

Revenue Sharing Loss Would Hurt 4.2¢ Worth

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County will hurt, but it won't feel as much pain as some neighboring counties snout the federal government eliminate general revenue sharing funds.

That's the general assessment of the three county commissioners who returned last Wednesday from a three-day legislative conference in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the National Association of Counties. The conference included a breakfast meeting with Congressman Charlie Rose and a dinner attended by both President Ronald Reagan and Bob Dole, majority leader in the U.S. Senate.

"The way it stands now it looks like it (revenue sharing) is a dying thing," said Chris Chappell, chairman, who attended the conference with Commissioners Jim Poole and Herman Love. County Manager Billy Carter and Clerk to the Board Regina White were unable to attend the conference; both were sick with the flu.

The delegation said Brunswick and New Hanover counties rely much less heavily on revenue sharing to meet their budgets than do Columbus, Bladen and Robeson counties.

Commissioners adopted a resolution supporting continuance of the

revenue sharing program Thursday night. Commissioners across the country were expected to adopt similar measures in their home communities.

Chappell said his feeling after hearing Dole was that because of public support for the program, revenue sharing would be continued for another year then gradually eliminated.

Love said that the message at every meeting they attended was one of federal cuts in spending.

"We're also going to lose some benefits we're going to have to fund in health and social services," he said. "There's no doubt about it. They're going to be cut."

Reagan's use of his presidential veto to block a farm credit package added additional credibility to his dinner talk pledge, the commissioners said.

Last year Brunswick County received approximately \$840,000. Most of the money is put into capital projects, such as construction or major equipment purchases, such as current development of the county's first convenience station. Brunswick County has, as a matter of policy, not used general revenue sharing funds for operating expenses.

Columbus County's revenue sharing contribution equals approximately 20 cents of the county's tax rate, while in Brunswick County a 4.2 cent tax increase in the tax rate would be necessary to replace the funds.

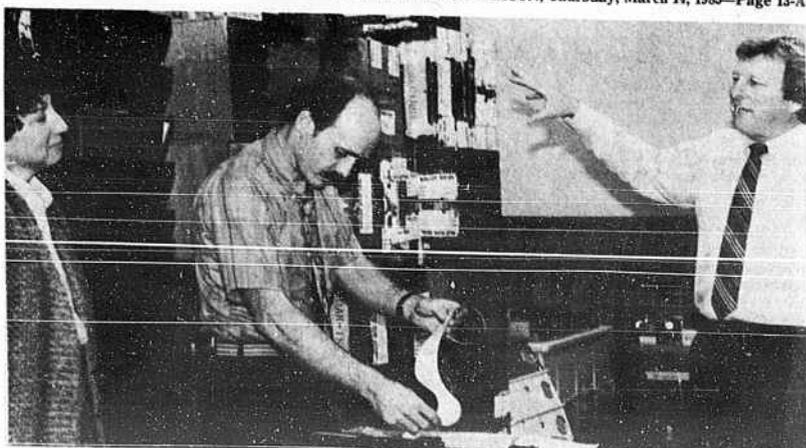
A general feeling among Brunswick County commissioners and others attending the national conference was that if the federal government eliminates revenue sharing, it should also eliminate some mandated programs.

Also, said Carter, the public feels that when the federal government cuts back in spending, that all levels of government—state and local—should do likewise.

But, he said, federal cutbacks actually place additional demands on local governments, as in funding programs the federal government requires them to operate.

Commissioners also discussed the U.S. 17 bypass around Shallotte with Congressman Rose. Poole said he also wanted to look further into the Environmental Protection Agency's funding of an offshore incineration project in New Jersey.

Chappell said the conference was excellent and that he wished all commissioners could have attended.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Change Would Speed Returns

Brunswick County has been offered an opportunity to upgrade its 22 Airmac voting machines for one-third their replacement cost by the company that bought out Airmac. Ed O'Day of Government Data Systems (right) explained the benefits of retrofitting the machines last week to Lynda Britt, board of elections supervisor, and John Youngs, the technician who services the county's voting machines. Among other things the new programming would print out by-name voting returns in each race by candidate, with per-

centage and totals, as well as the number of precincts reporting and total vote counted. It also "reads" both sides of each ballot at the same time and from either end, reducing the number of potential mistakes by voters, and it signals when an error in marking a ballot is made. A demonstration was planned Friday for elections board members, but only one of three members, Orle Gore, showed. The meeting—minus demonstration—was held Monday.

Grant To Cover Bridge Repairs

A grant of \$100,000 in emergency relief funds from the Federal Highway Administration will pay for the repair of the Sunset Beach Bridge, which was struck by a barge on Jan. 12, said N.C. Department of Transportation spokesman Bill Jones.

The bridge was closed to traffic for about four days, creating a hardship residents and visitors, indicated a statement by James E. Harrington, state Transportation Secretary. "The government's decision is appropriate and reflects an understanding of the emergency that existed."

Meanwhile, the operator of the tugboat, James R. Kelly Jr. of Virginia Beach, Va., has been charged by the U.S. Coast Guard with negligent operation of the *Angela M.*, the tugboat that was pushing the 210-foot Florida-bound barge laden with dredge pipe.

U.S. District Court Judge Peter A. Fitzpatrick heard testimony in the case last Wednesday and Thursday, but had not announced his decision as of mid-day Tuesday.

Kelly pleaded guilty last Wednesday to all three specifications of the

charge against him. The Coast Guard charged that the barge ran aground north of the Ocean Isle Beach Bridge and struck the fender system of that bridge before striking the Sunset Beach Bridge.

Witnesses testified Wednesday that the barge was weaving across the Intracoastal Waterway before it hit the bridge, which Kelly denied in testimony Thursday. He testified that winds blew the barge off course as he attempted to steer to the side of the bridge with a fender system.

Among those testifying were Ocean Isle Beach Bridge operator Kelly Bellamy, Sunset Beach Bridge operator J.D. Hewett, Sunset Beach Police Chief William Hill and Robert Cox, district bridge maintenance supervisor.

It cost \$90,000 to repair the barge, excluding the temporary ferry service offered by DOT and associated road maintenance costs.

If Kelly is found guilty of any count of the charge, Fitzpatrick could revoke his license, put him on probation or "admonish" him.

Pest Program Meeting Set

Farmers interested in participating in an Integrated Pest Management Program in 1985 should attend an organizational meeting Monday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Brunswick Electric Membership building in Shallotte. Topics to be

discussed include services offered, fees, crop or crops to be covered and start-up times.

Growers who plan to participate should also come prepared with ideas and comments that might help strengthen the program, said Billy Barrow, assistant county extension agent.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Standing The Watch

Shallotte firefighter Tony Hewett watches Friday night as a house burned as part of a training exercise slowly turns to ashes. Owned by Clarence Richardson, the house was located on Old Shallotte Road. Firefighters

from Suppy and Civictown departments brought water tanks and joined the training for several hours, but it was Shallotte firefighters who stood by until the last flames died.

Demonstration On Drugs Open To Parents Monday

A "Parent Drug Awareness" class sponsored by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department will be held Monday, March 18, at 7 p.m. at the Waccamaw Elementary School auditorium.

Members of the Waccamaw Parent-Teachers Organization (PTO) invite all parents to attend the workshop. Guest speakers from the sheriff's department will include narcotic detectives David Crocker and L.A. Dick Burgess.

Sheriff John Carr Davis will also help explain to parents the North Carolina drug laws, signs of drug addiction and effects of drugs on juveniles. Det. Crocker will also demonstrate different drugs that have been confiscated in Brunswick County and various drug paraphernalia.

For more information on the class, contact the sheriff's department or Principal Jean Parker at Waccamaw Elementary School.

Town Creek VRS To Serve Plates

Town Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad will hold a fried chicken and barbecue pork dinner Saturday, March 16, beginning at 11 a.m.

Potato salad, green beans and rolls will be served with the chicken and candied yams, coleslaw and hushpuppies with the barbecue. Cost is \$3 per plate, with proceeds going toward support of the squad, said Laura Coulter, secretary.

Squad To Sell Pit-Cooked BBQ

Calabash Volunteer Rescue Squad will sponsor a pit-cooked barbecue dinner and bake sale Saturday, March 30, beginning at 11 a.m.

Along with barbecue, the menu will

include candied yams, hushpuppies and coleslaw. Orders for five or more plates will be delivered; call 579-7475 to order.

The squad building is located on N.C. 179 one mile north of Calabash.

LITTLE RIVER WATER DISTILLERS

Water Purification Systems Sales & Service



Distilled Water
50¢ a gallon
(w/ container)

DURASTILL
Water Distillers



Hwy. 17 South, Little River, Phone (803)249-2354

OWNER: W.J. (Sonny) Bellamy, Jr.

EXCUSES, EXCUSES, EXCUSES
WON'T LOOK GOOD IN A BIKINI
INSTEAD....

MOVE IT & LOSE IT!
WITH EDITH HAILEY'S

ORIGINAL
DANCERCISE

EXERCISE THAT ISN'T EXERCISE

Total Conditioning In The Spirit Of:
Simple Modern/Jazz Aerobics—Jane Fonda
—Suzy Prudden Spot Firming/Reducing—
Resistance Training (optional)—Yoga
BOLIVIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GYM
TUESDAY & THURSDAY NITES, 6:15-7:15 P.M.
FIRST CLASS REGISTRATION:
MARCH 21, 1985, 6:15 P.M.

THE TOUCHEST EFFORT YOU'LL EVER LOVE
12 CLASSES JUST \$20.00

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL EDITH HAILEY AFTER 7:00 P.M. AT 278-6174.

Classes taught by Edith Hailey, creator of Brunswick County's Developmental Dance.

©1985 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

COMPLETE INTERIOR DECORATING SERVICE
—Leveler blinds —Carpet
—Vertical blinds —Wallpaper
—Draperies

Original paintings by Bryan Varnam

Ocean Isle Interiors
3 Ocean Isle Square
Ocean Isle Beach, Currituck
579-6991

Long Beach Interiors
6402 C.E. Oak Island Dr.
Long Beach, 278-3959

© 1984 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

IF YOU'RE NOT LIVING A TRADITION, YOU'RE NOT LIVING.

At least, you're not living the way you'd like to. Come discover today this prestigious lifestyle of luxurious single- or multi-family homes... with intracoastal or golf course views next to the Atlantic Ocean... with abundant amenities from championship golf and tennis to stables and riding paths, as well as a private marina. Better act soon, though. Phase one is virtually sold out. Phase two is on its way. Begin 'Living a Tradition' now.

Brick Landing
PLANTATION

Ocean Isle Beach, NC (919) 754-4373/Outside NC (800) 438-3006