

Hurricane Overtime Pay Is Authorized

(Continued From Page 1-A)

A proposal to compensate county employees who worked overtime during Hurricane Diana in September won unanimous support from commissioners Monday night.

The money to pay this expense will come first from salary funds that may have accumulated within a department due to vacancies, and then from the general contingency fund.

Compensation will be based on overtime worked from 5 p.m. Sept. 10 through Sept. 14.

Employees have had the option of taking compensatory time off for hurricane-related overtime, but the county had hoped to obtain financial reimbursement through federal disaster aid. That aid was denied.

If all employees who worked overtime during the hurricane took the time off due them rather than get some cash payment, County Manager Billy Carter, it could virtually shut down temporarily some large departments such as social services and health.

In devising cash payments, he

said, "We're looking at the effect on county operations if all those people took compensatory time."

Commissioners took no action, however, on a proposed amendment to the personnel ordinance that would spell out the county's policy on overtime work or standby duty required of employees during an emergency such as a hurricane.

Carter had proposed paying employees on "standby" regular pay and those actually reporting to work time-and-a-half.

Commissioners questioned paying someone not on the job, but Carter suggested it was appropriate because being on standby kept the person from doing anything else.

"Wouldn't it be just as cheap to call them in?" asked Love.

The typical emergency lasts about two days, unlike Hurricane Diana, which kept the county on emergency status for approximately a week and involved recovery time as well.

Commissioners said that overtime should not accumulate on hours worked beyond an eight-hour day, as proposed, but rather, on hours ac-

cumulated beyond a 40-hour week.

Commissioner Jim Poole said later he thought the policy was "too loose," which would make it too easily subject to employee abuse.

Carter had said that with a large number of employees, there was a potential for some abuse to occur and go undetected.

Employees are subject to immediate dismissal if they submit false time sheets, a rule Chappell said he hopes is being more strictly enforced under the board's new policies.

Child Support

Commissioners decided, on County Attorney David Clegg's recommendation, against endorsement of a Hertford County legislative resolution regarding the 4-D Child Support Enforcement Program.

Hertford wants the program to stay in state hands. The state is proposing making support enforcement a county responsibility and allowing counties to charge an administrative fee to cover their costs.

Clegg said Brunswick County's program is experiencing a 97 percent

success rate in its court cases, although a year ago it was \$200,000 in arrears because no cases had been taken to court in six months.

He said he thought he would rather have the county to collect its own fees and run its own program, saying disbursements to families and reimbursement of county costs would be quicker if made through the clerk of court's office rather than through the state.

Condemnation

Commissioners also agreed with Clegg that the county shouldn't support an effort by the Orange County Water and Sewer Authority to obtain legislative power for authorities to condemn land. The Orange Authority and the Lower Cape Fear Water & Sewer Authority are the only two such authorities in the state.

"I don't think it's a role an authority should have," said Clegg, adding that condemnation is a practice "used lightly" by the county and therefore one he doesn't think should be allowed someone else to use here.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners:

•Allocated \$400 from vending machine revenues for a spring picnic for employees and others who helped during Hurricane Diana. Vending machine revenues in the past have been used by the health and social services departments to help clients meet emergency needs for medicine and the like.

•Continued the meeting until 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 25, in advance of a 7:30 p.m. public hearing in the assembly building on the mandatory enforcement of the state building code that begins July 1. At the meeting commissioners are to decide whether to apply for a Coastal Area Management Act grant and if so, for what purpose. Applications are due March 29.

•Scheduled an April 16 date to review the county revaluation program.

•Heard from Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson that March 29 is the last day to pay 1984 taxes "without getting your name in the paper."

•Heard a request from Supply Volunteer Fire Department for the van used by the sheriff's department in its crime prevention program, but

decided to give department heads an opportunity to propose uses for the van also. A memo from Sheriff John C. Davis advises that the van "has served its usefulness" and that he can no longer justify the expense of maintenance and operation. Supply Fire Chief David Robinson said his department would use the van to transport fire equipment, including a Cascade system used to refill firemen's portable breathing apparatus, and would make it available for mutual aid.

•Directed County Attorney David Clegg to investigate a property-owner participation road project for which the county understood state funds were budgeted last year as the public match for the project. It was commissioners' understanding no county funds would be involved.

•Accepted an additional \$62,980 in Housing and Urban Development funds for the county's public housing program.

•Heard the February tax collections report. For the month, \$324,469 was collected, bringing collections for the tax year to \$11.7 million.



Girls Feed Gulls At Sunset

Michelle Bir and Rosemarie Jankewicz, Wells College students from Aurora, N.Y., feed peanuts to the seagulls at Sunset Beach this weekend. Both girls were enjoying spring break and a chance to trade campus snow for

Brunswick County beaches. Michelle hails from Newark, New Jersey, and Rosemarie calls Cherry Hill, New Jersey, home.

PHOTO BY JOHN GAUGHAN

Grant Could Improve County's Industry-Seeking Position

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County will seek a \$750,000 federal grant that could enhance its efforts to attract new industry.

The money would be used to improve an "industrial corridor" between the Leland Industrial Park and Navassa.

A March 8 letter from the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA) notified county officials that the county and the Brunswick County Resources Development Corp. had been authorized to submit a joint application for the EDA funds.

"This is a significant accomplishment," Michael deScherbinin, secretary to the development corporation, advised county commissioners Monday night. Commissioners approved plans to submit the application by the May 1 deadline.

The county should know by Sept. 30 if it has been approved, deScherbinin said.

A profile submitted for EDA review targeted a small area between the developed section of Leland Industrial Park and Navassa as an "industrial corridor," where the development corporation will hold fee-simple title to 82.5 acres.

To make the development corridor more attractive to prospective industry, plans call for providing a rail spur and access road, extending natural gas and water lines and constructing a 100,000-gallons-per-day wastewater treatment plant. An 8-inch or 10-inch water line would be extended to High Rise Service Company Inc. on Royster Road outside the Navassa town limits.

No local money is required, said deScherbinin, who also is the county's resources development director.

Work on the first segment of the county's north-end water line, valued at \$1.47 million, will be designated as the county's local match.

In his budget proposals, President Ronald Reagan has proposed doing away with the Economic Development Administration. The agency is currently under a rescission order. This means there is a slight chance the money already allocated this year could be taken back before the grant has been approved.

"I don't feel that's likely, though," he said of the rescission, "because it has to go to the House and Senate."

With receipt of the grant, he said, the county cannot entice an industry from an existing location into the park. A new industry or an industry expanding into a new location would be acceptable, but not a company that is shutting down a plant elsewhere.

While the Resources Development Commission has existed for a number of years, the non-profit development corporation was formed last April in order to obtain land that could be developed for industrial clients.

Pork, Chicken On Dinner Menu

Sunset Harbor and Zion Hill Volunteer Fire Department, off N.C. 211 near Sunset Harbor, will hold a barbecue pork and chicken filet dinner Saturday, March 23, beginning at 1 p.m. at the station.

Each plate is \$3. The menu includes barbecue, coleslaw, hushpuppies, candied yams and chicken filet, plus coffee or tea.

Orders can be called in to 842-9449.

DWI Accident Victims Agree To Settlement

Three victims of a head-on collision near Yaupon Beach last year involving a driver who was later convicted of felony death by vehicle and driving while impaired have reached insurance settlements to help pay their

medical bills. According to an order recently filed in Brunswick County District Court, the insurance company covering the driver and owner of the truck that struck the teenagers' car will

pay a total of \$25,000 to the three victims for their injuries.

Brian Ashley Jackson, 27, was convicted last month of felony death by vehicle, driving while impaired and driving left of center in Brunswick County Superior Criminal Court. In the Feb. 23, 1984 auto accident, Jackson's truck, owned by James Ernest Smith, crossed the center line on N.C. 133 near Yaupon Beach and struck a car driven by William Purcell.

A passenger in Purcell's car, Melissa Wilson was hospitalized for six months after the accident and later died. A \$5 million lawsuit filed by Miss Wilson's mother is still pending in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Jackson was sentenced to five years in prison by Judge B. Craig Ellis and ordered to pay restitution to the victims if allowed work release.

According to the order signed by District Court Judge Jerry A. Jolly,

Purcell will receive \$19,000 for his injuries in the accident. The insurance company will also pay \$3,000 each to Miss Leslie Woodell and her sister, Darlene Conway, for their injuries.

According to the petition signed Feb. 27, Miss Woodell received injuries to her chest, abdomen, lip, skull and leg.

Forecast Says 'Near Normal'

Weather conditions are returning to near-normal in the South Brunswick Islands this week.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said that both

temperatures and precipitation should average near normal over the next few days. From nighttime lows averaging in the mid-40s daytime temperatures should rise to highs in the mid-60s, with about one-half inch of rain expected.

During the period of March 12-18, temperatures swung from a maximum high of 81 degrees on the 14th to a minimum low of 29 degrees on the 16th.

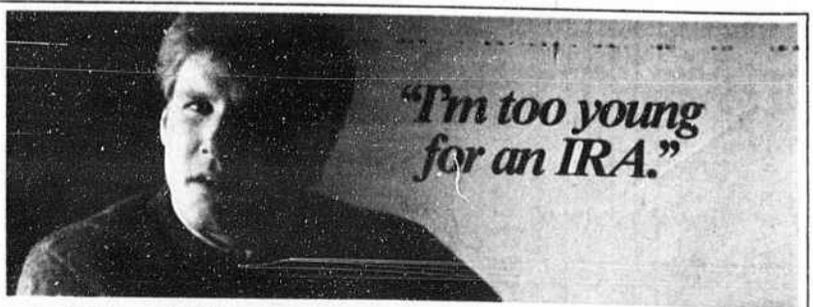
An average daily high of 70 degrees combined with an average morning low of 41 degrees for an average temperature of 55 degrees, which Canady said was about one degree above normal for this time of year.

He recorded .78 inch of rain. Canady said that, thus far, March is drier than normal.

School Retirees Meet Tuesday

The Brunswick County Retired School Personnel Association meets Tuesday, March 26, at 10 a.m. in the public assembly room at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

All members are encouraged to attend, said Ms. Brightie Holden.



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