A similar referendum was brought before the county Board of Commissioners, at the request of citizen in Winfall, and that board decided not to put the referendum to a county vote.

If the referendum is passed, the town will appoint an ABC Board, which will control the sale of fortified wine within the town, and will decide whether to open an ABC-controlled liquor store.

Driver dies in Belvidere accident

A Tyner man died during one-vehicle accident near Belvidere early Tuesday morning.

The man, Otis Randolph Chappell, 54, of Route 1, Tyner, died when the tractor-trailer he was driving ran off the road at 1:38 that morning and turned over in a ditch.

Chappell was heading north on the County Line Road (SR 1002) to Suffolk with a load of peanuts, having just recently left the Belvidere Farm Exchange, according to Highway Patrolman Michael McArthur, who investigated the incident.

The accident was discovered by a passing motorist, and Chappell was pronounced dead on arrival at

Chowan Hospital.

McArthur said that the cause of Chappell's accident was as yet unknown, though he has ruled out heart attack and falling asleep at the wheel. Results from an autopsy have not been received.

A native of Chowan County, he was the son of Pearl Ward Chappell of Route 1, Tyner, and the late George Oliver Chappell. He was a self-employed truck driver.

Chappell attended Rocky Hook Baptist Church, and was a member of the Loyal Order of Moose in Elizabeth City and the Rocky Hook Hunting Club.

Other survivors include four daughters, Arlene Lane of Lubbock, Texas, Marlene Wilson and Vicki Munds of Hertford and Marie Chappell of Virginia Beach, Va.; two sons, Randy Chappell of Lubbock, Texas, and Wayne Chappell Midland, Texas; three sisters, Piccola Chappell and Beulah Chappell of Tyner and Eula Chappell of Belvidere; four brothers, Arnold Chappell, Lessell Chappell and Russell Chappell, all of Tyner, and Dr. Adrian Chappell of Atlanta, Ga.; six grandchildren.

Swindell Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.