

Sunset Chooses Fluegel As New Town Administrator

BY TERRY POPE

The Sunset Beach council went no further than the conference room table Monday night in its search for a new town administrator.

Linda Fluegel, the town clerk, was promoted to town administrator-clerk following a 35-minute executive session to discuss personnel recommendations with outgoing Administrator Wallace Martin.

Martin, who resigned last month to accept a position with the Bald Head Island Corp., will continue to work while preparing Ms. Fluegel to assume her new duties.

The board also approved Martin's recommendations to change the chain of command at Sunset Beach and to hire an assistant clerk. The town will operate under the new chain of command for a probationary period of six months. In December, the board will evaluate the new system's effectiveness.

The new power structure, Martin said, resembles that of Holden Beach where Town Administrator Robert Buck also serves as clerk to the board.

In other personnel changes Monday, Larry Crim was promoted to public works foreman in charge of streets, buildings and grounds, sanitation, inspections and the water system. Crim will also serve as the town's zoning officer.

Crim is enrolled in a water system operator's training school at N.C. State starting July 29. The town has also budgeted funds for his enrollment in a building inspector's program when one is offered, said Martin.

The board also appointed council member Minnie Hunt as finance officer to work with both the council and the administrator-clerk. Ms. Hunt will also serve as assistant zoning officer.

The board also awarded Ms. Fluegel a five percent increase in administrator's salary, making her salary approximately \$21,200 and agreed to pay Martin \$1,827 in vacation pay.

Martin outlined his recommendations for a "smooth transition" in a letter addressed to Mayor James Gordon dated June 30.

"Linda Fluegel is eager to learn and over the years we have shared information about the work in process in personnel administration, flood insurance, CAMA regulations, building permit procedures, purchase order system, budgeting and expenditure reports and accounting procedures," Martin stated. "Linda is well qualified to assume these additional duties that could be spelled out in a new job description."

Bridge Traffic

A discussion on ways to alleviate weekend traffic backups caused by the town's floating barge bridge turned into an argument Monday over whether the bridge should be replaced with a high-rise structure.

The board did agree on a four-part plan recommended by council member Kathy Hill to "do something immediately" to ease the traffic backups along N.C. 179 and the causeway. The plan includes asking the N.C. Department of Transportation to open the bridge for non-commercial boat traffic only on the hour.

The town will also ask DOT of-

ficials to add turn lanes at the intersection of N.C. 179 and Sunset Boulevard on the mainland and to paint lines on the highway showing motorists where to stop at the mainland intersection. The town will also instruct its police officers to direct traffic on both sides of the bridge during peak hours.

Council member Ed Gore said the town needs a "strong resolution" asking for replacement of the bridge. Ms. Hunt replied, "I don't think you can say the bridge is going to end the traffic problem."

Windshield Decals

Town officials also agreed Monday to order windshield decals from the N.C. League of Municipalities for all property owners wishing to return to the island following an emergency evacuation.

Property owners will be required to purchase the windshield stickers each year. Martin said the stickers are needed to show emergency personnel who should be authorized to return to the island following hurricanes. Both Holden and Ocean Isle beaches have decals for property

owners or year-round residents.

Other Business

In other business Monday, the board:

- Voted to seek estimates from private planning firms to prepare the town's land use plan update. The resignation of Martin and the amount of work that needs to be done, Ms. Hunt said, are factors in seeking outside help.

- Directed Town Attorney Mike Isenberg to get copies of special legislative acts that have allowed other towns to assess property owners for running underground electrical wires. Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. has asked the town to serve as a model island by burying its utility lines, but there is no state statute allowing the town to assess property owners the \$1.25 per foot cost.

- Agreed to purchase 25 additional trash barrels for the beach strand.

- Heard from Martin that water usage in June was over 5.6 million gallons while the town billed customers for over 6.6 million gallons. In May, the meters showed

the town used 1 million gallons more than the amount it billed to customers. The board agreed to "start the process of trying to get a handle on things this month," possibly with an audit of the meter readers.

- Heard from Martin, who reported one auto larceny, 62 town citations, three state citations, two auto wrecks, one death, 11 disturbances of the peace, seven uses of fireworks and two arrests during the month of June.

- Amended the 1986-87 budget to include an additional \$2.20 per month to cover the cost of four streetlights on the causeway.

- Heard from Martin, who reported four single-family building permits were issued in June for \$198,714 in value. Also, permits for a four-unit quadruplex valued at \$163,680 and a six-unit "sexaplex" valued at \$1.2 million were issued, he said.

- Accepted the planning board's recommendations in approving a subdivision along N.C. 179 that will include detached, single-family patio homes, Martin said.

Harrelson Resigns EMC Post; Lewis Reappointed To Panel

Thomas J. (Tommy) Harrelson of Southport has resigned as chairman and member of the state's Environmental Management Commission.

Jerry D. Lewis, head of Lewis & Associates engineering firm in Charlotte, will return to the commission to complete Harrelson's six-year term, which was to end June 30, 1991. Lewis served a term on the board previously and also had served as its chairman.

Harrelson resigned the office to devote more time to his campaign for election to the Seventh Congressional District seat held by Charles G. Rose, according to Don Bowen, press aide to Gov. Jim Martin, who announced the changes Tuesday. Harrelson had served as chairman since his appointment to the board a year ago.

Succeeding Harrelson as chairman of the commission will be Charlotte engineer Charles L. Baker, a member of the board since June 30, 1985. He was to be sworn in prior to the EMC meeting today (Thursday), said Bowen, and will serve as chairman at the pleasure of the governor.

In announcing the resignation, Gov. Martin praised Harrelson's performance as chairman.

"His concern for the environment and his leadership translated into positive action during his tenure," said Martin.

Two Stabbings Mar Weekend

Two stabbing incidents resulting in minor injuries marred the otherwise safe and peaceful Fourth of July celebration in Brunswick County.

Friday night Leroy Shaw of Navassa was arrested by Sheriff's deputy Ronald Smith, after Dorothy Moseley was assaulted with a knife. Smith charged Shaw with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious bodily injury. The incident, which occurred in Navassa in the home where the two lived, was described as a domestic quarrel.

Ms. Moseley was taken to New Hanover Memorial Hospital and was

released. Shaw is out on a \$1,000 bond.

Kenneth Pickett of Shallotte was charged in a Saturday night fight involving several people at the Waterway Campground at Brickland. Arresting officers Mike Speck and David Crocker charged him with assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious bodily injury on a victim they would not identify.

Pickett, charged on one count of stabbing, was released under a \$20,000 bond. Brunswick County Det. Sonny Padgett said others will be charged in connection with this incident.

Traffic Was Major County Problem

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\$500 intersection." Ironically, Mayor John Tandy reported at a Monday meeting of the town board of commissioners that Department of Transportation officials counted traffic at that intersection in April and decided it doesn't qualify for a traffic signal.

Parking was a problem, too, on Holden. Simpson said, "We just don't have enough places to park."

He reported arresting one drunk and disruptive person, "which is not bad for any weekend, much less a holiday."

July 3 a six-year-old child was reported missing, but was quickly found.

Aside from the fireworks extravaganza in Southport that were part of the Fourth of July Festival, Holden was the only community where a fireworks display was

presented for the public. At Carolina Seaside Retreat fireworks were set off Friday night.

At Brunswickland Realty, Connor Cox exclaimed, "It's the greatest holiday we've ever had," and pointed out how the new bridge eliminated long rows of traffic crossing to the island.

Sunset Beach's holiday was quiet, again with the exception of bridge traffic snarls. "The light at the bridge has not been properly adjusted yet," said Town Clerk Linda Fluegel. "It changed too fast to allow traffic to clear. Also, we had more people than on previous holidays."

Anne Martin at Sunset Beach Realty said of the weekend, "There was a huge crowd, but a quiet one, with no problems. We were almost full."

Joe O'Brien, police officer, said laconically, "Nothing happened."

Dixie Youth Parents Demand Answers

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way at this point.

- Heard a plea from Clyde Horton, spokesman for the Southport Senior Citizens, to include in the budget funds to improve the deteriorating senior citizen feeding site there.

- Heard from Eileen Kellagher, a member of the Board of Equalization and Review that heard property tax appeals. Mrs. Kellagher said the E&R Board was "a good board" and

had worked with care and made every attempt to be fair in its decisions. Also Monday, she questioned the parks and recreation allocation included in the county budget, saying the money could have been better spent in the school system.

- Arranged for Commissioner Grace Beasley to meet with Jerry Munn, a leader in the year-long attempt to organize a volunteer fire

department in Northwest community. Munn said Monday that a five-acre tract is available on Northwest Road. He plans to buy four acres so that the department can purchase the other acre for \$2,500 from its county allocation. "You might want to get your check and your papers ready," said Beasley.

- Approved an agreement whereby the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pays the county \$35,500 to provide mosquito control through Sept. 30 on its more than 500 acres of dredge spoil islands in the county.

- Learned that a surplus Army Corps of Engineers vessel has been transferred to the county and on to the Brunswick County Fishing Club for sinking offshore in the near future as a fishing reef.

- Delayed consideration of a request from a non-emergency ambulance service for a county franchise until more information is obtained from the petitioner.

Delayed until the July 21 meeting consideration a funding request from the Volunteer & Information and Referral Center, pending a check to see if the county had given \$8,500 in local funds last year as indicated by Coordinator Ouida Hewett. Commissioners had said this year contributions to agencies would be limited to the same as provided last year.

United Way gave the agency a 4 percent increase in funding this year, to about \$43,000, but that sum is approximately \$10,000 short of VIC's projected operating expenses, said Mrs. Hewett.

No Highway Fatalities Over Holiday Weekend

The state Highway Patrol reported no fatal accidents in New Hanover or Brunswick counties over the Fourth of July weekend, despite more "fender-benders" than usual. Ruby Oakley of the Highway Patrol office in Wilmington said, "There were 20 more wrecks in both counties than during the same week last year, but no serious ones."

Thursday at 10 a.m. a two-car accident occurred on U.S. 17 at its intersection with Highway 211, eight miles south of Bolivia.

James E. Bodenheimer, 23, of Greensboro, driving a 1985 Toyota truck, stopped at the intersection but failed to yield and continued across 17 in the path of Russell Boyd Jr., 39, of Irwin, Pa., driving a 1984 Dodge station wagon.

According to Trooper B.C. Jones, Boyd struck Bodenheimer, doing \$4,000 in damages to his truck and \$3,000 to his own station wagon. Bodenheimer was charged with failing to yield.

Boyd, his wife, Linda, 42, and daughter, Dawn, 13, all suffered Class C injuries, while his son, Russell III, 9, sustained Class B injuries.

Bodenheimer and his wife, Sandra,

Supply Man Arrested

Mark Phelps, 21, of Supply, was arrested Monday by Sgts. Jerry Smith and Jimmy Bright of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

He was charged with common law robbery, auto larceny and breaking and entering, and is in custody in Brunswick County jail under \$15,000 bond.

22, had Class C injuries.

All were taken to Brunswick Hospital for treatment.

A one-car accident occurred at 4:45 p.m. Friday, two miles south of Shallotte on rural paved road 1154.

Gregory Rivenbark, 25, of Shallotte, driving a 1983 Plymouth, ran off the roadway as he was traveling south, lost control of the car and ran back across the road where he struck a ditch and a tree and turned over in the yard.

Trooper D.V. Harvell, who investigated, charged Rivenbark with exceeding safe speed, saying he was driving 75 mph.

Rivenbark was taken to Brunswick Hospital with Class B injuries. There was \$500 in damages to his car and \$200 damages to the tree and yard, belonging to the Rev. Oliver Lewis of Shallotte.

Highs Will Average In Low 90's

Warmer and drier are in the weather forecast for the South Brunswick Islands area.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said temperatures over the coming days should range from the low 70's at night to daytime highs in the lower 90's. Approximately a half-inch of rain is anticipated.

For the period July 17, Canady recorded a maximum high of 91

degrees on the 7th and a minimum low of 64 degrees on the 5th. An average daily high of 89 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 70 degrees for an average daily temperature of 79 degrees. He said that is normal for this time of year.

Canady measured four-tenths of an inch of rainfall in his backyard gauge.

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