

Coastal Counties Want More State Road Money

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County plans to join efforts with other counties in Division 3 to seek more funding from the N.C. Board of Transportation.

Division Transportation Commissioner Tommy Pollard of Jacksonville proposed the united effort Monday night during a county hearing on proposed expenditures on secondary road money next year.

He told county commissioners he needs data to convince the state board that the coastal district has unique needs because of its rapid growth rate and warrants more money than other divisions.

"There is a uniqueness to our district in that it is the last frontier as far as coastal development is concerned," he said. Four of the six counties in Division 3 are coastal, and at least two, Brunswick and New Hanover, are in the midst of a population explosion. Brunswick County is considered the fastest-growing county in the state.

Pollard also asked the county to lobby the legislature, which proposes to cut small urban project funding from \$2 million in 1985 to \$1 million in 1986. While Powell Bill money is used to maintain and improve streets on a town system, the urban project money is used similarly for state-maintained roads within municipal boundaries.

"It's our only way of helping towns," he said. "If they're trying to punish Republicans, they're also punishing you."

Under the proposed budget presented Monday, the largest share of state funds will be used to match property owners' contributions to pave nine roads.

DOT District Engineer Ted Funderburk said \$125,000 in state funds would be used to supplement \$77,554 in payments from landowners toward the paving of 3.21 miles in the five affected residential areas.

Another \$90,000 each would be used to widen a 4.4-mile stretch of Stone Chimney Road, (S.R. 1115) from N.C. 211 to S.R. 1125 and to stabilize six other roads their entire lengths.

Other proposed expenditures include \$75,000 to replace a substandard bridge on S.R. 1417, which is three feet narrower than the roadbed; \$25,000 to drain, base and pave a .33 mile section of King Road (S.R. 1487) from S.R. 1438 to a dead end; and \$13,459 for miscellaneous expenses such as paving of entrances to fire departments and rescue squads.

The state had proposed stabilizing the roads according to their priority for paving, but commissioners weren't sure that was what they wanted to do.

They delayed action on the budget proposal until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, immediately before a joint meeting with the health board.

"I don't agree with it entirely," said District 4 Commissioner Frankie Rabon. "I think the priorities (for stabilization work) could be changed somewhat."

Property owners in participation projects approved before July 1 pay \$4 per running foot of roadway, while those approved July 1 or later pay twice that sum.

Division 3 Board of Transportation member Tommy Pollard of Jacksonville said the rate had not changed since 1974, though the cost of paving had doubled from \$10 to \$20 per foot. Increasing the fee to better reflect costs, he said, freed up funds in county allocations for other projects.

Listed for the POP (property owner participation) paving with the state share are Ocean View Drive (S.R. 1257), Allred Street (S.R. 1258) and Pine Drive (S.R. 1259) in Oceanview Landing subdivision, 1.11 miles, \$10,000; Roger Drive (S.R. 1267) in Buccaneer subdivision, .29 mile, \$30,000; Wonderland Street (S.R. 1260) in Water Wonderland subdivision, .58 mile; \$52,500; and Caison Avenue (S.R. 1240), Milliken Avenue (S.R. 1241) from N.C. 179 to a dead end and S.R. 1241, .73 mile; \$32,500; and also S.R. 1208 (Shell Landing Road) in Shell Landing Heights from N.C. 130 to dead end, .50 mile, \$25,737.

Participation paving is the fastest way to get a road paved by the state, DOT officials said Monday. It is available to subdivision and rural roads that meet the same set of standards and have property owners willing to advance their share of the cost.

Last year commissioners agreed to a plan that DOT of-

icials project will yield more miles of paved road in Brunswick County than any other method. Under this plan, the county would first stabilize—or make suitable for all-weather travel—all 152 unpaved miles of road in the county.

Since county secondary road allocations are based solely on the number of unpaved miles, the fund would not be cut. Then, once the roads have been stabilized, said Pollard, "we can come back in a few years and really put down the black top."

It currently costs \$60,000 a mile to base and pave a road, compared to \$20,000 a mile for stabilization.

Once again, the 1985-86 plan ranks roads in the more rapidly developing coastal area of the county above those in rural areas.

How do we explain that to our rural residents?, Chairman Chris Chappell wanted to know.

"You're just going to have to answer that there's one way to take X number of dollars to serve the most people. The more people there are the more need there is."

Serving a less populated area wouldn't be fair to the residents of a more populated area—even if the rural residents have been waiting longer for a road.

Paving priorities are based on a point system that considers factors such as bus routes, number of houses and businesses and traffic counts.

But residents of at least two roads aren't happy with their ranking under that system.

Four Killed In Fiery Accident On 904

Four people were killed and three others were injured Saturday evening in a two-car fiery collision on N.C. 904 near the Brunswick-Columbus county line, the State Highway Patrol reported.

According to State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt's report, the accident occurred about one mile inside the Brunswick County line when a 1980 Buick headed east on N.C. 904 ran off the road, lost control, and struck a westbound pick-up truck.

The driver of the car, Chi Yang, of 1420 East Ennis Street, Salisbury, and two passengers in his vehicle, his wife, Moon Yang, 48, and a son, John Yang, 16, were killed in the crash.

The driver of the truck, Hugh McLeod, 57, of Route 1, Box 106, Carthage, a prominent tobacco farmer in Moore County, was also killed, according to Barnhardt.

Three people were also injured in the accident including Steve Yang, 13, a passenger in the Yang vehicle. Injured in the McLeod vehicle were Mary McLeod, 32, and Joseph McLeod, 28, both from Salisbury.

Steve Yang was taken to the Columbus County Hospital in Whiteville with serious injuries and was transferred to Rowland Hospital Monday. According to Sgt. W.A.

Wilkins of the State Highway Patrol, John and Hugh McLeod and Moon Yang all burned to death at the scene of the accident. Chi Yang later died at the Columbus County Hospital from massive internal injuries.

Mary and Joseph McLeod were both taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply where they were treated and released.

According to Barnhardt's report, Yang's car was rounding a "sweeping curve to the west, heading east on N.C. 904" when it ran off the right side of the road, lost control, crossed the center line and struck the McLeod vehicle in the left side.

"We believe there was fire almost immediately, and Ms. Yang, John and Hugh McLeod all burned to death," Sgt. Wilkins reported.

Fire and rescue units from Shallotte, Waccamaw and Nakina from both Brunswick and Columbus counties responded to the 5:30 p.m. accident. There will be no charges filed in the accident since both drivers were killed.

The four fatalities raises the highway death toll for Brunswick County to eight for the year. Four highway deaths were reported through the end of June last year.

Girl Struck By Car Dies

A Greensboro girl who was struck by a car on Holden Beach on June 12 died at New Hanover Memorial Hospital early Friday morning.

Cecilia Ann Reynolds, 15, daughter of Tom and Edith Reynolds of Randlewood Drive, Greensboro, died around 4:30 a.m. last Friday after never regaining consciousness.

Ms. Reynolds was struck by a car as she was walking near the intersection of Hallstead Street and Ocean Boulevard East.

According to Holden Beach Police Chief Raymond Simpson, Ms. Reynolds was staying on Holden Beach to attend a Presbyterian Church of Greensboro affiliated

outing. She was struck by a Toyota driven by Kate McRae McGregor of Corpus Christi, Texas, who swerved to avoid the collision.

Simpson said Friday that there are "no charges to be filed, as far as I'm concerned." Ms. Reynolds was at fault in the accident, he added.

The driver and victim apparently have known each other for years, Simpson said. The driver was on her way to visit Ms. Reynolds when the accident occurred.

Ms. Reynolds suffered a broken right arm and leg and a dislocated shoulder. She remained unconscious and in serious condition at the New Hanover Memorial Hospital in Wilmington.

Funding Rules Set

(Continued From Page 1-A)

beگان as means of helping departments in their capital programs.

Over half the departments have loan guarantee agreements with the county, in which the county has agreed to fund them sufficient funds, in amounts up to \$7,500, to meet repayments on outstanding FmHA loans for buildings or equipment. But there is no provision the departments must spend the allocation for that purpose. Logan noted. That resulted several years ago in Leland running short of money and requesting more

money—a total of \$22,000 for the year—from the county board.

The county appropriation for fire and rescue services equals about 2½ cents of the 59½ cents tax rate set for 1985-86.

Commissioners also budgeted a one-time only contribution of \$2,000 to the Acme-Delco Fire and Rescue Squad in recognition of the mutual aid calls the department makes in northwestern Brunswick County and will continue to make at least until proposed Navassa and Northwest fire and rescue units are operational.

Sunset Budget Stalled After Call For Audit

BY BILL MCGOWAN

Sunset Beach Town Council balked at its chance to adopt a final operating budget for the coming year Monday night, opting first to investigate public hearing charges that the financial document does not balance.

Council instead approved a tentative \$235,925 budget for fiscal year 1985-86 by unanimous vote and agreed to have an audit on the document prepared immediately.

North Carolina state law requires all municipalities to adopt balanced operating budgets by midnight June 30.

The public body then recessed, rather than adjourned, its meeting until July 15 at 7:30 p.m., at which time final approval of the financial document is expected.

During a public budget hearing preceding Monday night's meeting, Minnie Hunt, secretary for the Sunset Beach Property Owners Association, charged that the town has been operating with an unbalanced budget for the past several years. She told council members that unused monies from the current fiscal year have not been properly accounted for in the proposed budget.

Council Clerk Linda Fluegel told Hunt that the N.C. League of Municipalities must verify and approve the town's budget each year.

Hunt responded that such approval does not require an audit. She sug-

gested that the town hire an independent auditor to look into the situation.

Council agreed to the audit, but asked that it be prepared by certified public accountant John Carraway of Wilmington, who acts as the town's auditor.

In clarifying the town's position, Col. James Gordon, chairing town council as mayor for the first time, said adoption of the tentative budget was a necessity.

"We need to get Mr. Carraway down here to check these figures," he said. "But what we've got to do is to adopt a tentative budget until that time, or until we can get it checked out, audited, certified or what have you."

Parking Problems Ease

A temporary solution has been reached in the Sunset Beach parking dilemma.

Council authorized Town Manager Wallae Martin to enter into leases with two property owners to provide public parking spaces. The body also authorized Martin to spend up to \$2,500 to level and clay several of the lots in question.

Leases are presently in the works between the town and Sunset Beach Development Corp. and the town and Dr. John Madison.

Sunset Development owns four lots to be used on the old Kanoy Realty property. Lots 19, 20, 21 and 22 on Block 28 will require some leveling and clay.

The town will also enter into a lease agreement with Dr. Madison and will use several lots beside the old Continental Motel for parking.

Another property owner, Joe Covert, has also signed a lease involving lots 14, 15 and 16 in Block 1.

Martin told council other lots are also available and could provide the town with some 250 parking spaces. The leases which have been signed, he said, could provide from 50 to 100 parking spaces.

Other Business

In other business, council did the following:

•Agreed to have the state Department of Archives record minutes of

the town's council meetings at no charge.

•Agreed to adopt a new schedule of building permit and inspection fees, following the lead of the county council, as well as Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach town councils.

•Adopted an ordinance on a unanimous, first reading vote to annex the 53-acre Sea Trail Links golf course into the town limits. Sea Trail Links is owned by Sea Trail Corp.

•Accepted the resignation of Mayor James Gordon as chairman of the Sunset Beach Planning and Zoning Board and as a member of the town's Board of Adjustment.

•Heard departmental reports from Martin.

4-H'ers Take District Ribbons

Brunswick County 4-H members recently participated in District 4-H Activity Day competition held June 25 at Cape Fear Senior High School in Fayetteville.

They competed in 10 activities.

Associate Extension Agent Billy Privette said both winners and first runners-up earned the right to compete at the state level during the North Carolina 4-H Congress slated July 22-25 at N.C. State University in Raleigh.

Local participants and their awards are as follows: Michelle Sellers, babysitting, winner; Locke Karriker, livestock production, winner; Kerry Cumbee, electric, first runner-up; John Hunt, entomology, first runner-up; Amy Hewett and

Kristi Lewis, safety, first runner-up; Melissa Karriker, artistic arrangement, first runner-up; Tabitha Daniels, peanut foods; Joseph Hunt, beef char-grill; Carol Royals and Ginger Evans, home environment; Mary Beth Russ, 4-H Entertains; Sabrina Daniels, 4-H Entertains.

More information on 4-H programs is available from the Brunswick County Extension Office, 253-4425.

Screening Program On Temporary Hold

Discussion of a proposal to begin a long-term health care screening program through the Brunswick County Health Department reached an impasse Monday night.

"You've got us completely confused. That's bad," Board of County Commissioners Chairman Chris Chappell told representatives of the Cape Fear Council on Governments, the county health department and Comprehensive Home Health Care.

Further consideration was delayed until a specific COG proposal is presented.

COG had asked the health department to consider screening people leaving area hospitals to determine if, with supportive services that might or might not now be available, they could live at home rather than in a nursing home. Health Director Tom Blum said the program would be a good way for the county to learn about existing and needed programs.

Ed Harris, executive director of CHHC, said that agency already effectively provides screening in conjunction with Brunswick Hospital.

The hospital and its medical staff oppose the proposed arrangement, he added, and will continue referring patients to CHHC for screening as well as home health care, for which it is the sole provider in the county.

COG representatives Linda Bedo and Jerry Ramsey say, however, the service would not duplicate existing ones. Instead it would help match clients with programs and funding sources more effectively. Also, because of county participation, some people who are otherwise unable to qualify for services would become eligible.

Harris said he was disturbed at not getting more advance notice the county was discussing the subject.

Bill Lamb, a planner with the N.C. Division of Social Services, said the area project was conceived as a means of improving coordination of services and communication among the health and social services agencies working with these clients, decreasing administrative costs and filling a gap in service delivery.

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