



STUDY DESIGN—Area residents study the proposed design for the four-laning project along U.S. 17 from Winfall to Woodville. The project is expected to begin during the 1986-87 Fiscal Year. (Photo by Jane B. Williams.)

Public hearing held to discuss design for U.S. 17 project

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
HERTFORD—A public hearing to discuss the proposed design of a project that will four-lane a portion of U.S. 17 was held here last Tuesday night (Oct. 22) at the Perquimans County Courthouse.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has approved a proposal to four-lane U.S. 17 from Winfall to Woodville with actual right-of-way acquisition beginning in Fiscal Year 1987 (July 1, 1986 - June 30, 1987). Construction work on the project is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 1988.

Bill Garrett of the NCDOT Highway Design Department, moderator of the hearing, told the group assembled that, although the project had been approved, the actual design of the new road was pending the results of environmental impact studies

and citizen response to the design.

The hearing was held by the NCDOT to gather comments and to help in answering questions prior to action being taken on the acceptance of the design plan submitted.

Garrett stated that the department had three alternatives to consider when drawing up the proposal for the road's design. 1) "Leave it alone;" 2) Widening the existing road by adding two lanes on one side or the other; or 3) Widening the road by varying the two new lanes from one side of the existing road to the other.

The third method is the proposal that has been presented for consideration on this project.

This method of widening the highway will allow the state to cross over from areas that are highly populated, or to avoid tampering with properties that have significant historical value.

Under the current design plan eight residences and five businesses will require relocation for right-of-way purposes. The state provides a representative to aid in relocation, and relocation assistance funds are available to property owners.

A total of 180-feet will be required for right-of-way along the project. There is currently 60-feet of state right-of-way along that portion of U.S. 17.

According to Garrett, the state will use the "before and after method" for acquiring property for right-of-way purposes. The entire tract of land will be appraised, and then the area needed for right-of-way will be

deleted from the property and the remaining land will be appraised. The state will be prepared to offer property owners the difference between the first and second appraisals. Garrett added that proximity damage would be considered in the appraisal.

The estimated cost for the project is \$7.6-million. The state's plan calls for two 24-foot wide roads with a 44-foot median and two-foot paved shoulders on each side. (A total of 28-feet of pavement.)

The proposed project is a Federal-Aid Highway project and will be constructed under the State-Federal Aid Highway Program. Financing of the project will be 75-percent Federal funds and 25-percent State funds.

The NCDOT is responsible for the selection and scheduling of the project; its location, design and construction. It is also totally responsible for the cost of maintenance of the project after construction.

The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for the review and approval of state's plans to insure that the project is designed, constructed and maintained to Federal Aid Standards.

Anyone wishing to make their comments regarding the project a part of the hearing transcript should do so in writing no later than November 1, 1985. Comments or inquiries should be addressed to:

Mr. W.G. Marley, Jr., P.E.
Manager of Highway Design
Division of Highways
P.O. Box 25201
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Hertford Council candidates vie for votes in Tuesday municipal election

By JANE B. WILLIAMS
Two seats on the Hertford Town Council will be decided this Tuesday when voters in the municipality go to the polls. Four men have tossed their hats into the political arena seeking the two seats that are available on the board.

Incumbents John Beers and Joe Towe White, Jr. will face opposition from former councilman T. Erie Haste, Jr. and the Rev. John London.

Beers, a 20-year member of the council has been active in many community organizations as well as town government through the years.

He is a member of the Hertford United Methodist Church and the church choir, a charter member of the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, a retired member of the Hertford Volunteer Fire Department, and served as a Red Cross Volunteer for approximately 30 years.

Beers is employed as Parts Manager at Winslow Blanchard Motor Company and as the Veteran Service Officer in Perquimans County.

In an interview earlier this week Beers stated "I believe in community service. That's the backbone of our community." He added that many of the accomplishments in this area could not have been achieved without the help of volunteers.

Beers expressed his appreciation to the people in the community for their past support, and added "I will do my best to give them the representation they need on the council if elected."

White, who is just completing his first four-year term on the board commented that he appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of Hertford, and would like to continue to represent them.

White stated that the town had just received a very favorable audit report on Monday night, and stated that "We are more stable now than we have been in a long time. We've got to upgrade our sewage system, and the audit report is a plus for us on working on that project."

In commenting on his service White said, "I do feel like it takes a few years for a new person to find out what's going on when he goes onto the council. I just feel like now I know what's going on and how to handle it. It takes team effort to get things accomplished. One man can't do it by himself." White added that he didn't see the need for "a great long campaign, or campaign speech. I've tried to serve the people well and if elected will continue to give my best."

London, while not a newcomer to politics, is the newcomer in Tuesday's race. He currently serves as Chairman of the Democratic Party in Perquimans County, is president of the

NAACP, president of the Perquimans County Fellowship, a member of the ARPDC Board of Directors, is Chairman of the Headstart Program for Region R and is a member of the ECSU Foundation Board.

"I feel that I can be an asset to the Town Council because of the fact that we do not have, have never had, a black on the board," London said.

"I do want give credit to the present board," London said. "They represent all the people, and if I'm elected I will be representing all the people, as well as giving the minorities a real representative. I think I can be of help on the board because of all my contacts and knowledge of state political machinery."

In discussing the issues London said, "There are issues such as the community development block grants that I think I can help with. They are a godsend to our community, but I feel they need more direct supervision from the council." London also added that he was concerned about the town's sewage issue, and many other improvements that could be brought about in the community.

"Surely I want to see a closer relationship between the Winfall and Hertford Councils," he stated. "I am for progress. We have annexation now and we ought to be busy getting industry and housing as land becomes available."

Haste, who has previously served two terms on the council, is seeking a seat on the board, and hopes to promote community growth.

"I feel like one of the things that the council, as well as other interested citizens, should be concerned with is trying to foster growth in our county as well as this town," Haste said. "We should take advantage of the things we have that makes this a desirable place to live, such as our historical sites and the history in general of this county. I think we have considerable potential in recreation, primarily because of the river."

Haste also stated that "it's my opinion that our greatest potential of the future, because of current trends, would be with retirement people and vacationers. So many retired people come in with varied backgrounds and have ideas that we often fail to see because we haven't had the exposure to the things that these people have."

Employment is also an issue that Haste is concerned about. He feels that by pursuing the aforementioned items additional employment will be created, bring people back into the community that are now working out of town.

"Industrial development or further community development is something we should never

stop pursuing. I think that the potential there will improve as we continue four-laning U.S. 17," Haste said.

"In addition I think we should really review our policies and management structures within the town to achieve as high an efficiency as possible to provide the services that the people require," he said. "This will help keep cost of electricity and taxes

to a minimum."

Haste also expressed his feelings on a closer relationship between local governing boards stating, "I feel that an effort should be made to achieve a closer working relationship with the other governing bodies in the county. I feel that a revision of the policies could possibly result in combining some of the services offered to achieve more efficiency."

Winfall Mayoral race to be decided

By SUSAN HARRIS
Winfall residents will go to the polls Tuesday to decide who will become mayor of the town for the next two years. Incumbent Lloyd Ray Morgan is being challenged by planning commission chairman Bill Bartlett.

Seeking re-election to the council are William Ray Miller and Jack Symons. Both are running unopposed.

Bill Bartlett moved to Winfall from West Virginia seven years ago following his retirement from Armco Steel Corporation. There he served as operations manager of a company-owned 450-unit housing complex.

"You couldn't buy the neighbors we have," Bartlett responded when asked how he liked the area.

Bartlett decided to run for mayor after hearing that Mayor Morgan had no plans to seek re-election. He has no qualms with the job Morgan has done, he said.

Organizing a community crime watch to assist the police department is one project Bartlett will initiate if elected. Although he said he feels the police are doing a fine job, Bartlett sees a community watch as a tool to aid their efforts.

Lloyd Ray Morgan became Mayor five years ago when he filled the unexpired term of former mayor David Trueblood.

Morgan said he decided to seek a third two-year term as mayor after being approached by some of his constituents who asked him to run again. He said he would also like to see some projects, such as the redevelopment underway in the town at present, to completion.

More involvement by residents is one change Morgan would like to see come about. "We (the Town Council) try to do the best we can for the community," he said, adding that the job would be easier if more people would attend meetings and voice their opinions on local issues.

Since he has been mayor, Winfall has formed a police department, has received three redevelopment grants, and has opened an ABC Package Store.

Morgan is running on his past record. "If I'm elected again, I'll

try to do the best I can for the town," he said.

William Ray Miller is seeking his second term as town councilman. He cites the support of his constituents as his major reason for running.

"I think there's a lot we can do for Winfall," Miller said. In his four years on the council, Miller

has seen the organization of a police department, the opening of a clinic, and a redevelopment grant.

Jack Symons has served on the Winfall town council for 11 years. He is presently vice-mayor. Initially Symons was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Emory White. He has since successfully

sought two four-year terms.

Symons said he feels the council is doing a good job. "We're just trying to get Winfall moving," he said, adding, "What we do is for the benefit of the town."

He said he is running for his seat again because "You get caught up in trying to help people."

New director named for Perquimans Parks and Recreation Department

By NANCY SMITH
The Perquimans County Department of Parks and Recreation is under new direction. Carol Stanley, a Raleigh native, has taken the position of director.

Miss Stanley comes to Hertford from her course of study at Campbell University. She was a summer employee at IBM's recreation center in the Research Triangle and decided then that corporate or city recreation was where she wanted to use her training.

Coming to Hertford for her job interview, Miss Stanley was impressed with the community and is excited about the prospects for her department. She hopes to expand existing programs and to get more people involved in recreational activities. Among her many plans for the county is developing a tennis program and activities to take advantage of the water surrounding Hertford.

Miss Stanley is filling the position that was formerly held by Howard Williams, who recently moved to Dare County to work with the recreation department in that community.

Miss Stanley and her staff are anxious to move forward in their plans and welcome suggestions from the public. One week into her job, Stanley says, "I like it!"

