

TO EXTEND EAST-END GROINS

Ocean Isle Invests Sewer Bond Proceeds With UCB

BY SUSAN USHER

United Carolina Bank will invest the proceeds of \$2.6 million in sanitary sewer bonds sold recently for the Town of Ocean Isle Beach.

Meeting in special session Monday, town commissioners authorized Mayor LaDane Bullington to negotiate the best interest rate possible with UCB.

She said a financial institution and account number were needed before the funds were released on July 29, the closing date on the sale conducted by the Local Government Commission in Raleigh.

Town Attorney Elva Jess sent letters to area financial institutions last week asking them to submit proposals for investing the funds.

Three banks—all with offices in Brunswick County—responded, UCB and First Citizens Savings & Loan in writing. NCNB called, saying the time frame was too short for it to prepare a suitable package, the mayor indicated.

The mayor had Clerk Alberta Tatum check with Jess by telephone before revealing the contents of the two letters Monday.

UCB, which participated in the syndicate that bought the bonds, offered to structure a series of certificates of deposits and possibly a SMART account for the town once a disbursement schedule for the bond proceeds is developed.

This, wrote Senior Vice President Leo Johnson Jr., is to "provide the town with the liquidity to meet its obligations and the opportunity to earn a maximum return on these funds for the period of time the town will be holding them."

First Citizens offered a full range of municipal cash management services, with investments ranging from certificates of deposit to government securities bought at the best prices obtainable from a variety of money centers nationwide. The proposal, prepared by Joseph C. Knox Jr., vice president and trust officer, and Bruce Caldwell, assistant vice president, listed specific charges and fees for handling the funds.

Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson is chairman of the local UCB board of directors.

In other business, the board also authorized the mayor and town clerk to sign an \$8,000 grant offer agreement from the state toward preparing the town's land use plan update.

Mayor Bullington advised that another special meeting would be called within the next few days for the purpose of acquiring land for the sewer system from Odell Williamson. Needed are an eight-acre tract for the wastewater treatment plant and a pump station site near Laurinburg Street.

The mayor has proposed a trade-off of the land for connections to the system, rather than cash. The acquisitions must be completed before the engineers submit their design plans for state review.

Town 'Fights Back'

At the board's regular meeting last Tuesday, discussion on expanding the groins off the east end of the beach led to a verbal assault by developer Odell Williamson on environmental interests.

Sand has built up around the base of the groins, which were built last year to help reverse erosion near the inlet, and a dragline can now work far enough out to extend the groins another 25 to 50 feet as allowed in the original CAMA permit. Commissioners agreed to schedule the work after Labor Day, with the idea of having the groins ready to accept an estimated 30,000 feet of sand that may be available in the fall through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The groins exemplify the town's intent to "fight back" against the ocean so that Ocean Isle can continue to be the "best beach around," Williamson said.

He disagrees with scientists such as controversial Duke University geologist Orrin Pilkey, whose theories call for leaving the barrier islands in their natural state, allowing the shifting of sands, rather than erecting artificial erosion controls.

"I have very little respect for them when they turn

around and tell you to abandon what you've got."

Referring to the beach grasses and sand fences recently added at Ocean Isle, he continued, "There's no such thing as letting the public get out and trample everything you've got and make it nothing except a sand flat and then think you're going to have a beach."

So instead, Ocean Isle will keep on fighting and "doing it right," he said, with anti-erosion measures ranging from groins to regulations to keep people off the dunes—"contrary to that group that would like to stop all development and destroy all the beach just because one or two of them want it right by themselves."

'Pick & Choose'

Mayor LaDane Bullington also questioned certain efforts to regulate development on the beach, criticizing Coastal Resources Commission efforts to adopt regulations that would regulate the impact of development on coastal waters.

Rather than basing its actions on "facts," the commission is "picking and choosing" from controls enacted by other coastal states without knowing whether they work or not, she suggested.

"It's to everyone's interest that water quality be maintained, but it's also to everyone's interest that regulations are made based on facts and not conjecture."

She said the Environmental Management Commission was concerned that the CRC was acting faster than available data warrants.

"I would hope there would be more coordination and see that what is done can be conservation, not necessarily stagnation and total preservation."

The CRC has looked at stormwater runoff plans developed by the states of Maine, Maryland, South Carolina, Minnesota and Wisconsin. At a recent CRC meeting Division of Coastal Management Assistant Director Ralph Cantral said these states are concerned that their regulations are inadequate, though all are more restrictive than existing North Carolina regulations.

At the CRC's September 5-6 meeting in the Morehead City area, staff will present for consideration and public hearing specific regulations based on rules adopted by the other states. A CRC subcommittee has endorsed policy guidelines that no development with a "high probability of degrading water quality" would be permitted within an AEC, or area of environmental concern.

Controls include measures such as setback and buffer requirements, regulation of density on impervious surfaces, and requiring a stormwater management plan, Mayor Bullington said.

Other Business

In other business, the board:

• Heard from Building Inspector T.D. Roberson that 13 building permits were issued in June, with \$4,750 in fees collected for construction valued at \$324,300. Also, 24 CAMA permits were issued, with fees of \$6,080 collected. In the first six months of 1985, he said, the town has handled 131 CAMA applications, as many as it handled throughout 1984.

• Learned that the town has qualified for a better fire insurance rating following a recent survey. The change means businesses and residents will probably qualify for lower premiums.

• Agreed with Odell Williamson's recommendation to seek underground locations where possible when Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. installs additional buried feeder and distribution cables this fall, and to coordinate the installations with construction of the sewer system. The town will obtain comments from contractors and engineers for the system on the plans, which were submitted for the town's review.

• Agreed with Attorney Elva Jess' proposal to ask the zoning board to consider an amendment to the town's zoning ordinance to allow public utility substations as a permitted use in single-family residential areas. This would eliminate having to obtain conditional use permits from the board of adjustments for sewer pumping stations and the like. A public hearing is planned just before the town board's next regular meeting.

Sludge Disposal Permit Raises Procedural Issue

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County will be getting more information on the City of Wilmington's disposal of sludge in the county, but it won't be able to stop the dumping.

However, because of concerns raised by the county, the state will reconsider its policies for issuing certain disposal permits, according to Bob Jamieson, Wilmington regional manager for the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

County officials reiterated their displeasure with the state's permitting procedures during an hour-long meeting Tuesday morning with Jamieson and two other state Natural Resources and Community Development employees, Preston Howard, chief of the water quality section, and Chuck Wikild, regional supervisor of the Division of Environmental Management. Attending the meeting for the county were County Attorney David Clegg, County Engineer Dan Shields and County Planner John Harvey.

Assured by the state that the sludge isn't likely to contaminate the local groundwater supply, commissioners and other county officials are most concerned about the way the permit was issued. They were unaware of the city's plans to dump sludge across the county line until after the permit was issued, receiving no advance notice of application. "The county's concerns about being involved and about being informed, if not involved, are legitimate concerns," said Jamieson. "We're certainly more sensitized after this event."

Jamieson said the state will "look closely" at the need to notify a local government when an application to dump sludge across county lines is received and possibly at its procedures for issuing sludge disposal permits in general.

The permit, issued June 4 to the City of Wilmington, allows the application of sludge on 906.6 acres of Brunswick County farmland owned by Robert Ward of Bolivia and Roy Swain of Winnabow.

The 12 sites, ranging in size from 15.9 acres to 187.8 acres, lie generally off of U.S. 17 in the Bolivia-Winnabow area, according to Dave Wanucha,

BioGro Systems Inc. project manager in Roanoke, Va., and assisting agronomist on the Wilmington project.

Wanucha and County Engineer Dan Shields said the sludge is rich in nutrients such as nitrogens and potash, making it a soil-builder and fertilizer desired by farmers.

Wanucha said BioGro's contract with the City of Wilmington calls for the company to haul sludge from the Northside and Southside wastewater treatment plants four times each year, hauling a combined total of roughly four million gallons of the liqueous waste byproduct annually.

While Wanucha told The Brunswick Beacon that BioGro had delayed dumping sludge in the county pending word from Tuesday's meeting, state officials said that was not the case. The firm has already dumped nearly one million gallons of sludge in Brunswick County, according to Jamieson.

County Engineer Dan Shields said the state has agreed to provide the county operations plans, dumping site maps, monitoring well locations and results of lab analyses of samples taken periodically from the wells. Also the state is to ask BioGro officials to contact the county.

BioGro made initial contact with Clegg several months ago regarding a "septage" dumping permit, Clegg told commissioners. The county did not hear from the firm again until Monday, when BioGro asked to send agronomy manager Tim Griffith and agronomist Cal Sheenan to Tuesday's meeting. County Planner John Harvey advised them the meeting was to be between the two governments only.

Wanucha said BioGro wanted its representatives present to answer questions.

Brunswick County commissioners became aware of the City of Wilmington's plans to dispose of its sludge in Brunswick County a month after the permit was issued June 4 by the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development. The county wasn't given any advance notice of the application. Notification that the permit was issued was received by the county health department on June 6. The

notice wasn't forwarded to the county attorney's office until June 24, Shields said.

At their July 3 meeting, commissioners went on record opposing the permit and its handling.

Wanucha said BioGro was not trying to be secretive or go behind the county's back in obtaining the permit. Rather, he said, it followed state permitting procedures, which do not require notification of the local government.

"To obtain a similar permit in Virginia, he said, the company would have to notify the local government affected, advertise the dumping site(s) and possibly hold a public hearing.

Under the permit to the City of Wilmington, levels of nitrogens, pH, phosphate, potassium, and the metals cadmium, mercury, lead, copper, zinc, chromium, nickel and chlorides will be monitored regularly.

Clegg would prefer the word "shall" to "should," said Shields,

where the state recommends that a statement "should" be attached to deeds to the property noting that sludge with heavy amounts of cad-

mium has been applied and that "care should be taken when food chain crops are grown due to possible health hazards."

No root or leaf crops for public consumption can be grown on the land where the sludge is being applied, but cover vegetation is required.

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