

Holden Board Authorizes Annexation Area Survey

BY ETTA SMITH

Holden Beach commissioners moved a step closer to annexation of an area north of the Intracoastal Waterway Friday when it voted to have the area surveyed.

Meeting in special session, the board agreed to hire Norris and Associates of Shalotte to survey, prepare a map and describe the metes and bounds of the area under consideration. The work will cost \$4,000, indicated Holden Beach Town Administrator Bob Buck.

Surveying of the proposed area will begin as soon as the weather allows, he said, and should be completed within a couple of weeks.

Following the meeting, Mayor Pro-Tem Gay Atkins said the move is "only a study at this time," and that it would be two years before the town could annex the area should it decide to do so.

The town voted Jan. 5 to have its attorney, Doug Ledgett of Southport, draw up a notice of intent to annex, the second step in the annexation process.

The survey results will be part of that notice, and when completed will be available at Holden Beach Town Hall for public inspection.

Steps taken by the board toward annexation of the causeway area have led residents in the area to renew an effort to incorporate a new town to block annexation by Holden Beach.

Rep. E. David Redwine of Ocean Isle Beach introduced a bill to incorporate North Holden Beach in a legislative session last June, but he withdrew it after opposition arose from some of the residents of the area and from Holden Beach officials.

Causeway Residents Seek Annexation Alternatives

BY ETTA SMITH

Holden Beach's intent to annex an area north of the Intracoastal Waterway has residents in the proposed area looking at ways to block the move.

If all else fails, they plan to pursue incorporation of a new town.

Around 50 residents and property owners from the causeway area last Thursday night discussed ways to stop annexation by the Town of Holden Beach. The open meeting at the Seafood Barn Restaurant followed a Jan. 5 vote by the Holden Beach Board of Commissioners to prepare a letter of intent to annex the area.

The board's action has prompted renewed interest among mainland residents in incorporating the causeway area; a move first attempted last June.

According to Holden Beach Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Alan Holden, the area eyed for possible annexation includes about 1,500 feet on the waterway west of the bridge, and 1,000 on the east. It extends one mile down the causeway in about a 500-foot wide strip. No estimate of the total acreage is available.

The planning board developed the map of the proposed area at the request of town commissioners.

Cletis Clemmons, owner of the restaurant where the meeting was held, said it is the map he objects to.

Clemmons told the crowd at the meeting that the town intends to annex only the areas that are fronted by state-maintained roads and have county water.

"There aren't any services to pro-



CLETIS CLEMMONS (foreground) speaks to about 50 people at his Holden Beach causeway restaurant last Thursday night about possible incorporation of a new town to block any annexation attempt by Holden Beach,

as Rep. E. David "Butch" Redwine (right) looks on. A show of hands indicated most, though not all of those present favored the idea.

vide us with because they're already there," he said. Clemmons added that the only thing Holden Beach could give the causeway residents is more taxes to pay.

He is one of 56 people who have

signed petitions that call for local legislators to help get the new town incorporated.

Clemmons said residents should ask the state legislature to forbid Holden Beach from annexing the

area without a vote of the people.

Alan Holden said the area mapped by the town for possible annexation is based on state laws governing annexation.

(See CAUSEWAY, Page 2-A)

School System Loses Two Administrators

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

January 13 should have been a Friday for Brunswick County Superintendent of Schools Gene Yarbrough. It was, however, a Tuesday when he received resignations from two of his top administrators, Finance Director Samuel Adcock and Assistant Superintendent Stephanna Tewey.

Tewey, who has served in this role since 1983, has been employed by the Brunswick County schools for eight years. She was director of special education from 1979 to 1983 and taught at Waccamaw Elementary School the preceding year.

Her resignation will become effective June 30.

"I've come to a crossroads," she said, "when I asked myself, 'Do I want to continue doing this, or do something else?' The answer was that I wanted a change."

She said she would use her experience gained in Brunswick County schools to begin a new business venture as an educational consultant. She will establish Learning Links Associates, which will prepare and market training materials for educators. "The first packages will focus on child abuse, because I worked in that area before coming to Brunswick County from the Washington, D.C., area," Tewey said.

She will also serve as manager of the Blue Dolphin Gallery, an art gallery recently opened over Seaway Printing in Southport, owned by her husband, Tom Tewey.

The Long Beach resident, a native of Michigan, said her years in this school system were "enjoyable and valuable." She is particularly proud of helping establish the Interagency Council and developing a new model for special education teachers, which provided more services to special students.

Adcock has served the Brunswick County schools since February 1984, and said his resignation was "recommended by my doctor." It becomes effective Feb. 28.

"My health has been falling for a year," he said. "I had bypass surgery in February, the fifth one I've had, and I've been trying to just work half-days recently."

The 52-year-old Adcock laughed in describing his condition. "My doctor said if I was a movie star, he'd say I was suffering from exhaustion, but since I'm not, I've just had an old-fashioned nervous breakdown."

His two years in Brunswick County followed 18 years with the State Department of Public Instruction and positions with several corporations before that. "I've learned more here in this county than in any other job," he said.

Adcock plans to continue living in Long Beach, where he'll be more active in church and civic activities. He joked, "People told me if you live in Southport, you have to have a family going back several generations; if you live in Long Beach, you have to have a broker's license. I may get one and join the 2,000 others."

Yarbrough, out of town, could not be reached for comment Monday.



HEARING SET ON FIRST PROJECT

Commissioners Nix Mandatory Hook-Ups

BY SUSAN USHER

Homes and businesses along county-owned water lines won't be required to hook on to the system.

It sounds simple, but Brunswick County commissioners reached that decision Monday night only after considering a series of sometimes contradictory motions, based on options presented by the county's Utilities Operations Board.

With both boards anxious to move ahead on the project, UOB Chairman Robert Nubel and Planning Director John Harvey stepped out to type up the options proposed so commissioners could vote on them later that night.

County Attorney David Clegg told commissioners the issue of mandatory hook-ups would be the "hot topic" with the public at water assessment hearings; it proved to be the hot topic for commissioners as well.

Later, the issue settled, Chairman Grace Beasley told the few audience members still in the chambers at 10 p.m., "I want all of Brunswick Coun-

ty to have water. But sometimes I think our lives are over-regulated by government... I don't want to impose this on Brunswick County citizens."

Commissioners also resolved questions on assessments to be charged residents of proposed water project areas, clearing the way to look at the first proposed district, in the Holiday Acres-Reaves Subdivision area north of Holden Beach. Estimated cost of the project is \$264,000, to be repaid to the county by property owners.

A hearing by the Utilities Operations Board on the preliminary assessment resolution is slated for 7 p.m. March 10 in the public assembly building at the county government center in Bolivia.

At the start of Monday's discussion, Nubel said utilities board members still recommended mandatory hook-ups. But because commissioners had asked for alternatives to that less-than-popular choice, the panel drafted several other possibilities. "We felt strongly if any are acted on," he continued, "that all new construction should be required to hook up."

But that wasn't to be the case. District 1 Commissioner Chris

Chappell, who during his three years on the board has moved from being against mandatory hook-ups to their most vocal advocate, motioned to approve mandatory hook-ups—with a 12-month grace period to begin after water is available. That failed 1 to 4, with Chappell the only supporter.

Then District 2 Commissioner Benny Ludlum, a long-time opponent of mandatory hook-ups, said he could "bend a little" and motioned to require new construction to hook on to the system while not requiring hook-ups by those with existing wells. When County Attorney David Clegg said an Attorney General's opinion might be needed to determine the fairness of that method, Ludlum decided it was easier to simply withdraw the motion.

District 3 Commissioner Jim Poole stepped in next with the winning motion—option No. 2, no mandatory hook-ups, period. For new construction, he said, it's cheaper to connect to the county water system than to dig a well. With that kind of incentive, he said he expects customers to "jump on water like fleas on a dog's back."

Agreed Commissioner Frankie Rabon, "If so, why make it man-

datory if they're going to do it anyway?"

On the 4-1 vote, Chappell was the only dissenter. Before calling for the vote, he defended his stance, saying a mandatory hookup was the most practical option.

After 10 years of water system development, he said, "It's time to make business decisions; we have to know what direction we're going."

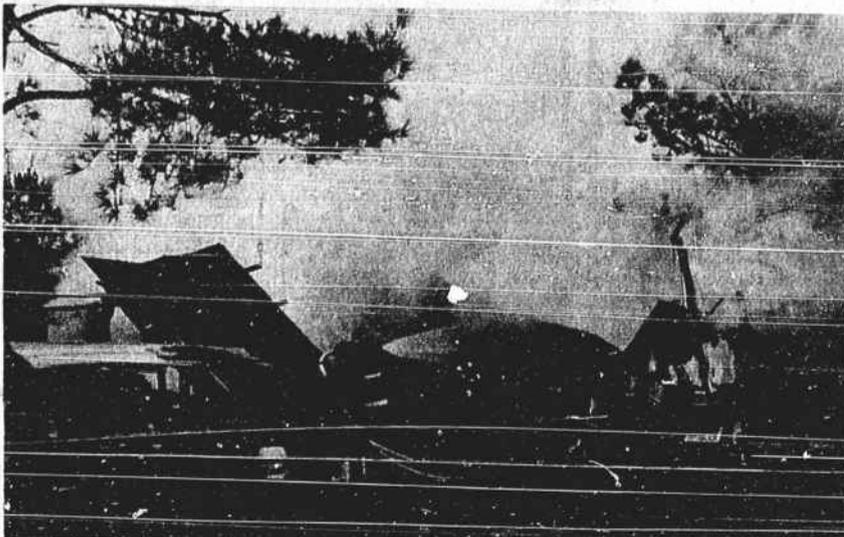
Requiring hook-ups, he said, would reduce the debt service paid by all county residents, offer relief to those in areas where water isn't available, and force users to bear a larger share of the cost.

Countered Rabon, "If we put everybody in the county on the line it still wouldn't cover all the debt service. We would still have to add tax dollars."

And, referring to the campaign promoting the county's water bond referendum, Ludlum told Chappell, "I would hate to have my vote be the one that makes them take water when people were promised they wouldn't have to."

"If people want water," he added, "let them have it."

(See MORE DECISIONS, Page 13-A)



JAMES H. JOHNSON was injured Sunday as he escaped from a fire in the living room (right) of his mobile home.

Elderly Man Sustains Burns While Escaping From Trailer

BY SUSAN USHER

A 69-year-old Shalotte Point man sustained first- and second-degree burns Sunday as he escaped from a fire that left him homeless.

James Henderson Johnson of Todd Road was listed in serious condition at the Brunswick Hospital Monday afternoon, with first and second degree burns on his face and upper body, said Evelyn Hill, assistant director of nursing.

According to Shalotte Point Fire Chief Mike Potts, Johnson was lucky to escape the fire, which was reported shortly before noon Sunday.

"When his daughter tried to open the door, it was too hot," said Potts. Then the glass blew out at the end of

the trailer. That's when the flames took off. He had probably been in the smoke for a while."

The blaze began in the living room where Johnson was resting in his mobile home. While the cause of the fire can't be confirmed before talking with Johnson, Potts said it probably began in a kerosene or electrical heater. Four were grouped together in one area, he added.

A visitor to Johnson's home, Jeffrey Gause, said he saw smoke coming from the mobile home when he arrived and went to a family member's house next door for help.

When he reached the mobile home, said Gause, Johnson was already on his way out the door.

Maritza Johnson said her father-in-

law was feeble and walked very slowly. She said he was apparently asleep when the fire broke out.

Shalotte Volunteer Rescue Squad was called to the scene, but the elderly man's daughter, Sarah Lee Johnson, took him to the hospital in her car.

Shalotte Point VFD answered the call with approximately 12 men and two trucks, assisted by about six firefighters and a tanker from the Shalotte department.

"We were there within about five minutes of getting the call," said Potts, pleased that firefighters were able to save one end of the trailer, so that some of its contents could be salvaged.