

Area Architect Will Do Feasibility Study For County Building Program

BY SUSAN USHER

Wilmington architect John Sawyer will conduct a feasibility study for renovation of the Brunswick County Courthouse and jail.

Brunswick County Commissioners hired Sawyer after meeting behind closed doors for 2½ hours Monday night to discuss an independent contractor, personnel matters, possible litigation, property acquisition, attorney-client matters and an industrial location.

Sawyer will be paid \$50 per hour for no more than 80 hours to conduct the study, the first step in a planned expansion of county complex facilities.

His was one of four architectural firms interviewed by the board in mid-November. Later commissioners toured the Moore County Courthouse in Southern Pines, a project of Austin-Stuart Architects of Southern Pines. Also interviewed were Ballard, McKim & Sawyer of Wilmington and MacMillan and MacMillan of Fayetteville.

The county has set aside \$1.8 million for the expansion project over a period of about five years.

Commissioners are exploring the possibility of expanding the jail, building a new courthouse facility and renovating the existing courthouse to accommodate overflow from other already-cramped offices.

Grievance Settled

County Attorney David Clegg announced that commissioners had concluded their hearing of a personnel grievance filed by animal control officer Sharon Russ Carter against her supervisor.

He said the matter would be handled according to county personnel procedures. These provide that personnel actions other than a hiring or firing remain confidential. The date of a personnel action can be released, but not the nature of the action taken. Ms. Carter was not available for comment Monday night following the meeting.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners:
• Reappointed Robert Sellers and

George K. "Buddy" Evans and W.B. Mintz to the Brunswick County Hospital Authority, at the recommendation of Commissioners Herman Love and Chris Chappell respectively.

• Appointed George Clemmons, a building contractor from Leland; Arthur Knox, an employee of Federal Paperboard Co. and a former Brunswick County Register of Deeds, to the Brunswick County Board of Health, on the recommendations of Commissioners Grace Beasley and Franky Rabon respectively. They also, on Commissioner James Poole's recommendation, reappointed Southport/Supply veterinarian William Rabon to the board.

Earlier, Eileen Kellagher of Oak Island suggested the board alternate its appointment of a veterinarian to the board and suggested Commissioner Frankie Rabon abstain from the vote because of his family connection. Attorney David Clegg pointed out that the appointment did not constitute a conflict-of-interest and that Rabon should vote. Chairman Chris Chappell said he would call in the name of his District 1 appointee.

• Reappointed Clegg, county attorney, to the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, noting he has been nominated as chairman. He would be the first authority chairman from Brunswick County.

• In water system property acquisitions, agreed to use the county's power of eminent domain to obtain water line easements from Bee Investment Co. and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Inman under the Sunny Point Railway line; to pay \$200 for an easement from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Winstead and to pay \$1,750 for the fee simple purchase of a .51-acre tract from International Paper Co.

• Agreed to provide a 1985 tax scroll and bill preparation for Bald Head Village and its property owners association for \$800.

• Endorsed the Cape Fear Council of Governments as administrator of

a proposed four-county service area for administration of the Job Training Partnership Act. Commissioners in New Hanover, Pender and Columbus counties. The act provides funds for job training programs.

• Approved installation of valves with hose connections by county labor at the Civietown and Calabash fire stations and a hydrant across from the Brunswick County Board of Education office at Southport, where it will also help reduce insurance costs for the county park and landfill sites. The fire stations will provide their own materials.

• Adopted an ordinance allowing the use of the county's codified ordinances, a compilation of all ordinances enacted by the county as of July 22, with indexing and cross-referencing to related state laws and major court cases. "This is the biggest thing in county administration in a long time, a quantum leap," said County Attorney David Clegg. "It should make enforcing our ordinances easier because now we can find them."

• Approved a two percent merit pay increase for clerk to the board Regina White, following her evaluation behind closed doors.

• Heard from Landfill Director Major White that convenience stations

at Seaside and at Oxpen are "the greatest thing to ever happen" because they save manual labor and reduce problems.

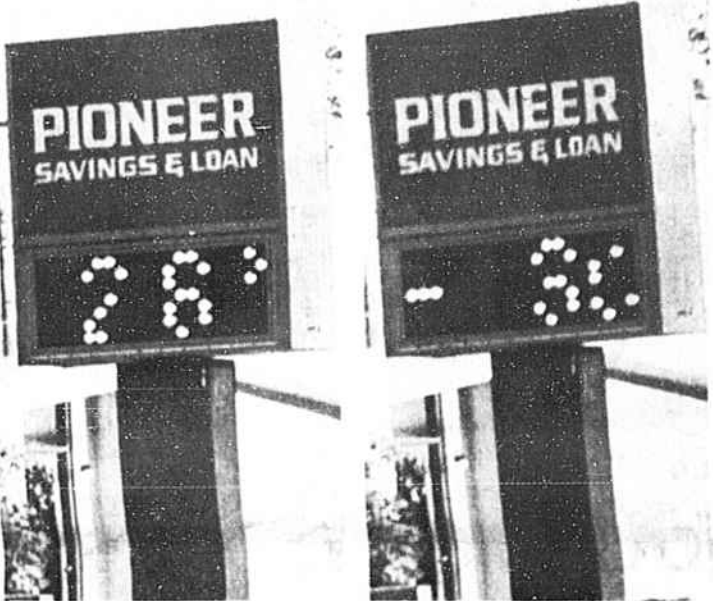
• Recognized Boyd Williamson as the new chairman of the Leland Sanitary District Board, with Williamson suggesting the board has problems, but plans to work closely with the county to resolve them.

• Approved a part-time clerk in the health department, the salary to come from state and federal grant funds, to expand the department's maternal health program to include clinic hours and health education programming for pregnant teenagers.

• Approved the same sliding scale fees and bad debt policy used by the family planning program for use by the maternal and child health programs in the health department.

• Approved purchase of truck scales for the county landfill from Toledo-Carolina for \$30,023.

• Accepted a \$2,600 arts grant for the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department, agreed to readvertise concrete bids, approved bid specifications and authorized advertising for a packer truck for the landfill department; and accepted a low bid of \$47,300 from Bennett's of Lumberton for a road tractor.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

IN FAHRENHEIT OR CENTIGRADE, freezing temperatures swept across Brunswick County last week, with plans to stay a while. Shortly before 8 a.m. Monday, the temperature still lingered below the freezing point as the time and temperature sign in Shallotte indicated.

Shopping Weather's Here

For those who have complained the weather was "too warm" for Christmas shopping, it's cold enough now for some serious buying.

Local temperatures plummeted to 19 degrees on Dec. 15, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady reported Tuesday, adding that more Arctic Express weather's on its way.

The forecast calls for cold and dry weather, with the 30-day forecast predicting colder than normal conditions. Over the next few days, temperatures should range from the low 30s into the low 50s during the day, with less than a half-inch of precipitation.

Canady said the maximum high temperature recorded during the period of Dec. 10-16 was 72 degrees, on the 12th.

An average daily high of 61 degrees combined with an average daily low of 41 degrees for an average daily temperature of 51 degrees, which Canady said was about three degrees above normal.

"The first half of the period was warmer than usual, the last half colder," he said. "It almost averaged out."

He recorded a significant amount of rainfall—1.67 inches.

CRC Hands Runoff Problem To Environmental Board

The state's Environmental Management Commission (EMC) will get a chance to develop its own plan to reduce further pollution of coastal waters following action by the Coastal Resources Commission Friday.

Meeting at Kill Devil Hills, the board voted unanimously that the EMC, not it, should make the rules that regulate stormwater runoff. The CRC controls fragile lands up to 75 feet from coastal and estuarine waters, but the EMC controls areas that drain into the coastal area.

The CRC's decision not to act on its own proposed stormwater regulations followed committee action on Thursday. At the request of the EMC, the coastal board's planning and special issues committee voted to recommend a postponement on the vote. This allows time for the EMC to draft its own plan.

The CRC had initiated its own regulations out of an earlier concern that the EMC was reluctant to do so. Its proposal called for limiting the density of building near estuarine waters as well as the proximity of such construction.

Developers had said the regulations—even with exceptions for single-family residences—would have a drastic impact on coastal barrier island development.

Several Brunswick County municipalities and county boards had gone on record objecting to the draft proposals, saying the topic needed for study.

Stormwater runoff is rainfall that collects from roofs on parking lots

and other hard surfaces and gathers pollutants such as chemicals and bacteria as it flows into nearby wetlands and marshes where shellfish and fish breed. When shellfish are contaminated with levels of a certain bacteria, they cannot be harvested because eating them could be hazardous. Stormwater runoff tends to increase in high-density areas because there is less land available for natural absorption.

A resolution from the Environmental Management Commission, headed by Tommy Harrelson of Southport, says the EMC plans to conduct public hearings on its proposed regulations. It plans to consider adoption no later than its May meeting.

In other business Friday, the CRC approved land use plan amendments for the towns of Holden Beach and Caswell Beach.

It also approved minor changes in the civil fines assessed those who violate coastal management regulations. The fines for willful violations will range from \$100 to \$2,500 for major developments. Each day the violation continues will count as a separate violation.

Members also agreed to hold a public hearing at its Feb. 6-7 meeting on a proposal concerning piers located on manmade canals. They propose to require piers and moorings be set back 15 feet from adjacent property owners' water access points. Piers and docks built within shellfish franchise or lease areas would be excluded.

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