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County Budget

(Continued from page one)

officials and employees placed on the November ballot in the form of a referendum. However, after an adjournment for lunch Thursday, stills made the motion that all pay raises be eliminated from the budget and this died for lack of a second. He then conceded the issue and made the motion to adopt the budget as amended (eliminating increases for the officials and others making more than \$8,000) and the motion was seconded by Leyendecker and it passed by the 3-2 vote with Henicke and Kainer voting against.

TAX DIVISION REMAINS Earlier in the session Thursday, the court agreed to let the division of the 80c tax rate to the constitutional funds remain the same, 1c to the jury fund, 15c to road and bridge, 12c to road and bridge special, 22c to general, and 30c to additional ad valorem. Judge Crane cited division of funds in various counties in the area pointing out that in this county the amount set aside to the general fund (commonly called the county judge's fund) is far below that of most counties.

"This means that this county is not providing the benefit of many services that are provided in other counties," said the judge. He conceded however that placing revenue sharing funds in the commissioners' road and bridge funds does give benefits to a greater majority of the people. Commissioner Leyendecker who had indicated that he would like to see 2c moved from the general fund to road and bridge funds, accepted the division after the court's action Sept. 9th to move \$12,240 in revenue sharing which had been put into the general fund to the road and bridge funds for equal division to all four of the commissioners' precincts.

Leyendecker did point out that with budgeted funds his precinct would have to cut services by 30% in light of continued increasing costs. He added: "It's time to squeeze up and tighten up. Most of the rural people in my area oppose pay raises for officials," and he suggested that the people of the precincts, who would feel the loss of services, should have a say in whether pay raises be given to officials and that the issue should be put on the November ballot. But this issue was not pursued. Commissioner Henicke stated that the county is not

increasing any taxes to get the pay increases, "our costs (the elected officials) are going up just like everyone else's." County tax assessor and collector Henry J. Hajovsky spoke out for the pay increases and said, "We all need to put aside a little something for future retirement and not just be able to barely live."

Mr. Hajovsky, in addition to losing the ten per cent pay hike which had been proposed, will also lose the \$1000 increase which had been proposed to him in the budget for collection of school and water district taxes.

Judge Crane made an effort to get the motion to deny pay raises to county employees making a combined salary of \$8000 eliminated and he pointed out, "these people do not have the recourse that is offered to county officials under State Law 3912-K for an appeal through a grievance committee." Details of the grievance committee offered to county officials is discussed in an accompanying article.

Before the final vote on the budget Judge Crane commented that it was his hope that a budget of this magnitude "would have more of a concurrence of a majority of opinion" and urged that "it is time for each of us to measure our thinking and put aside personal feelings and represent all of the people of Colorado County."

He stated that he feels keenly about the condition of the county and agreed that "there is a need for belt tightening in many areas. We will have to learn to live in a less affluent society if we're going to whip this inflation problem that faces our nation."

DIST. CLERK SEC. Early in the discussion on Thursday, the commissioners voted to reinstate the salary of \$3120 for the secretary in the district clerk's office. District Clerk-elect Harvey Vornsand was on hand to make the request. It was pointed out that the secretary is deputized to handle

Pipeline

(Continued from page one)

lay the line in a county road right of way and the firm did this at the Sept. 9th meeting. However, the county does have the right under the statute to regulate the manner and place in the right of way that the line is to be laid, such as 36 inches deep, below the bottom of ditches, etc.

One of the provisions is that a trenching machine be used to lay the line, thereby a smaller ditch would be necessary.

The court asked Commissioner Walter Henicke of Precinct one, in which precinct the road lies, to check and notify the contractor of this fact and if not complied with the court plans to obtain an injunction to stop the work.

Mr. Schilling agreed that he would give the county sufficient right of way along the perimeter of his property in the J. Scheely survey, in order to abandon the road that crosses a corner of the property that is used for rice production.

Schilling was advised that it would be up to his attorney if necessary that the Twin Diamond Co. is actually a public utility carrier and qualifies for the provisions of the state statute under which the work is permitted. "The county has received a certificate from the Secretary of State attesting to that fact and that's about as far as we can go, except to see that our provisions for the manner in which the work is to be done," summed up Judge Crane.

James Allen Schilling was also present and commented that ditches are left open and dirt piled in the roadway creating a dangerous situation for those who use the road. In other action the court approved a permit for a pipeline crossing on the Eagle Lake and Frelsburg Road No. 48 1/2 with which Brown and McKenzie of Houston plan to connect the Zahradnick No. 1 near Ramsey across Poole land to the Superior plant.

Colly Church

(Continued from page one)

ing that afternoon at 3:00, Annette and Jim Morris returned to the United States in July, 1973, after serving four years as workers with the Bolivian Methodist Church. They are lay persons who decided to apply to the World Division, Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church after Jim made a trip to Bolivia where he learned of the need for personnel to work in the eastern tropical lowlands of that South American country. The Bolivian Methodist Church administers extensive work in that area in the fields of education, medicine and public health, agriculture and community development.

They arrived in Bolivia in 1969 to take up their assignment in Montero at the Methodist Rural Institute where Jim served as District Administrator, Treasurer and District Superintendent. Annette spent much of her time teaching missionary children and coordinating women's work in the district. She also was busy with the guest center and home activities. The Morris family is now on leave of absence from overseas service to give their children, David (15) and Terry (17), a chance to catch up on their education.

"We cordially welcome all who would like to come to any of these services," said the Rev. David Edgar, pastor of Colly Church.

affairs of the office and is in a responsible position. Auditor Lee Briscoe pointed out that the pay for the top deputy in the tax office would be \$7256 under the proposed budget and \$6495 for the second deputy, and \$6186 for the third. Thus the court agreed that the district clerk secretary's salary of \$3120 for a 20 hour week was not too far out of line. Vornsand also commented that the secretary often puts in more than 20 hours per week during times court is in session and other busy times. Sept. 9th the commissioners voted to reduce the \$3120 proposed by the budget officer to \$2527.

It was pointed out by the court that the salary of the elected officials must be set by law at the time the budget is approved and can be changed only if action of the grievance committee so warrants a change. However, the action of the commissioners' court in the matter of employees' and deputies' salaries merely makes the funds available in the budget. The final action on employees' and deputies' salaries and other allowances will have to come in the January session, as required by state statute.

In supporting the final approval of the budget, Commissioner Stiles indicated that if the economy changes considerably between now and January, the court has the prerogative of making any changes that it deems necessary at that time.

School Supt. Ex-Officio Duties To Boost Judge's Pay

On January 1st when the office of the County School Superintendent, now held by H.A. Schroeder, is abolished the functions of the office will move to the office of County Judge Lester Cranek who will become the ex-officio county school superintendent.

All funds for the salary of the county school superintendent and his secretary are paid by the state. It was brought to light in the session of the Commissioners' Court last Thursday that at such time, the county judge will receive additional pay of \$2600 all coming from the state for acting as ex-officio school superintendent in this county.

All functions of the office will be directed through his office commencing Jan. 1st. The office of school superintendent was abolished by the Commissioners' Court after positive action by the voters in the district in a referendum election on the issue.

Grievance

(Continued from page one)

juries for the immediate previous year.

If the committee decides unanimously that the grievance of the official or officials is justified, then the commissioners' court has to accept the decision without any action. If however, there is at least one or more votes against the grievance request, the committee can only make a recommendation to the commissioners' court and the court will have the final say on what the action should be.

Grievance committees have been in session in Wharton and Fort Bend counties. This matter is brought out since it is a possibility that Colorado County officials not satisfied with the action of the commissioners' court last Thursday denying them a ten per cent pay increase could request such grievance hearing.

seas service to give their children, David (15) and Terry (17), a chance to catch up on their education. "We cordially welcome all who would like to come to any of these services," said the Rev. David Edgar, pastor of Colly Church.

Rice Adult Ed Classes Begin Mon.

The fall semester of the ABE-GED classes will begin September 30, 1974, at the Eagle Lake Middle School. The ABE Program is designed for adults that have not completed the 8th grade and will provide basic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. The GED Program is designed to prepare adults for a high school diploma.

Any adult not enrolled in school and who has not completed high school is eligible to attend. Everything is free except paper and pencils. Certified teachers from the Rice teaching corps will conduct the classes. Students will attend classes four hours per week, 7-9 p.m. Monday and Wednesday.

Open enrollment policies are followed. Students may enter the program at any time as the curriculum is designed to meet the individual's needs and goals. The classes are small, which permits interaction between the teacher and the student as the need exists.

This marks Rice's second year in the program. Last year, 98 students participated in the program. Closing exercises were held on May 22 in which 64 people participated after 98 hours of classroom instruction. Sixteen (16) GED enrollees applied for high school equivalency. The Rice District was cited as having the most exemplary program in the Wharton-Colorado-Matagorda Cooperative by the prime sponsor, Wharton County Junior College.

The district is currently developing a program to extend the concept of Continuing Education to those people in the district that would profit from Vocational or Technical Education. The outlook for approval by the State Agency is satisfactory and further information will be released if the program is accepted.

Interested persons may obtain further information by contacting James C. Crabb, principal, Eagle Lake Middle School, 701 Center Street. The school phone is 234-3838.

The fall semester ABE/GED class schedule is 7 to 9 P.M. on the following dates: September 30; October 2; 7 and 9; 14 and 16; 21 and 23; 28 and 30; November 4 and 6; 11 and 13; 18 and 20; 25 and 27; December 2 and 4; 9 and 11; 16 and 18.

EAT MORE RICE

Local Man Charged In Home Burglary

Eagle Lake police arrested Billy Coats who has been charged with the burglary of the W. L. Johnson residence here recently.

Coats has been placed in the county jail under \$1500 bond pending action by the next term of grand jury.

Most of the loot, including four guns, a camera and old coins, has now been recovered, reported the police.

Retired Persons Assn. To Hear Agent Oct. 2

The regular meeting of the AARP will be held Wednesday, October 2 at the Fellowship Hall of the First Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m.

The Colorado County Extension Agent (H.D.), Dorothy Schomberg will present a program on flowers and gardens.

City Council

(Continued from page one)

is being repaired under insurance coverage.

The council also discussed possible renovations to the portion of the Municipal Building under lease to the Postal Service and asked the city manager to get quotes for the painting and floor work that needs to be done. It was pointed out that no painting has been done since the postoffice took up the lease on the building in 1958.

The council also discussed possible changes in the parking situation on Jones St. in the downtown area, but voted 3-2 to leave the parking as it now stands. Currently parking is permitted only on the east side of the street adjoining the Bottle Shop. Consideration was given to making parking for three vehicles available on the west side of the street but in the end it was decided to leave the situation as it now stands. Councilmen Roy Van Nort, Alvin Kohleffel and Dennis Miller voted for the motion to continue the parking as it is, councilmen Gene Baker and Glen Lockler voted against the motion.

Hospital Auxil. Bake, Gift Sale Oct. 18

The ladies of the Eagle Lake Community Hospital Auxiliary will stage a Bake and Gift Sale on Friday, October 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the building on Main between Fink's and House of Fabrics.

All members of the Auxiliary are urged to begin making plans to participate in this money-raising project. All food, such as pies, cakes, bread, etc., should be brought to the building by 8:30 a.m. Gifts and other articles for sale may be taken to the homes of Mrs. Rose Lange, Mrs. Mable Ware, Mrs. Eleanor McCreary, or Mrs. Anna Lee Higgins at an earlier date. Should you be unable to bake something or make something, a money donation will also be appreciated.

"The hospital belongs to the entire community and therefore all members of the community that wish to assist in furnishing food or gifts to help toward a well appointed hospital for the benefit of the community are invited to join with us in making this project a success," said Mrs. Ware, president of the Auxiliary. Coffee and cake will be served by the ladies during the sale. "Plan to take your coffee break with us," urge Auxiliary members.

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