

Yarbrough Gets Contract With Opposition By Worth

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

It was a peculiar school board meeting that led to extension of Superintendent Gene Yarbrough's contract.

Monday's gathering of the Brunswick County Board of Education gave a half-hour to routine agenda items, then went into an executive session that lasted more than two hours, with two interruptions.

During the first break, puzzled staff members, reporters and visitors watched Yarbrough and board members wandering the halls and picking at food on the buffet table that is always provided for the meetings.

Then the superintendent was closeted in his office with a couple of board members, while two others huddled in conversation elsewhere. The clusters shifted, as someone else talked privately with Yarbrough. Throughout, new board member Dorothy Worth pointed out to weary onlookers, "Notice who's left out of these little meetings? Does that tell you anything?" and staffers claimed ignorance of the goings-on.

At last, shortly after 9:30 p.m., the public meeting resumed, and board member Doug Baxley moved to extend Yarbrough's contract for two years, at the same salary, with only the disability clause changed.

This was a surprise item on the agenda and followed an evaluation done on the superintendent's performance over the past two years.

Worth immediately expressed her intention to vote against the action. "I'm not in agreement with extending his contract at this time. I have a lot of questions I want answered and haven't had time to study the evaluation," she said before voting no. The motion carried, 4-1.

In the disability clause, providing for termination of Yarbrough's contract after 180 days of disability, the period was cut to 90 days.

Yarbrough, who was promoted in 1984 following the resignation of Ben Brooks, receives \$45,500 in state

funds and \$12,500 in a local supplement, a total salary of \$58,000.

Worth told reporters after the meeting that she had "many questions about the budget and supplements." She asked, "Who gets supplements? I know part of his salary comes from teacher supplements. Also, I want to know how some of this money (in the budget) is spent. I just got the evaluation this afternoon, and want to study it further."

A brief list of personnel recommendations was approved by the board after this action. They include:

- Linda Alexander, Shallotte, hired as teacher at Union Primary; Phil

Burton, Wilmington, hired as business/instructional computer specialist; Leo Stevenson, Supply, hired as custodian at Union Primary.

- Leaves of absence granted to Ella Clemmons, Leland Middle; JoAnn Johnston, Lincoln Primary; JoAnn Williams, North Brunswick High School.

•The resignation of Jean Mintz, teacher at Union Primary, accepted.

Earlier, the board had turned down a request from the Sunset Beach AHC store to waive its share of revenues so that a new store could be built. The board of education receives 15 percent of the store's income.

Also approved was a transfer of \$5,000 to pay teachers who took the

recent effective teacher training program, money that will be reimbursed by the state Department of Public Instruction. Each teacher enrolled in the program received \$250.

Assistant to the Superintendent Bill Turner reported on Phase II of the school construction program. "Construction trailers will be moved in at Lincoln and Union in a few days to start work," he said. Only remnants of Phase I remain to be completed, he added, including some outside dorms at Lincoln.

Board members were reminded of a retreat to be held Jan. 10 at Sea Trail Golf Links, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Shallotte Adds Mail Routes

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

People living in Sunset Beach, Brierwood Estates and several other areas in southwestern Brunswick County got new addresses last week.

The addition of two new mail routes in the Sunset Beach and Brickland areas brings the total number of Shallotte area routes to nine, according to Shallotte Postmaster Homer Andrews.

On Saturday Routes 8 and 9 were served for the first time, with Judy Hickman delivering mail to residents on Route 8 in the Sunset Beach area, and Louise Fulwood delivering on Route 9 in the Brickland area.

Route 8 includes the island area of Sunset, and N.C. 179 from Bonaparte's Retreat to the bridge, including Oyster Bay and Sea Trail Golf Links.

Route 9 includes Brierwood Estates, Pine Village on N.C. 179 and all the Brickland area.

"We put them in the fastest-growing areas," Andrews explained. "I adjusted the routes because some were getting so overburdened, and the Fayetteville office approved them."

No additional personnel was needed for this expansion, as Hickman and Fulwood had been working as substitutes.

"The routes are called auxiliary routes now," Andrews said, "because they can be served in 35 hours per week or less. When it requires more than 35 hours to deliver the mail, that route becomes a regular one. These two will be regular routes in two years."

Route 8 is 54 miles in length and mail delivery requires 25 hours per week; Route 9 is 42 miles, requiring 21 hours per week.

Rain Heaviest Since Diana

More rain fell on New Year's Day than Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady had measured in a 24-hour period since Hurricane Diana in September 1984.

According to his gauge, 4.35 inches fell on Jan. 1. "Any way you look at it, that was too much at one time," he said.

The greatest 24-hour rainfall during Diana measured 7.5 inches; it was the largest recorded since flooding rains in March 1983, when Canady recorded 5.25 inches of rain in a 24-hour period.

For the period of December 30 through Jan. 5, a maximum high temperature of 59 degrees occurred on the 30th and the minimum low of 27 degrees occurred on both Dec. 31 and Jan. 4.

An average daily high of 56 degrees and an average nightly low of 34 degrees combined for a daily average temperature of 45 degrees, which Canady said was about one degree below normal.

For the next few days, Canady said both temperatures and precipitation should continue near normal. Temperatures should range from the mid-30s at night into the mid-50s during the day. He expects about a half-inch of rain.



First Born In 1987

Whitney Chontel Pigotte was the first baby to arrive at The Brunswick Hospital in Supply this year. Shown here with her mother, Corinthia Pigotte of Supply, she was born at 6:08 a.m. Jan. 1. Her maternal grandmother is Letha Stevenson and her maternal great-grandmother is Ommi Pigotte, both of Shallotte.

Series Of Break-ins Leads To Two Arrests

BY ETTA SMITH

A series of break-ins in the Inland Drive subdivision has led to the arrest of two out-of-state men and charges are pending against two others.

Charles Lester Musselwhite, 17, and Thomas Martin Davis, 20, both of Hope Mills, S.C., were arrested by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department last Friday and charged with breaking, entering and larceny.

The men allegedly broke in to three homes in the subdivision, according to Det. Gene Hardee, who said two other men from the Hope Mills area were also involved.

Musselwhite is out of jail on a \$2,700 bond and Davis is still in jail, pending payment of a \$4,500 bond. The two other unnamed men alleged-

ly involved in the break-ins are still being sought, said Hardee.

According to the arrest warrant, one citizen's band radio, an eight-track stereo with speakers, two bar lights, a Panasonic AM-FM radio and liquor were taken from the residence of Sidney Ray Sessoms. The items were valued at \$368.

Taken from another resident's home, Wallace Council, was a 13-inch portable color television set valued at \$150.

The men allegedly stole \$545 worth of property from the John Chester Adeco residence, including a hatchet, flashlight, staple gun, a Black and Decker saw, eight-track stereo with speakers, two rod and reels and a microwave oven.

Trial Set For Other Driver In Judge's Fatal Accident

BY ETTA SMITH

A January 27 trial date has been set in Bladen County Superior Criminal Court for the other driver involved in the accident that resulted in the death of 13th District Judge Lee J. "Bubba" Greer.

Rocky Lee Watson, 18, of Elizabethtown was charged with death by motor vehicle following Greer's death on Nov. 21, 1986.

The Oct. 6 accident occurred on S.R. 1700 south of Elizabethtown. Greer was on his way to the Bladen County Courthouse when his car col-

lided with a truck operated by Watson.

Greer underwent surgery at N.C. Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill the day of the accident. His condition showed some improvement after the surgery, although he never regained consciousness. His condition was downgraded to critical again after he contracted meningitis.

A successor to his 13th District seat has not been named. Greer had been re-elected without opposition in the Nov. 4 election.

County Building Permits Issued

Brunswick County's building inspection office issued 178 construction permits in December.

According to a report from Planning Director John Harvey, 178 building, 142 electrical, 16 plumbing and 26 mechanical permits were issued and \$11,776.21 in fees collected.

Of the building permits, 138 were for housing units, including 21 for detached single-family houses, 10 for mobile homes and 16 units in three condominium buildings.

Investigators Checking Murder Leads

BY ETTA SMITH

A ledger found in the van of a Yaupon Beach man who was murdered last week has provided investigators with some leads.

Thomas Gilbert Summer's body was found Dec. 30 by a Brunswick County Sheriff's detective. Two pounds of marijuana and a ledger containing names of several persons were also found in the van, according to Dave Marshall, coastal supervisor for the State Bureau of Investigation.

Although the ledger has provided some leads in the investigation, Marshall said the SBI is unsure if the names in it are related to the drugs found in the van.

Summer was the son-in-law of Brunswick County Sheriff John Carr Davis, married to his stepdaughter, Jane Brittain Summer.

Autopsy results indicate Summer died of a stab wound, but blood test results are still incomplete, according to Marshall. Summer had been stabbed numerous times.

Marshall said the SBI has no evidence of Summer ever having been arrested on drug-related charges.

He said that the SBI is in the process of contacting the people named in the ledger.

"We don't know where they (the leads) will take us," said Marshall,

"but they have to be pursued."

When asked if any other evidence like fingerprints or hairs were found, Marshall said the agency is going to do more processing on the van Summer's body was found in.

The SBI still has no suspects in the murder, he said.

The van belonged to Soil and Materials Engineers in Wilmington, where Summer was employed as a senior technician. It was found by I.T. Detective Douglas "Sonny" Padgett in a wooded area near the entrance to Orton Plantation off N.C. 133.

Padgett said he drove to the area looking for Summer after the man had been reported missing Dec. 29.

County Commissioners Slate Zoning Hearing For Feb. 25

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some negative comment.

To Give Information
Planning Director John Harvey, at Poole's request, said he is preparing a "down to earth" information sheet prior to the hearing that explains what zoning is and is not, and what it can and cannot do for an individual property owner and for the county.

While uncertain of the outcome, Harvey said he is excited about the public hearing. "I'm looking forward to it," he said.

At a series of land use plan hearings held in each township last November, speakers asked for regulations that would be classified as zoning though the actual word was rarely if ever used.

Fellow commissioners, while not commenting on Poole's statement in support of zoning, said Monday night they too want a large turnout at the hearing.

"I'd like to see the room full," said Commissioner Chris Chappell, while Commissioner Frankie Rabon and Chairman Grace Beasley said they wanted to make sure residents of District 4 and 5 were aware of the meeting.

To that end they directed Acting County Manager David Clegg to advertise the hearing "weekly" in three county publications as well as once or more in an area daily.

In his statement, Poole referred to support for zoning types of activity expressed at land use hearings held in November 1985.

At the Shallotte Township meeting held at Sunset Beach, for instance, Planning Director John Harvey

recalled Tuesday, "people like Paul Dennis said we've got to have a law that to keep businesses away from residences and to make sure churches have enough land."

"He never used the word zoning and neither did anyone else, but everything they talked about was zoning."

While many county residents see zoning as a negative, others view it entirely differently. "Some people think zoning can cure all the ills in the world; it can't," said Harvey. "It's not retroactive."

New Limits
Legislation adopted by the General Assembly in 1985 provides still further limits on the impact of zoning.

Harvey said that if the county has at any time in the past given permission—say in the form of a building or septic tank permit—for a certain type of use on a particular piece of property, it must now continue to allow for that use in its zoning regulations.

That means a more elaborate process of checking permissions.

Districts Allowed
According to state statute, zoning regulations can be enacted for the entire county or for only portions of it. If zoned by district, the regulations may vary from area to area and an area need not be zoned at all.

According to state statutes, zoning is intended to promote comprehensive planning, addressing problems such as congestion in streets, to avoid overcrowding of land and undue concentrations of population, to facilitate adequate provision of services such as schools, parks, water

and sewage. Regulations relate to buildings, structures or land. In adopting them, counties are supposed to keep in mind the character of a district, its suitability for various uses, conservation of the values of its buildings, while "encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the county."

In addition, the regulations are to be made with "reasonable consideration" regarding the expansion and development of any cities in the county, to provide for their orderly growth and development.

A zoning area must initially contain at least 640 acres and at least 10 separate tracts of land in separate ownership.

Zoning regulations do not affect farms, but can affect farm property used for nonfarm purposes. County zoning regulations would apply only to unincorporated areas of the county.

While the Brunswick County Planning Board in July adopted a resolution strongly urging the county begin a zoning program, the county commissioners have traditionally steered away from the controversial topic in the past.

At candidates' forums in 1983, Poole was the only candidate for county commissioner to speak in favor of zoning and he modified his stance between the primary and general elections.

Most candidates said they didn't think the people wanted zoning; Poole said he thought many of them simply don't understand what zoning does—and doesn't—address.

Next Annexation Step Taken

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cluding about 2½ hours in December.

Buck later told the board that for the record he apologized to the board and the public for any problems caused by "my losing my cool and raising my voice during this meeting."

Action Delayed
The board also discussed another personnel matter in open session, but no action was taken. Buck recommended to the board that Edward Hewitt, who operates the town's grader, be awarded the first step increase under the town's merit pay plan.

Hewitt came to work for the town too late to be reviewed for the last merit pay raises on July 1, said Buck, and will be locked in to his present salary for two years before he can receive incentive pay. Action was tabled at the recommendation of Commissioner Gay Atkins pending consideration by the personnel committee.

Monday's meeting was recessed until 9 a.m. today (Thursday) to continue discussion on this and other matters.

Other Business
In other business, commissioners:

•Set a public hearing at the Feb. 2 meeting on a proposed amendment to the zoning ordinance.

•Amended the vehicle registration ordinance to include a \$5 fine for failure to register and display a sticker. It deleted a clause that said vehicles without the sticker could be denied return to the town following any emergency in which an evacuation had been ordered.

•Approved the assessment roll for improvements to Sanford Street following a public hearing at which there was no public comment.

•Tabled action on a request from the Board of Elections to compensate election officials, registrars and judges for work at the polls.

•Amended the flood damage prevention code to give the building inspector the right of entry into buildings being constructed or rehabilitated if it is suspected the code is being violated.

•Nominated Mayor John Tandy to serve on the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission. There are presently eight city representatives serving on the commission.

•Heard from Public Safety Com-

missioner Graham King that incidents of breaking and entering and larceny are up considerably in the town, commending the police department for three arrests in December that accounted for eight of the break-ins, and recovery of stolen property.

•Heard from Commissioner Atkins that most of the streets in town were in good condition in light of the recent flooding. However, some streets need debris removed and drainage ditching and she requested commissioners consider appropriating money for those purposes. Discussion was continued until today's (Thursday's) 9 a.m. meeting.

•Heard from Building Inspector Dwight Carroll that 13 repair and bulkhead permits and six CAMA permits were issued during December 1986 along with four permits for new house construction valued at \$241,873, with fees of \$1,195 collected. In December 1985, 29 permits were issued for new house construction while in 1984, five were issued. Also, at the end of December, 27 houses and two condominium units were under construction, he said.

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