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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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County adopts budget School cut remains!

By GINA JEPSON Perquimans Weekly Editor

There will be no tax increase for Perquimans County residents next year, and despite pleas from the school board, the Perquimans County Schools will have to tighten their belts.

During the public budget hearing held last night at the courthouse, County Manager Paul Gregory told members of the board that the tax rate will remain the same at 68 cents per \$100 valuation, and the board took no action to replace \$100,000 cut from the school board's requested budget.

The hearing on the proposed \$3.6 million budget drew a meager crowd, consisting of members of the Perquimans County Board of Education, and one other citizen, who all made pleas that money stripped from the school's budget be given back.

Clifford Winslow, chairman of the school board, spoke on behalf of the board stating that they (the board of education) had submitted to the county what they felt was a realistic budget, one they could live with.

Winslow told commissioners the schools have always enjoyed good financing, and to do anything less would be a step backwards.

"We have finally gotten our schools to the point that we can be proud," Winslow said. "We have never been satisfied with providing the minimum, and we must continue to move forward."

Winslow stated that the board of education could operate next year with the \$807,030 budget recommended, but the board members feel they will have to cut some of the extra programs and activities provided students in the past and the \$100,000 cut will hurt.

"Those extras make the difference in an average system and one of excellence," Winslow said. "We are pleading that you reconsider cutting this money."

Lester Simpson, chairman of the county commissioners, told the board of education that it was not the county's intention to set the schools back, but that other demands, such as the jail expansion project planned for this year, and cost projected for dealing with the sanitary landfill had tied the county's hands for the upcoming year.

"We hope to come back and give you monies next year," Simpson said, "but for now it looks like you are going to have to wait."

Board of education members said they felt it was a sad day when jails came before schools, but the commissioners stated they had no control over the project, that it was mandated from Raleigh.

Superintendent Pat Harrell reiterated Winslow's feelings and urged the county to not get into a situation like many of the surrounding counties.

"I hope that as state funds are available, county funds will not be cut," said Harrell.

Harrell suggested to the commissioners that facility needs must be kept in mind to avoid critical situations in the future. "In summarizing my thoughts," Harrell said, "the board must strive to provide more than the minimum and plan for the future, so that you do not find yourselves in a crisis situation like some of our surrounding counties."

Leo Higgins, a resident of Snug Harbor, also addressed the budget during the hearing. Higgins stated he had completed a line item survey of the budget, and that it seemed fairly good except for the cut in school funding.

Higgins stated in his opinion, after reviewing the budget, he certainly felt the county had enough money in its cash reserve accounts to increase the school system's budget. "I applaud you for having an adequate cash reserve," said Higgins, adding that he felt the county's reserve was sufficient enough to increase the school budget by \$50,000.

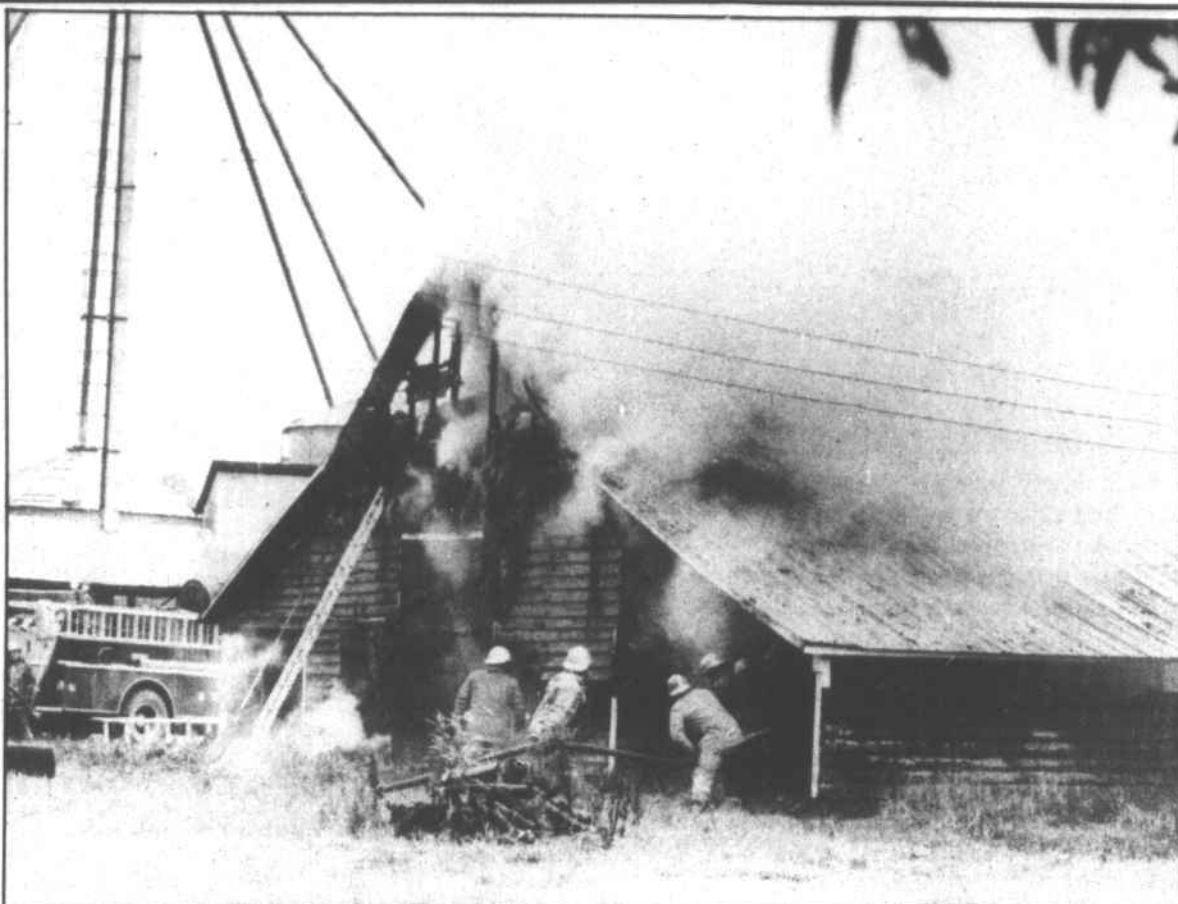
Higgins also suggested that the budget situation be reviewed in six months, and at that time the additional \$50,000 be restored to the schools.

Paul Gregory addressed Mr. Higgins' statements concerning the county's reserves by stating that last month he had invested \$250,000 for the county. "The county is required to have three months operating capital in the bank, and \$850,000 is just above the minimum," Gregory said.

Following the public hearing, the board voted 4-1 to adopt the budget as proposed. Wayne Winslow was the only dissenting vote.

Winslow stated following the meeting that he has no problems with the budget other than the cut for the schools. "I am opposed to that cut,"

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Photos by David DeWald



Lightening strikes!

On Sunday firefighters from Durants Neck and Hertford fire departments fought a fire at William Wray Chappell's barn in New Hope for over four hours. The barn was hit by lightning, just one of many problems caused by storms in the area Sunday afternoon.

Farmers home committee election set

Farmers in Chowan and Perquimans will have an opportunity to choose one person from among candidates running for the Farmers Home Administration committee in the July 5 election, FmHA County Supervisor, Melvin Howell said.

Any person who has an interest in a farm in the county as owner, tenant or sharecropper is considered a

farmer and is eligible to vote, Howell said. Spouses of eligible farmers also are considered farmers for voting eligibility.

Ballots for the election are published in the June 2 edition of the Chowan Herald and the Perquimans Weekly and are also available at the FmHA county office located in the Albemarle Commission Building,

Church Street Extended, Hertford, NC. If they cannot be returned to the county office in person, ballots may be mailed in, Howell said.

Among other duties, county committees help determine whether an applicant is eligible for a FmHA farm loan. Two of the three members are elected by county farmers, and the third is appointed by FmHA.



Charlie Skinner, Perquimans County Fire Marshall, speaks with area children about fire safety during a program held early this year. This was just one of many programs sponsored by the Perquimans County Extension Office.

Perquimans County Extension Service; Offering valuable assistance to residents

The Agricultural Extension Service, what does it bring to your mind? For many people it brings thoughts of farming, and for many others it means much more.

Many people may feel that extension services are only provided for farmers, but that is not the case in Perquimans County. In Perquimans the extension service is very active, and involved with programs, which affect a wide spectrum of county residents.

Cooperative extension programs formally began with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914, but extension's roots go far deeper. It is believed that the first U.S. organization to informally disseminate information on agriculture was the American Philosophical Society, founded in

1743. In 1857, Justin Smith Morrill, a Vermont congressman introduced a bill calling for the establishment of land-grant colleges. The bill passed in 1862, and the concept of the agricultural extension service was born.

Near the turn of the century, many states had agricultural extension programs in place, and 4-H programs a major facet of extension work also gained momentum. In the beginning, there were both black and white extension services in place, and it was not until much later that only one extension service would operate in many of our states, including North Carolina.

Today our local extension service still functions as it was conceived many years ago.

The local extension service is over-

seen by North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and the county only provides one-third of its financial support. The remaining monies are funded by state and federal sources.

At the local level, we have three full-time agents working only in Perquimans County, and three area agents who work here several days a week.

The three full-time agents are Stan Winslow, Perquimans County Extension Director, Paige L. Underwood, Home Economics Extension Agent, and Juanita T. Bailey, Home Economics Extension Agent. The three area agents are: Jeff Copeland, Area Livestock Agent, Jack Ward, Area Farm Management Agent, and Jim Mansfield, Area Horticultural Agent.

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Harrell resigns as superintendent; Accepts job in Dare County

By GINA JEPSON Perquimans Weekly Editor

Pat Harrell, Perquimans County superintendent of schools announced last night that he will resign from his present position to accept a new job as superintendent of the Dare County Schools.

In a brief letter of resignation written to the board and read by board of education chairman Clifford Winslow during a special board meeting, Harrell stated, "The only reason I am resigning is for the opportunity to pursue an exciting and challenging educational leadership position as superintendent of the Dare County Schools."

"I admire your willingness to accept a challenge such as this," said Winslow. "Our loss will be their gain."

Harrell stated his decision to resign as superintendent, a job he has held for the past 12 years, was not based on recent disputes with the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners over budget considerations, but came after he was contacted by the Dare County Board of Education.

"I appreciate the support of the county commissioners in the past, and I consider each of them a personal friend," he said, but added the apparent cuts in the 1988-89 school budget are of great concern to him. "I feel that I would be neglecting my duties if I were not concerned over the proposed \$100,000 budget cut."

"Perquimans has always been able to provide students with more than the minimum required by the state, and I hope that the budget cuts proposed by the commissioners will not prevent that," said Harrell following last night's meeting.

Harrell added that the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners have always given the board of education a great deal of support, and that he has always felt he had the support of the board.

Over the past 12 years under the direction of Harrell the Perquimans County Schools have grown and prospered accomplishing program expansion in the areas of art, music, physical education, and computer course for students. The system has also increased comprehensive programs for exceptional children and exploratory courses at the middle school level as well working to improve school facilities within the system.

"I feel good about the direction the schools are headed in, there are good things happening in the Perquimans County Schools, and I feel there is good opportunity for continued growth," said Harrell.

Bartow Houston, speaking on behalf of the Dare County Board of Education this morning stated that



Pat Harrell

Dare County feels very positive about the addition of Harrell. "Dare County has provided quality education in the past, and we feel very positive that quality education will be sustained through the steady leadership we know Mr. Harrell will provide," said Houston.

Houston added that the selection of Harrell comes following a complete and thorough search by a screening committee made up of a cross-section of Dare County citizens, and expressed the board's appreciation to them for their help and recommendations. Houston also stated that the Dare County Board would like to thank the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina School Boards Association for their help in the selection process.

Harrell will begin working in Dare County on August 1, 1988. He will replace Joyce Bornfriend who has been serving as acting superintendent since the end of January when Steve Basnight, Jr. retired after serving as Dare County Superintendent for nine years.

Harrell takes with him to his new position a wide and varied educational background having served as assistant superintendent in Perquimans County, regional coordinator for staff development, elementary school principal, assistant director of adult education at the College of the Albemarle, and as a teacher/coach in Wake County and Virginia.

Harrell earned a masters degree in education from East Carolina University in Greenville, and has done graduate work at the doctoral level at both the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Virginia Polytechnical Institute.

Hertford BPW Club wins state award

The Hertford Business and Professional Women's Club, Incorporated won first place in the State Membership Equalization competition, at the Sixty Ninth Annual Convention of the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women, Friday, June 17, 1988, at Sheraton Hotel, Greensboro, North Carolina. The cup was presented to Dr. M. B. Taylor, President of the Hertford BPW Club.

The cup was presented according to the highest number of new members. Hertford had 200 percent, Ahoskie 140 percent and Oxford 106 percent. Dr. Taylor also was given a cup for having the highest number of new members reported individually.

The convention began Thursday, June 16, 1988 and terminated Sunday, June 19, 1988. The theme was Commitment to Achievement.

The program featured Mrs. Anne Steinbeck, Past President of BPW Club of the U.S.A. and the representative for the National Federation of Business and Professional Women Clubs, Incorporation of U.S.A., Mrs. Betty Hooks, State President presided, Mrs. Ruby Jones, State Convention Chairman and Mrs. Rosalyn Harris, who gave the Inspirational Message during the Sunday morning Memorial Service.

There were over 600 members in attendance.

Partners with Youth receives grant monies

The North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church has awarded a \$400.00 grant to the Perquimans-Chowan Partners With Youth program through its 1988 Hunger-Human Need Task Force Committee.

The Conference Fund has been established to meet special designated human needs. In awarding this grant to Partners With Youth, it recognizes a program which works with court-referred children and whose ultimate goal is that these children will develop self-esteem along with a desire to become effective contributing adults. The program's immediate goals are (1) the elimination of further court contact, (2) an improvement in school attitudes, and (3) a strengthening of home relationships.

Individuals on the local level who were instrumental in helping the program through this 1988 grant were the Rev. William Worley of South Mills who is the District Chairperson for the Task Force, and the Rev. Ralph Epps, pastor of the Edenton United Methodist Church.

The director of the program which operates in Perquimans and Chowan counties is Karen Dashiell-Ames.

The Chowan County Administration provides an office for Partners With Youth on the 2nd floor of the Old Courthouse in Edenton. Anyone interested in working with a youth for approximately 4 hours per week for a year, or anyone interested in helping financially is encouraged to visit the office, telephone (482-3939), or write Partners With Youth, P.O. Box 943, Edenton, N.C. 27932.