

Rappahannock Record

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Waving the red, white and blue

Elizabeth Miller looks straight out of "Oklahoma" as she pedals a variation of a 21st century "surrey with red, white and blue fringe on top" in the Reedville Independence Day parade on July 3. More coverage of community parades in Reedville and Irvington appears on pages B8-9. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Progress reports, roof line hearing are before Northumberland board

HEATHSVILLE—The Northumberland board of supervisors meets at 2 p.m. today (July 8) at the courthouse at 72 Monument Place in Heathsville. The afternoon agenda includes progress reports.

School superintendent Clint D. Stables will report on education issues at 2:10 p.m.

Virginia Department of Transportation resident engineer Joseph Staton at 2:30 p.m. will discuss highway issues, including a resolution to add Plantation Road into the secondary road system.

County administrator Kenneth D. Eades will present a progress report at 3 p.m. followed by comments from board members.

A closed meeting is set for 3:30 p.m. to consult with legal counsel regarding the Callao sewer project.

The board will take a dinner break following the closed meeting and reconvene at 7 p.m. for public hearings at the courts building at 39 Judicial Place in Heathsville.

Among land use applications set for hearing, Betsy R. Busch, owner, and Thomas C. Monohan of the trustees for the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses seek authorization to construct a church at the corner of Forrest Landing Road and Northumberland Highway at Coan Stage.

James Dunn of Deep Water Marina LLC proposes an amendment to the zoning ordinance to allow the ridge line of a roof to be up to four feet above the limited height of the building.

The board will again table a request from Jeffrey and Jessica Poole for a conditional use permit to construct a cluster home development near Lilian at the mouth of Warehouse Creek. The site plan revisions are not complete.

A public comment period to accommodate citizen concerns on issues not otherwise addressed by the agenda is set for 7:30 p.m.

White Stone to seek public service authority

by Robb Hoff

WHITE STONE—The town council here has unanimously backed the creation of a countywide public service authority for water and sewer services.

On a 3-0 vote last Thursday, council adopted a resolution citing the advantages of centralized water and sewer service for public health, fire protection, Chesapeake Bay protection and economic development. It also acknowledges the cooperation of the town of Irvington and Lancaster County in pursuit of forming the authority.

"Once this authority is formed, it is capable of running several different systems," said White Stone mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard Jr.

The resolution further asks the county's industrial development authority to fund a preliminary study to address the engineering, construction and operation of water and sewer systems in the

Town agrees to return sales tax overpayment

By a unanimous vote, the White Stone town council approved the repayment of \$38,788 to the county in overpaid state sales tax distributions received by the town last year.

Mayor Lloyd B. Hubbard Jr. said the overpaid amount "just is not our money."

The overpayment occurred based on an erroneous school census report that showed almost as many school-age children living in White Stone as the number of total residents.

Hubbard suggested that census data for the town be reviewed by council prior to the distribution of sales tax by the county treasurer's office to prevent future errors.

"We could have told them we don't have as many children as citizens in our town," Hubbard said.

county and the towns of White Stone and Irvington.

The effort marks the second time in the past four years that Lancaster's incorporated towns and the county pursued a county-

wide assessment of water and sewer service feasibility. However, the last attempt fizzled when Kilmarnock officials opted not to join the effort.

"We tried to get this ball roll-

ing years ago and I think it's got real good momentum now," said Hubbard.

After the last effort failed, White Stone and Irvington joined with Rappahannock Westminster-Canterbury and the New Tides LLC to further pursue the feasibility of central water and sewer services in the southern half of the county.

On behalf of the alliance, White Stone recently sought proposals from engineering firms to conduct the feasibility study. Hubbard said four companies submitted proposals for the study, which he estimated would cost \$50,000. He said it could be funded by grant money in addition to county IDA funds or funds from RW-C and the New Tides.

Council members Jack Johnson, Rose Pittman and Stewart Revere voted in favor of the resolution with Hubbard presiding as a non-voting official to reach a quorum. Council mem-

bers Bonnie Abbott, Jack Boles, David Jones and Randy Reeves were absent from the meeting.

Boundary line adjustment

Council tabled a decision on a proposed boundary line adjustment survey pending the return of absent council members.

Hubbard identified "natural boundaries" under consideration for possible incorporation into the town. They include the area between existing town limits and the Rappahannock River from Beach Road to the Robert O. Norris Bridge, and the area along Route 200 from the town limits to the Carters Creek bridge towards Irvington.

Additionally, Hubbard said part of Mosquito Point Road and an area north of the town limits on Route 3 to Ocran Road could also be considered for town incorporation through a boundary line adjustment.

The boundary line adjustment

would eventually require an agreement by county officials, which Hubbard noted was encouraging.

"The county seems very acceptable to this kind of thing," Hubbard said.

Rezoning

Council unanimously rezoned the residential property of Irma Burke at 416 Rappahannock Drive for commercial use at the request of real estate broker Patt Lawler, who said the property would be used for the Lawler Real Estate office in replacement of the current Lawler Real Estate office at 446 Rappahannock Drive.

The planning commission had recommended the rezoning with restrictions that would prohibit higher volume uses allowable under the town's commercial zoning, such as a pool hall, laundromat or welding fabrication.

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Northumberland awards reassessment contract

by Reid Pierce Armstrong

HEATHSVILLE—Supervisors in Northumberland last week awarded the county's real estate assessment contract to the Wampler-Eanes Appraisal Group of Daleville.

The board voted 4-0 to enter the contract. Supervisors Ronnie Jett, Joe Self, Richard Haynie and Pamela Russell voted in favor of the motion. Supervisor Jim Long was absent.

Property values are reassessed every six years. The adjustment affects many things, from tax rates to school funding.

The study will start in the fall as a team of appraisers tromps out into the field with measuring tapes, notebooks, cameras and other tools of the trade.

Wampler-Eanes officials will be wearing badges and driving vehicles marked "County Reassessment."

First, the assessors will divide the county into regions. Homes in Callao, for instance, will be assessed with other homes in that area rather than with homes in Wicomico Church or Reedville.

Field researchers will then conduct a sales study, looking at as many pieces of property as possible that have sold in the past year. They will also speak with local building contractors to ascertain the going cost of new construction.

The assessors will plug those numbers into tables, using computers to calculate the average cost of a dwelling in Northumberland.

The team will then inspect each property from the outside, rating the quality of construction. Based on the average price per square foot, the home will get a letter grade, just like in school, on a sliding scale, A to F.

The team will also grade the land, dividing parcels into waterfront and non-waterfront categories. Waterfront ratings will depend on view, access and water depth.

Other properties will be judged on access, road frontage, infrastructure, including sewer or septic, and restrictions, codes and covenants.

The assessors will insert the grades into their formula. The land may get an A while the house may only be rated a C.

Computers will do the math, using the grades to determine value. These numbers will be recalculated in November 2005 to make sure the values have remained the same.

Wampler-Eanes must return the tax books to the county in December 2005, after sending notices to each property owner and holding hearings.

The county has agreed to pay

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Flashing red

An explosion of red fills the sky above the Tides Inn and Carters Creek on July 4. More fireworks coverage appears on page A14. (Photo by Reid Pierce Armstrong)

Irvington sets budget for hearing

IRVINGTON—The town council has set a public hearing on a proposed 2004-05 budget at 7 p.m. tonight (July 8) in the town office at 235 Steamboat Road.

The \$153,880 proposal represents a \$13,750 increase over the current budget.

Projected revenues include:

- \$70,000 in occupancy tax receipts, up \$10,000;
- \$30,000 in state sales tax receipts, up \$5,000;
- \$22,000 from Chesapeake Academy for electrical service reimbursement;
- \$9,000 in town vehicle tag sales;
- \$7,500 in bank franchise taxes;
- \$6,000 in state fire department grant funding;
- \$3,500 in interest on certificate of deposits held by the town;
- \$2,500 in cable television franchise fees;
- \$1,500 in state alcohol beverage control taxes;
- \$1,200 from zoning permits issued by the town;
- \$480 for ground rental;
- \$75 in interest on the town's checking account, and
- \$25 from the sale of books.

Estimated expenditures are:

- \$48,722 for miscellaneous expenditures, including septic pump and haul operations at a residential drainfield adjacent to the Irvington Commons where the town authorized the filling of a stormwater ditch (\$41,374 is budgeted for the current year with \$4,350 spent through the end of May);
- \$24,557 for town wages and benefits;
- \$22,000 for electrical service at Chesapeake Academy;
- \$10,000 for water and sewer infrastructure improvements;
- \$10,000 for sidewalk and street improvements;
- \$8,600 for town electric, fuel, phone and water;

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