

No Funds Set Aside For Calabash Police Budget

BY TERRY POPE

Calabash council members voted Monday to deposit all of its revenue sharing funds into the town's building fund, rather than setting part of it aside to help finance a possible police department.

"A police department without a town hall?" Councilman Robert Simmons questioned the board Monday. "I'd love to see a police department, but I don't see any way we can afford one. We need a town hall first."

At its last meeting, the board agreed to consider forming a police department for the town, if the new budget could afford the added costs. Several residents of the town have asked for police protection, so Mayor Sonia Stevens suggested the town at least consider hiring an officer and purchasing a patrol car on a six-month trial basis.

According to Town Clerk Janet Thomas, the town has \$9,270 in past entitlements from revenue sharing funds and expects another \$2,700 from the state in October, along with \$520 in interest earnings. The entire \$12,550 will be appropriated to the town's building fund when the 1985-86 budget is prepared.

"It's a simple fact that we just don't have the money for a police department," Councilman Virgil "Tink" Coleman said.

Although the funds will be designated for the building fund rather than for a police department, the money may still be transferred if the board chooses to add a police department, Ms. Thomas said. Ms. Thomas is still preparing the budget for the 1985-86 fiscal year while waiting to see if the county plans to adopt solid waste disposal user fees.

If the town is charged user fees to dump garbage in the county landfill and transfer stations, it will affect

the town's budget for next year. Board members have objected to the user fees and decided Monday to ask other towns how they feel about the proposed charges.

"I do not feel like it's fair for us to pay taxes to the county..." Ms. Stevens said, "and then have to pay a user fee, because we're collecting our own garbage. We spend a great deal of our tax money on garbage collection."

Mayor Stevens said if user fees are

charged next year, she hopes the county will do so on a percentage basis, or provide cuts in the towns' taxes to accommodate the added expense.

"I just don't think that it's fair," she added. "I think something should be done about it to bring it to their attention."

A letter to gather opinions from other towns about the user fees will be addressed to each of the municipalities in the county. If

enough towns "get together, then the county will listen to us," Ms. Stevens said. "All they can do is turn us down, but you can't say we didn't try."

In other business Monday, the board accepted a bid of \$350 for its 1972 used Ford garbage truck from Donnie Beck of Beck's Equipment Service.

Beck submitted the only bid for the truck. Council members decided Monday not to readvertise for bids

since it was costing the town \$23 for each advertisement, which must be displayed in a local newspaper for four weeks, or close to \$100 for each bidding process.

Ms. Stevens said Beck plans to repair the truck for use as a loaner to area towns in case other trucks break down. Beck's mobile repair service has made truck repairs for the town. The town is currently considering a maintenance prevention contract with the company.

Ferry Adds Run, Extends Season

Because of increased demand, the N.C. Department of Transportation has added another run to the Southport-Fort Fisher ferry and extended the summer schedule.

Also effective now, tickets are available for purchase at the Fort Fisher terminal as well as the Southport terminal.

On the revised schedule, the ferry will have an additional trip that departs Southport at 6 p.m. and returns from Fort Fisher at 6:50 p.m. The summer schedule will extend from April 1 through Oct. 31. Other runs on the ferry schedule have the ferry departing Southport at 8, 9:40 and 11:20 a.m. and 1, 2:40, 4:20 and 6 p.m. The ferry departs Fort Fisher at 8:50 and 10:30 a.m., 12:10, 1:50, 3:30, 5:10 and 6:50 p.m.

The winter schedule that will be in effect from Nov. 1 through March 31, will also have an additional trip. It will depart Southport at 5 p.m. and return from Fort Fisher at 5:45 p.m.

Other winter trips call for the ferry to leave Southport at 8 and 10:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:30 and 5 p.m., and to leave Fort Fisher at 9:15 and 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 3:45 and 5:45 p.m.

The schedule is a pilot project designed to provide increased service. Schedules are subject to change if experience indicates the need for further modification, a DOT spokesman said.

The number of people riding the Southport-Fort Fisher Ferry has increased about 35 percent since 1982.

One-way tickets are 50 cents for pedestrians; \$1 for bicycle and rider; \$3 for a single vehicle or motorcycle; and \$6 for vehicles between 20 and 40 feet long.

FFA'ers To Attend Convention

Members of the West Brunswick High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter will attend the state FFA convention June 12-15 at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh.

Members Ronald Brady and Mark Varnum will serve as official voting delegates for the chapter. The chapter's tool identification team will compete for state honors at the convention. Members are Jeff Russ, Johnathan Clemmons, Dean Smith and Jeremy King.

Other chapter members planning to attend are Jon Proctor, president; Tommy Cribb, vice-president; Sean Ward, chaplain; and Gina Caison, parliamentarian.

The West Brunswick Chapter will receive a "superior rating" award from the state, one of numerous awards to be presented at the event.

Chapter members will be accompanied by their advisor and agriculture teacher, Michael Russ.

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