

Arnold To Continue As Interim Shallotte Fire Chief

BY ETTA SMITH

Shallotte Fire Chief Michael Arnold will continue in that post on an interim basis while working with a newly-appointed committee to address apparent problems within the department.

Town aldermen voted unanimously last Wednesday to allow Arnold to continue as interim chief until their last meeting in January, when the committee—still to be appointed—is due to report to the town board.

The committee will include Arnold, Mayor Jerry Jones and at least one other town board member.

Arnold has served as chief for a year and was recommended by the department recently for reappointment by the town board. But aldermen denied that request at their Nov. 20 meeting without giving a reason for the decision.

Wednesday night, Arnold requested an explanation.

"I'm not questioning their decision, but I want them to change it," he said. "But I want an explanation. I want to know what are the reasons."

Mayor Jones said some people in the department had complained to him about delays in painting the fire house, getting a base rack fixed that was knocked out during a storm, replacing a base rack, obtaining repairs for a truck that had been hit, and installing some equipment on a fire truck.

He also said people had complained about the department's filing cabinets being kept in the town hall instead of the fire station and the hours of certified training offered by the department to firefighters.

He would not say, however, who or how many people had complained.

Arnold said he had talked to the mayor earlier on three occasions about those questions and had thought the mayor was satisfied with his explanations.

The fire house had not been painted, he said, but the work had been started. Rain had delayed the painter from finishing the job, and even when it's not raining, he said, the building has to be dry before it can be painted.

He said Clyde Miller had agreed to put the fire hose back up if he can get some help, but at his convenience. "He's also doing it for free," said Arnold. "And it's the general consensus of the department that if you can get something done for free, do it."

He said the radio repair was delayed because he wanted to have the work done locally and it took time for the repairman to get it done.

The three tool boxes that had been at the station over a year had not been installed on the truck because the department had never received a bill for them, said Arnold, and he hesitated installing them until they were paid for because the company could charge an exorbitant price for them.

When asked about the filing cabinets, Arnold said that according to state fire protection laws they are to be kept in the town hall, with copies at the fire department. He said the files had been broken in to and records stolen when they were kept in the department previously.

Concerning the certified training hours, he said the state's Insurance Service Organization requires a minimum of 36 hours, which includes time spent at actual fires. "We've had more training in the last year than ever before," said Arnold.

Arnold said the department has had training con-

"I think poor communication in the fire department, and between the department and the town board is the problem."

—Alderman Wilton Harrelson

ducted by Whiteville's fire chief and also worked with the Whiteville fire chief and had training sessions at Supply.

The department does have a problem getting classes scheduled at Brunswick Technical College, he said. "I don't know why that is, but we've tried to schedule classes and they keep canceling them."

Brunswick County Emergency Management Director Cecil Logan told the board that training for the department has been a concern of his for two years.

"I've asked the county commissioners for \$2,000 to purchase five fire training tapes, because Brunswick Tech has no such tapes at all," he said.

Logan said he has personally tried to set up classes at the school and they were turned down.

Alderman Sarah Tripp asked Arnold about the fire hydrants in town that were covered with grass. "I think it should be the responsibility of the fire department to know where these hydrants are," she said.

Arnold said the department has traps that show where every hydrant in town is located, including those that belong to the county.

He said he had talked to the mayor about getting

them cleaned up earlier by the town maintenance crew, but that nothing was decided.

Susan Arnold, fire training coordinator for the department, said, "We have more critical training hours to do than to get these guys to go out and spend their time behind an ax. The water department or the town employees should cut the grass."

She added that the fire department employees are volunteers who work eight hours a day and then work for the department. Plus, she said, they spend a lot of time in training.

"This department is in better shape than it has been in for years," she said. "We do the best we can and try to save the department money."

Chief Arnold told the board that he had made appointments to get a fire truck repaired, but the repairman or he always ended up breaking the appointments due to other engagements.

When the truck first needed the repairs, he said, it was during the peak of the fire season and he felt the truck was needed more at the station than in the shop, where it could take a while to repair.

Arnold said that he had talked to three of the board members about these questions since the denial and that they said they were unaware of the problems.

"It's no secret that there is some dissent within the department," said Alderman Wilton Harrelson, who mentioned to have Arnold remain as interim chief, and that the committee be appointed. "But you have that in here, everywhere," he continued.

"One thing we're in agreement on is that we want a good fire department. I think poor communication in the fire department, and between the department and the town board is the problem."



Arnold

Two Men Die In Weekend Accident

Two men were killed early Saturday morning when their cars collided head-on on N.C. 130 one mile east of Shallotte.

Norman Edward Blight, 50, of Holden Beach died instantly in the 6 a.m. crash. The driver of the second vehicle, James Scott Elliott, 46, of Supply, died later that morning in New Hanover Memorial Hospital. He was transported to Brunswick Hospital in Supply, then transferred to the Wilmington facility.

According to the Highway Patrol report, Blight's 1985 Chrysler ran off the right side of the road as he was approaching a curve. He then came back on the pavement, crossed the center line and struck Elliott's 1985 Toyota truck head-on.

These deaths bring the number of Brunswick County highway fatalities to 22 for the year, compared with 16 this time last year, according to Patrol spokesman Ruby Oakley.

Elliott's and Blight's cars received damages estimated at \$7,000 each. Neither man was wearing seat

belts at the time of the accident, Mrs. Oakley indicated.

In an accident Sunday, Nancy Lee Keen of Shallotte was following Harry Junior Gause of Myrtle Beach, S.C., on U.S. 17 about two miles northwest of Calhoun when Gause attempted to make a left-hand turn and was struck by Keen's auto.

Keen was charged with unsafe movement by Trooper B.D. Burdhardt.

Her 1985 Honda received \$100 in damage and Gause's auto received \$200.

Last Thursday, Charlene Floretta Hewett of Leland was slightly injured when the vehicle she was operating ran off the right side of U.S. 74 and struck a ditch about five miles west of Bellville.

She was charged with driving while impaired, improper registration, no operating license and no insurance.

Hewett was taken to New Hanover Hospital in Wilmington. The estimated damage to her car was \$500.



THE DRIVER of this 1985 Toyota pickup, James Scott Elliott of Supply, was one of two drivers killed in a head-on collision Saturday morning. The second man,

Norman Edward Blight of Holden Beach, died instantly.



HOAGLAND YEAGER

Officers Join Town Force

Two patrol officers have been hired to fill positions recently vacated in the Shallotte Police Department.

Robert Joel Hoagland and Charles Bryan Yeager will report to work Dec. 13.

Hoagland, 25, is from Charlotte and has worked with the Charlotte and Matthews police departments. He is certified as a radar technician and as a police information network (PIN) operator.

Yeager, 38, lives at Shallotte Point and is presently employed with the Sunset Beach Police Department. Before that he was a security officer. He is a graduate of Brunswick Technical College's justice standards course.

Yeager and Hoagland replace former officers Nellie E. Rising and William C. Lewis II, who resigned from the force. Their hiring brings the department up to its full complement of five officers.

Three Arrested

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Officers Dennis Pickard and Brandon Smith.

Carter told officers he held part ownership of the house at 349 Ocean Boulevard East, but town records indicate the house is owned by Harold E. Wensill Jr. of Concord.



LADANE BULLINGTON

ASC Elections Set Dec. 15

The Brunswick County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee will hold its county convention Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. at the county ASC office in Bolivia. ASC committee members will be nominated and elected.

The meeting is open to the public.

Mayor Eyeing Office Of Lieutenant Governor

(Continued From Page 1-A)

keep them updated. It costs \$25 or \$50 every time you get an update, but I now have a completely up-to-date set of general statutes."

A Duke University graduate with a major in history, Bullington succeeded her father as mayor of Ocean Isle. She is married to Bill Bullington and has three children.

While Bullington would not say she is definitely a candidate, she said she would make frequent trips to Raleigh, "to see what's going on there," and to see what happens. Her hope is that Lt. Governor Bob Jordan will run for governor. "I'm not going to run against him. He's my friend," she said.

The only other woman who has sought this state office was also from Brunswick County, Margaret Harper, owner and operator of The Stevens Agency in Southport, was a candidate for lieutenant governor in 1968 and again in 1972.

Drug Charges Are Dismissed

Drug-related charges against Christopher Thomas Blevins of Ocean Isle Beach were dismissed Dec. 4 in Horry County General Sessions Court, according to Cathy Floyd of the Horry County Solicitor's office.

Blevins was among 42 persons arrested in early September by North Myrtle Beach narcotics detectives. Six other Brunswick County residents were included in the sweep, called Operation Profile. Their cases are still pending, according to Floyd.

Holden Will Consider Causeway Annexation

(Continued From Page 1-A)

legislature would not pass an act of incorporation where a notice of intent was in force.

"Protective incorporation is unlikely even with a notice of consideration, because the legislature doesn't like protective incorporation," Ledgett said.

The notice of consideration is less definite than notice of intent and requires no further steps, he continued. "It simply means you're thinking about it."

Four months ago some causeway residents asked Rep. E. David "Butch" Redwine for a bill of incorporation to establish this area as North Holden Beach.

Robert Robinson, one of those involved in the request, said Monday his concern about annexation was that causeway residents have a voice in the matter. "They may feel their tax dollars will just go to pave streets on the island," he said.

Water Contract

The board also approved a contract for water with the Brunswick County Utilities Operation Board, with a maximum rate for the fiscal year of \$1.20 per 1,000 gallons. Buck said the county rates have fluctuated from the mid 80s to the high 90s, and he expected the average to be about 50 cents over the next year.

Leave For Court?

A civil leave with pay was allowed Jeff Williams, police patrolman for the town, who was subpoenaed as a court witness recently, and spent four days away from his job.

A town ordinance prohibits a leave of absence for this purpose, and commissioners discussed the problems arising for employees who are summoned to court. "The question is not whether they'd go, but whether we'd pay them," Stanley said.

Ledgett was instructed to explore ordinances of this kind in other municipalities for future discussion

Stickers

An ordinance requiring residents to purchase \$5 motor vehicle stickers was amended to delete the penalty for late purchase. Commissioners discussed the possibility of giving the identification stickers without charge.

"There should be some way to raise money other than ad valorem taxes, and this is the only way," Stanley said. "It's worth \$5 to me to say I'm from Holden Beach."

Tandy observed the stickers are good tools in times of disaster. "We'd make enormous strides in public relations if we sent out a letter asking people to comply by putting these on their cars. I don't know about giving them away, though."

Commissioner Graham King pointed out that proper issuance of stickers would involve administrative costs, so a charge would have to be made.

"I've caught more flak from people who were out of town during the period the stickers were available and had to pay a penalty," said Commissioner Gay Atkins.

The board agreed to leave the price at \$5.

In other business the board approved two plats in a subdivision on Sailfish Drive and Ocean Boulevard West, and passed a resolution requesting release of state funds for economic development to the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

AT SEASIDE BRING HOME THE BEACON
On Sale At BIG HELL'S PIT STOP OASIS MART

HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES
The Psychiatric Program of New Hanover Memorial Hospital can help someone you love deal with an emotional or behavioral problem.
The Psychiatric Program employs a variety of patient treatment services, including intensive individual psychotherapy.
Individual therapy is conducted with each patient by his or her physician, or a clinician within The Psychiatric Program. Therapy focuses on problems most troublesome to the patient, and is helpful in finding solutions or alternative ways of dealing with them.
For additional information please call:
THE PSYCHIATRIC PROGRAM
(919) 343-7787 or 343-7797
Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
New Hanover Memorial Hospital
2131 South 17th Street

Holden SALE
1/4-Inch Plate Mirrors
Seamed Edges
24x36 inch \$21
30x36 inch \$26
36x48 inch \$42
Plus Tax Cash & Carry
Sale good thru Dec. 31
Also complete line of storm windows, patio doors, table tops, plastics and much more!
Free Estimates
Shallotte Glass & Mirror Co.
Hwy. 17 North, Shallotte, 754-9950