

Commissioners Adopt Budget, Conditional Use Ordinance

By Bill White

The Town Commissioners, at their regular monthly meeting June 14, unanimously adopted a \$4,308,050 budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 following a public hearing that produced no comments or questions from the audience. The budget does not call for any change in the municipal tax rate, which will remain at 18 cents per hundred dollars of property valuation.

The unanimous vote came after two proposals to amend line items in the budget were rejected by 3 to 2 votes, with Mayor Joan Lamson casting the tie-breaking and deciding vote in each case.

The proposals were put forth by Commissioner Larry La Brie. In the first one, La Brie proposed that the \$12,000 line item for *The Shoreline* be reduced to \$2,000 and that the \$10,000 difference be put into the contingency fund for possible use to cover future unanticipated expenses. He suggested that money could be saved in connection with *The Shoreline* by not mailing the newsletter to Pine Knoll Shores addresses and reverting to the original system of delivering copies in town by leaving them in front of homes and condos.

In opposing the proposal, Commissioner Jim Hunter pointed out that the hand delivery system had

produced a wave of complaints from residents concerned for many reasons about large numbers of papers lying uncollected on lawns and in driveways. He held that the system of mailing *The Shoreline* has effectively eliminated the complaints, adding that the newsletter has been well received by the community since publication was resumed after residents had indicated their desire to bring it back. Hunter was joined in opposing the amendment by Commissioner Bill Ashland, who echoed Hunter's comments and praised the efforts of the volunteers who are producing the newsletter.

La Brie was joined in supporting the amendment by Commissioner Bob Danehy, who also expressed concern about future additional expenses, including funding three additional fire and EMS personnel who he said are critically needed. He voiced the opinion that making *The Shoreline* available on-line might be a cost-effective option that could be explored.

The second amendment proposed by La Brie concerned the budget provision to make funds available to make the position of receptionist/office assistant at Town Hall a full-time rather than a part-time post. La Brie indicated that he felt the need to make the position full-time had yet to be justified. He said that the questions of funding both the full-time position and *The Shoreline* could be revisited after more time had passed and more information became available.

Hunter once again opposed the proposal, maintaining that when no one is manning the lobby desk citizens walking into Town Hall are greeted by an empty desk and a sign that instructs them to ring a bell to summon assistance. That means, he said, that someone in a back office has to drop whatever they are doing to go to assist the waiting public. It would be better, he argued, if a friendly face and a warm welcome were always on hand, as they are now part of the time.

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Mayor Tops With Classmates

"They Like You!" With those words Brooks Raiford, executive director of Leadership North Carolina, presented to Pine Knoll Shores Mayor Joan Lamson the coveted Stanley Frank Class Award.

The occasion was the annual meeting and 12th graduation ceremony of Leadership North Carolina (LNC) held June 10 in Greensboro. LNC is the state's premier leadership program for current and emerging leaders. Each year it gathers a class of individuals who have demonstrated commitment to community and professional leadership activities with the aim of broadening their understanding of and involvement in issues and opportunities facing the state.

Participants take part in six monthly, two-day sessions held in various parts of the state and focusing on issues in the areas of government, education, economic development, health and human services, and the environment. On the afternoon of the final session in Greensboro the 48 members of this year's class took part in a forum with the four living former chief justices of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

The award presented to Mayor Lamson is named for Stanley Frank, a Greensboro businessman who was among the earliest supporters of Leadership North Carolina and remains one of its biggest boosters. The Frank Award is coveted because it comes as a result of

written nominations submitted by members of the class.

Before presenting Mayor Lamson with the Waterford eagle emblematic of the award, Raiford read excerpts from the submissions of a few of the classmates who nominated the mayor for the honor.

Said one: "Joan often added a perspective that others in the class had not thought of. Her comments had our full

attention; when Joan Lamson talked, people listened." Added another: "Joan is an engaging person interested in everything and everyone around her and is an asset to North Carolina."

The mayor's coveted Waterford eagle now occupies a prominent spot on the shelves behind her Town Hall desk. She has yet to figure out how to display the North Carolina Flag flown in her honor over the dome of the State Capitol building on June 10.



Mayor Lamson with her coveted Waterford eagle.

Emergency Services Director Steps Down; Matthias Named

Pine Knoll Shores has a new Director of Emergency Services for the second time in little more than a month. The position became vacant again in mid-June with the resignation of Reed Jarvis, who had been named to the post in May.

Jarvis, who lives in the Down East Carteret County community of Atlantic, indicated he thought the long commute between Atlantic and PKS would not be a drawback to his service here. But a few weeks on the job convinced him that he could not do the position justice if he was not here a good part of the time. He noted that living so far away meant that he was not able to join the response when many emergencies occurred,

PKS, he said in submitting his resignation, would be better served by a Director of Emergency Services who would be in a better position to monitor day-to-day operations.

Jarvis told officials he felt PKS had just such a candidate in the person of Bill Matthias, who has been serving the Town as a full-time fireman/EMT since January. Jarvis recommended Matthias for the post and the mayor and commissioners, while expressing regret at Jarvis' decision to leave, heartily agreed with his recommendation. Matthias was named as the new director as of June 21.



Bill Matthias

A 24-year veteran of the Marine Corps, Matthias worked as a paid fireman in Jacksonville before joining the PKS Fire Department. He also served for a number of years as a volunteer firefighter in Swansboro,

giving up that duty on June 20 in order to devote full-time to his new post in PKS.

Matthias lives in Hubert with his wife, April. They have three children, Billy, Jacelyn and Noelle.

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