

# Big Difference In Bids Delays Action On Contract

BY EDDIE SWEATT

It took a couple of tries before action on a contract to maintain the schools' fire extinguishers could be doused at Monday night's meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Education.

The board was faced with "substantially different" fire extinguisher maintenance bids from two companies, Brunswick Fire and Safety, a local firm, and Safety Equipment Co. of Wilmington.

High bidder was Brunswick Fire and Safety, represented at the meeting by its owner, George Willetts, who cautioned board members to "watch out if someone wants to give you something for nothing."

Willetts said the quote from the competing company would not cover the actual costs and accused that

firm of trying to run him out of business by taking away a contract he had for many years.

A first motion by James Clemmons to table the matter failed for lack of a second. After Superintendent Gene Yarbrough recommended the lower bid be accepted, a motion by Marvin McKeithan to accept the high bid was seconded by Clemmons.

McKeithan said he was suspicious of the lower bid and he and Clemmons voted for the motion. Jane Causey and Doug Baxley voted no, creating a tie which was broken when Chairman Dr. James Forstner voted against the higher bid.

Baxley said he wanted more information about the bids so board members can "compare apples to apples." The suggestion was also made that the company getting the

contract should be required to post a performance bond.

The contract will be taken up at the next board meeting and members indicated they would like to hear "from the other side" (Safety Equipment Co.) as they did from Willetts of the Brunswick Fire and Safety Co.

**Clean-Up Study**  
Also scheduled for the next meeting is a proposal to beef up the custodial staffs at some schools which have fewer cleaning hands than others in the system.

The board was presented a detailed study of the situation. Supt. Yarbrough explained that the plan was to bring the schools more in line with each other as resignations and retirements occur.

However, one board member, Clemmons, argued that older schools such as Lincoln Primary and Union

Primary have too little cleaning help and should get more immediately in order to keep the schools clean.

"You can find the money somewhere," Clemmons remarked to Supt. Yarbrough when the superintendent said the current budget made no provision for adding to custodial staffs.

A report of the costs will be presented to board members at the next meeting.

In a discussion of allocation to the schools of \$148,983 from the state for instructional supplies, and local funds for a variety of programs, Clemmons questioned an \$8,850 item allotted to the central staff for "success training."

He was assured by Supt. Yarbrough that the money would be reallocated to schools as soon as it is decided which schools will offer the

program.

**Upward Trend**  
Yarbrough also noted that enrollment continues an "upward trend" according to the figures compiled on the fifth day of the school term.

There were 8,433 students enrolled. Shallotte Middle, with 1077 students, has the most, followed by West Brunswick High with 970. South Brunswick High has 917 and North Brunswick High 681.

Smallest enrollment, 413, is at Waccamaw Elementary. Union Primary has 815, Bolivia Elementary 503, South Brunswick Middle 709, Southport Elementary 795, Leland Middle 874 and Lincoln Primary 679.

Yarbrough presented a report showing that 119 classrooms in the system have more than the state-recommended 26 students. A third grade class at Union Primary with 35 students has the most of any in the county.

Overages range from one to nine, with most having only two or three more than 26. Yarbrough reminded board members that the state reimburses teacher salaries based on 26 students per classroom and that as the school year progresses efforts will be made to level out the numbers.

**Student Transfers Okayed**  
Eleven requests for student transfers were unanimously approved after Supt. Yarbrough assured one board member that they are "all justified."

## Normal September Days Ahead

Normal September weather is in store for the South Brunswick Islands over the next few days, predicts Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures should range from the upper 60s at night into the 80s during the daytime, with approximately three-quarters inch of rainfall expected, he said.

For the period Sept. 3-7, Canady recorded a maximum high of 94 degrees on the 7th and a minimum low of 68 degrees on the 3rd.

An average daily high of 90 degrees combined with an average daily low of 70 degrees for an average daily temperature of 80 degrees.

Canady recorded no precipitation in his backyard rain gauge at Shallotte Point.

## Town Creek Serves Chicken, Barbecue

Town Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad will serve barbecued pork and fried chicken dinners Saturday, Sept. 21, beginning at 11 a.m., Secretary Laura Coulter announced.

Each plate will cost \$3. The pork dinner will include candied yams, coleslaw and hushpuppies while the chicken dinners will feature potato salad, green beans and rolls.

Proceeds of the dinners and a bake sale will go to support the squad.

## Two County Bond Sales Bring Low Interest

Brunswick County Tuesday morning sold the last \$10 million of the \$37 million general obligation bond issue for construction of its water system.

And at nearly the same glance, potential for substantial savings in interest was realized.

In addition to selling the last \$10 million of the water bonds, the county also sold \$3.9 million in new bonds at current interest rates. It plans to use the proceeds to pay off old bonds sold in 1982 at a higher interest cost.

Approved by county commissioners in July, the procedure, called "advance refunding," has been likened by county Finance Director Wallace Harding to refinancing of a home mortgage when the interest rate drops.

The secret for success in this case was keeping costs down by scheduling the issuance of the bonds in conjunction with Tuesday morning's sale of the last \$10 million in general obligation bonds and by beating a rise in interest costs by avoiding an anticipated glut of issues at the end of the year.

According to a spokesman for the Local Government Commission, the \$10 million, or Series D bonds, were sold to Wachovia Bank and Trust Co. and Associates at a net interest cost of 8.7816 percent.

The water refunding bonds were also sold to Wachovia and Associates at a rate of 8.0768 percent.

Three bids were submitted on each sale.

According to Finance Director Harding, at an interest cost of 8 percent or less—slightly lower than the rate at which the water refunding bonds were sold—the county could expect to realize a savings in interest costs of about \$700,000 over the life of the issue, plus recovery of the expense of the sale.

## Lawyer Says Schools Show 'Racist' Behavior' In Hiring

BY EDDIE SWEATT

A spokesman for the Cedar Grove Branch of the NAACP has accused Brunswick County Schools of "racist behavior" in teacher employment.

Andrew Waters, a Wilmington attorney, made the charge at Monday night's school board meeting on

behalf of Carolyn Barnes, who failed to get a teaching post at Union Primary School.

The attorney told school board members that the post sought by Ms. Barnes went to a white applicant.

He told the board Ms. Barnes, who taught the past two terms at the school, did not get tenure. She was

promised a contract for this year by Superintendent Gene Yarbrough if she received a recommendation from the principal, according to Waters.

Waters said he was not offered a contract after receiving the principal's recommendation but was told by Yarbrough that she would be issued a contract for a teaching post at another county school.

The attorney argued that if Ms. Barnes was qualified to teach at any school in the county she was qualified for the post for which she had applied.

He said the teacher's competency, job performance, qualifications, record, license or degrees were not given as reasons for not hiring her. "If these are not the reasons, it must be racism," Waters added.

Supt. Yarbrough, who responded by saying the attorney's conclusions are incorrect, said he could respond to the board "at some other time."

Chairman Dr. James Forstner said the board wants a policy that will lead to recruitment of more than the four percent minority employment now in the system.

It is not known if the subject was among those discussed behind closed doors later during the meeting, when the board stayed in executive session about an hour and a half "for personnel and attorney/client" discussions.

The board began Monday by assembling in Supt. Yarbrough's office for 15 minutes past the 7 p.m. starting time and later spent as much time behind closed doors as in open session.

When the board reopened the meeting to the public after 10 p.m., it took only a few minutes to unanimously approve a long list of personnel recommendations by Associate Superintendent Stephana Tewey.

## 'Brass' Defendant Gets 45 Days In Plea Bargain

An "Operation Brass" defendant received a 45-day active sentence and five years of supervised probation Monday in a plea bargain agreed upon in Brunswick County Superior Court before Judge B. Craig Ellis.

Gary Leroy Miller, 24, pleaded guilty to one count of felonious possession of cocaine with intent to sell and deliver. In turn a charge of felonious selling and delivery of cocaine was dropped by the D.A.'s office.

"Operation Brass" was a March undercover drug investigation that involved officers in the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and the Shallotte and Southport Police Departments.

Twenty-two suspects, including Miller, were arrested on a total of 66 charges.

Miller must also make restitution to the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department undercover drug investigation fund of \$50 and pay a fine of \$2,000, \$400 in attorney's fees, plus costs of court. Ellis specified as conditions of his probation that Miller submit to periodic searches of his person and premises for controlled substances, that he not break any

other state laws, not use or possess any controlled substance other than those prescribed by a doctor and in their original container, and that he not associate with anyone previously convicted of a drug-related charge, or go about places where drug use is known to occur. If probation is violated, he would be face three years in prison, the presumptive sentence in a felony case.

He could have been sentenced to a maximum of 10 years in prison.

Miller's court-appointed attorney, Roy Trest, and District Attorney Michael Easley told Judge Ellis that Miller's purchase of cocaine for undercover officer F.M. Speck was an "accommodation buy" in which Speck paid Miller \$50 and then accompanied him to Wilmington while Miller attempted to locate and purchase about a half-ounce of cocaine for him. An informant working with Speck was dating a member of Miller's family at the time, Trest said, and that is how the buy was arranged. After weighing, the cocaine turned out to be more than a half-ounce, which made the charge a felony rather than misdemeanor.

## CAMA Monitoring Topic Of Community Watch Meet

Monitoring of dunes, canals and wetlands by CAMA (Coastal Area Management Act) deputies will be the topic at the monthly Holden Beach Community Watch meeting Wednesday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Representing CAMA will be local permit officer Dwight E. Carroll and CAMA field consultant Rob Moul, based in Wilmington.

In a recent poll of year-round Holden Beach residents, more people were interested in "CAMA monitoring" than any other topic. It was also ranked number one in the accumulated degrees of interest expressed.

Property owners are concerned that the frontal dunes, the only barrier between them and the destruc-

tive force of a hurricane storm surge, must be protected from abuse by unthinking pedestrians or vehicular traffic.

Presently the town is providing a list of authorized accessways to realtors so visitors may know where they can get to the strand without trespassing across private properties.

Another concern is the need to minimize the runoff of pollutants into Holden Beach canals by limiting the impervious coverage of lots by roofs and cement or macadam driveways.

With proper maintenance, septic tanks are considered to be quite adequate for the present relatively low population density on Holden Beach, said a news release from a Community Watch spokesperson.

### THANKS!

Carolina Publishers would like to say thank you for the support and the heartfelt warmth from the merchants of the South Brunswick Isles and also the Shallotte area concerning participation of the city-county maps. The map is made possible through the efforts of these progressive business and community leaders.

Until next year, sincerely,  
N. Plyler  
Carolina Publishers

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## Attention Dancers!

*Last week to register for fall dance classes!*

To register, please call Marsha McCollum at (803)272-8009 or stop by the American Legion building in Shallotte Wednesday or Thursday afternoons after 2:30 p.m.

**CLASSES ALREADY IN PROGRESS!**

## Dance Showcase

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