

up for them. We are doing all right with drivers but the shortage of EMT's puts an extra burden on those now serving. If you can offer your services as an EMT please call the Town Hall to let them know.

Among the announcements was the fact that illegal tree cutting is on the rise. Last week a citation was issued against an offender. You are reminded that any living tree larger than 2 inches in diameter cannot be cut down without a permit. Mayor Hanan said that there are some instances where removal of such trees can be beneficial and they are working out ways to cover this situation. Meanwhile, the ordinance as it now stands must be enforced. Commercial tree removers will be notified of this ordinance but it must be remembered that the property owner is responsible whether the person removing the tree is a professional or not.

A recent search for tussock moth egg masses was conducted and none were found. It appears that this creature will not invade the town this year.

Voting on the referendum for the county wide sewer and water systems proposal will take place on February 24. Vote at the Town Hall. There seems to be considerable misunderstanding regarding this proposal and the local paper will be carrying many articles about it between now and then. You should have ample opportunity to be an informed voter.

A bill before the North Carolina Senate proposes that mobile homes be permitted in all single family residential zones and that local ordinance prohibiting them be declared invalid. The Commissioners took a stand opposing this bill and the mayor will write a letter to this effect. The proposed bill is S-152. You may wish to add your voice to the Board's.

The final piece of business concerned the establishment of the mean high water mark in determining allowable setback. On the ocean it can be accurately determined by aerial survey. On the Sound, however, it is not so easily done. This matter was brought to a head when house plans were submitted to the Community Appearance Commission and its chairman, Flo Garrett, had requested clarification.

Attorney Ken Kirkman cited the precedented definition used in courts of law as the "Mean or average high tide". He said that three ways of determining it have been acceptable: Survey [marking the highest point of the tide on a day of average weather conditions], Vegetation [certain plants live above the line and certain below], and Elevation [studied over a period of years]. CAMA representatives were then asked to explain how they determine the mean high water mark. It was learned that they use the vegetation method and in instances where surveys have also been used the difference between the two determinations is minimal.

It is the responsibility of the property owner to determine the Mean High Water mark and it should show on the plans submitted for approval. If the Building Inspector disagrees or the determination is challenged he will then make his own determination as CAMA permit officer. CAMA representatives agreed to look at the marker affecting the property in question and after the meeting its correct placement was confirmed.

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CALLING THE POLICE

Chief Crawford has requested that persons needing the police use the County Communication system at 728-3772. This is the most effective way to get the help you need. It is important, too, that you tell the dispatcher why you are calling. The dispatcher relays this to the officer enroute to the call. He is then prepared to meet the situation when he gets to you.

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