

Carolina Shores Residents Vote In November On Incorporation

BY SUSAN USHER

A majority of the approximately 200 Carolina Shores property owners who gathered at the Calabash fire station last Thursday night liked the idea of becoming a town.

If they choose, it could happen as early as June 1987, they were told.

On a show of hands, more than half favored incorporation, while similar smaller numbers voiced objections or indecision. A more exact reaction is due Nov. 22, the tentative date set for a special meeting of all property owners—or their proxies—to vote on the issue.

According to Rep. David Redwine, Carolina Shores is "farthest along" in its study of five communities in the South Brunswick Islands area currently discussing with him the possibility of incorporation. Redwine would be asked to introduce a local bill on the POA's behalf in the General Assembly next February.

Brunswick County currently has the largest number of incorporated communities of any county in North Carolina—12.

If a clear majority of property owners favor incorporation, according to POA President Al Houghton, Redwine would submit the bill without a requirement for a referendum. If not, a referendum conducted by the Brunswick County Board of Elections would be required. In that case, only county residents could legally vote.

Thursday's meeting was called by the Property Owners Association to present the idea, which was advanced in a study released by a POA committee.

"We see no disadvantages in incorporation," said Houghton, who said that factors others saw as disadvantages were actually advantages. While residents would have to pay town taxes as well as county, he noted as an example, those taxes would be deductible for those who itemize, while POA dues are not.

Carolina Shores is just south and west of Calabash, which thus far has made no move to annex the community.

An annexation study undertaken

by Calabash now would not necessarily block incorporation of Carolina Shores, Jake Wicker of the Institute of Government said later. He attended the meeting, along with Rep. David Redwine and his election opponent, Malcolm Grissett.

Both the N.C. League of Municipalities and the General Assembly are generally discouraging incorporation of a "paper town," one formed as a defense against annexation by an adjoining town. But, by Wicker and Redwine's interpretation of League policy, if no nearby city opposes the incorporation, the League isn't likely to lobby against it.

"It will be up to Mr. Redwine," said Wicker, whether to introduce the bill.

Local bills are generally adopted as a courtesy to the legislator, unless the measure conflicts with other statewide activity or are a source of controversy at home. But, in the last session, Redwine said, several local incorporation bills were defeated.

Committee members Wes Reynolds, Warren "Bud" Knapp,

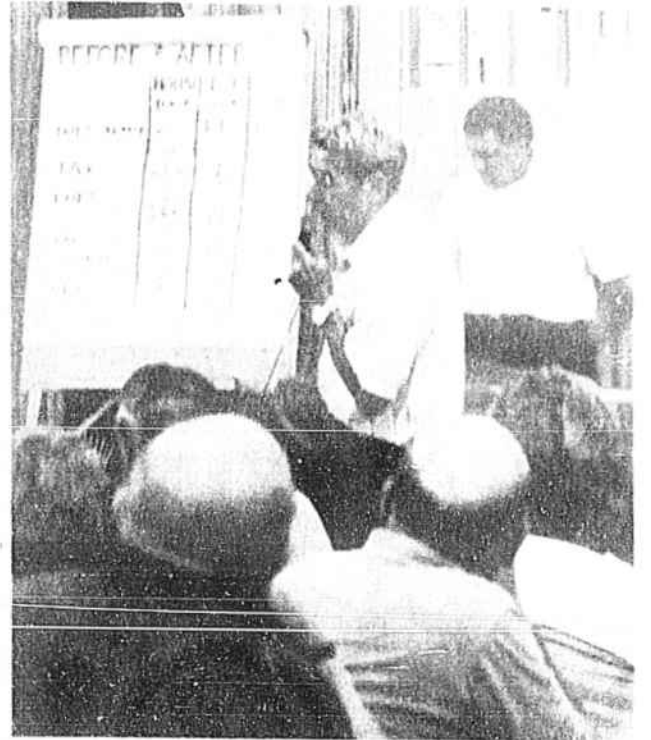
Buck Wiley, Bob Corbin, Bob Woodbury and Guy Williams reached a consensus in their recommendations, he said.

The town has been discussing possible incorporation for about five years, and assigned a first committee to investigate the idea more than two years ago.

'Realistic' Budget

According to Houghton, the latest study differs from one released about a year ago in that its proposed funding level is more realistic. It proposes a rough first-year budget of about \$214,925, including \$67,650 for administration and \$147,000 for maintenance. Property taxes would be the main source of revenue. The largest single taxpayer in town would be Carolina Shores Golf Course, with a base of \$2.36 million, followed by the POA at \$372,200 and the company that provides water and sewer utilities to the community, at \$147,430. Lots and residences are valued at \$47.8 million.

Other sources of projected income See CAROLINA, Page 2-A



CAROLINA SHORES POA President Al Houghton (with microphone) reviews with property owners projected income tax savings if the community were to incorporate.

Oyster Season Opens Despite Hot Weather

Temperatures may still average in the upper 80s and lower 90s, but oyster season was to open as usual Wednesday, Oct. 1, at sunrise in all public bottoms south of the Surf City Bridge at N.C. 219 and N.C. 50.

Excluded are polluted areas and management areas that will open later in the season.

"October 1st—that's pretty much the traditional date," explained Rich Carpenter, southern district manager for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries. "It allowed people to take advantage of an early market, or that's what I've always been told."

Carpenter said several callers last week asked for the opening to be delayed, without giving a reason for their request.

If people are interested in having the date changed, he added, he would like to see a public hearing held to get as much public input as possible.

Changing the date without notification well in advance would cause problems, he said, not just for those who make their living oystering, but communities which plan events around the traditional opening date.

In Brunswick County, these include the first major public roast of the season, the Dixon Chapel Methodist Church Roast at Varnantown on Oct. 4, which Carpenter described as "a biggie."

That event, which features oysters roasted over open wood fires, is traditionally held the first Saturday after the opening of oyster season.

The second major event is the annual N.C. Oyster Festival sponsored by the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce the second weekend of October. This year's event features raw oyster cocktails in addition to oysters steamed in cookers.

For those who plan to gather their own oysters, low tide in Lockwood Folly today (Thursday) is at 12:34 p.m., and in Shallotte Inlet, around 1:24 p.m.

Management areas closed to the harvest of clams and oysters include Galloway Flats and a second area in Lockwood's Folly River, and single areas in the Shallotte River, Old Ferry Channel, Still Creek and two portions of the Eastern Channel.

Closed to clamming, but open to oystering, are Drum Slough and a second management area in Lockwood's Folly River along the shoreline from mean high water mark to a point 100 feet offshore and continuing eastward. Also, in the Shallotte River, the "Swash" area and a portion of shoreline and 20 feet outward in Gibb's Creek continuing along the shore in a northerly direction about 1,500 feet.

Jury Selection Begins In Long Murder Trial

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Jury selection began late Monday afternoon in Brunswick County Superior Court in the trial of 53-year-old Thomas Long of Leland.

Long is charged with the March 25 shooting death of his former wife, Annette Long, and assault with intent to kill on former Brunswick County Commissioner Chairman Franky Thomas. The incident took place in the front yard of Ms. Long's home in Olde Towne.

Long's attorney, William Shell of Wilmington, presented a number of motions Monday, most of them procedural, but two requesting suppression of evidence.

Judge Coy Brewer allowed the suppression of evidence obtained by Brunswick County Sheriff's deputies Ronald Smith and Ida Ballard, but denied the motion for suppression of evidence to be given by Det. Richard Burgess and evidence obtained in a search of Long's truck.

Shell claimed that statements made by Long the night of the

shooting to law enforcement officers should not be admitted as evidence, because Long, after being read his rights, had said he did not want to make any statements at that time. Deputies Smith and Ballard, and Det. Burgess should not, therefore, have questioned him, Shell said.

Smith was the first deputy on the scene and read his rights to Long, then asked the location of the gun. Ballard tried to talk to him in the patrol car immediately afterward, while waiting for Burgess, who transported Long back from Olde Towne to the county jail.

Shell said he expected jury selection to take a week. At his request, the number of jurors summoned was increased from the usual 75 to 175, and they are being questioned in separate groups, due to limited courtroom space.

Prosecuting the case is Assistant District Attorney Tom Hicks.

On hand Monday as consultants for selection of jurors were Thomas, and Long's children, Bruce and Sherry.

Holden Beach Wants Platted Street Before Required Improvements Made

BY SUSAN USHER

With Brunswick Avenue on its mind, Holden Beach Commissioners last Wednesday pinned hearts on their sleeves, making public the town's eagerness to add to its road system by accepting, "as is," streets that were platted but never turned over to the town.

Commissioners want to accept the streets without making any commitment to improve them with town funds, according to Mayor John Tandy. Impetus for the vote, he said, is the town's desire to open Brunswick Avenue as a main thoroughfare on the island.

"I think it's a little stroke of genius on our part," he said, adding he wasn't sure how the developers who own Brunswick Avenue property may react.

While there has been no offer to dedicate this street to the town, he said, "It's in the town, it's platted as a street and it's being used by some residents for ingress and egress."

If improved and paved, Brunswick Avenue could become the second main east-west route on the island, paralleling Ocean Boulevard from High Point Street east.

"It would make a good exit for peo-

ple on the east end in case of flooding," he added, "because the ground is so high along there."

Brunswick Avenue is one of several platted streets that could be affected by the vote.

Some easements that were given to the town or were going to be given to the town were not ever formally accepted by the town board, according to Mayor John Tandy, and also may not have been properly dedicated as a street or access area.

On a motion by Commissioner William Williamson following an hour-long closed-door session to discuss "real estate," the town agreed to accept offers of dedication of all platted street rights-of-way that have been properly recorded with the Brunswick County Register of Deeds—on the condition that improvements would still be made according to existing town policies. Currently policies have provided that property owners must bring the rights-of-way up to certain standards before, not after, acceptance by the town.

A second motion, by Commissioner Hal Stanley, affirmed that the first motion would not reflect in any way on the town's subdivision ordinance,

which sets different standards for streets.

Both motions were approved unanimously.

Once streets are dedicated to Holden Beach, the town assumes responsibility for their maintenance, using either local or Powell Bill state funds.

Tandy said Monday that improvements to the mid-section of Crab Street had been completed, making that segment eligible for acceptance by the town. Property owners had complained that school buses and mail carriers could not serve them because of the road's condition.

Festival Insurance

A \$500 contribution from the town to the Holden Beach Merchants Association, also approved unanimously, is to be used to furnish "protective devices" for the N.C. Festival-By-The-Sea on Oct. 25-26.

Commissioner Gay Atkins had asked for the town's support of the festival, citing the town's requirement that the festival buy its own liability insurance coverage this year. The unanticipated expense will cost approximately \$1,000. This year, she said, the festival did not receive

money from either the state or county and is "closer" on money than in the past.

"The town ought to do something (to aid the festival)," said Commissioner Lyn Holden, wondering how other towns handle festivals and parades. "But I'm not sure this is it. Some people are not in favor of it; they don't want the beach pushed."

Commissioner Stanley expressed reluctance: "I don't think we ought to, but I'll move it," the finance officer said.

But he specified the money wasn't to be used to pay for the festival's street dance. "There are a number of people who don't want to contribute anything to the street dance," he stressed.

Commissioner Graham King said he had changed his mind about the town's support of the festival, having at first objected. Property owners look forward to the event each year and it brings money into the community, he said. "It's one occasion where the community seems to come together. There are people who work at the festival that don't get involved the rest of the year," he added.

Stanley also was concerned about the precedent set, saying objections to use of town funds for promotion

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Brunswick Tech Begins New Term

Fred Laugisch of Supply war in a long line Tuesday of students who had pre-registered for the fall term at Brunswick Technical College. Behind him, Jessica Calson of Holden Beach waits to enroll. They are assisted by Hazel Williams, English instructor, left, and Connie Powell, public information officer. In

another part of the building, other prospective students lined up for enrollment without prior registration. Dean of Instruction Jesse Clemmons said the turnout Tuesday made it likely enrollment will top 800. Oct. 7 is the last day to register.

Candidate Has Self Tested For Drugs

Dorothy Worth of Shallotte, Democrat candidate for the District 2 seat on the Brunswick County Board of Education, was tested for drugs at the Brunswick Hospital Sept. 25.

Mrs. Worth said she volunteered to be tested, "to emphasize my commitment to drug-free schools." Calling drug traffickers "merchants of death," she said she wanted to be the first to suffer any indignities of drug testing, in the hopes of contributing to a solution to the problem of drugs in schools.

While she did not suggest other school board candidates follow suit, Mrs. Worth said everyone in the school system, "administrators, teachers and students" should be willing to be tested for drugs on a voluntary basis.

"I wouldn't want a teacher on drugs teaching my children," said the candidate whose two children have graduated from county schools. She said she had not discussed her views with school officials.

Results of her own tests, she said, would be made public.