

Causeway Group Disappointed After Holden Beach Meeting

BY ETTA SMITH

Representatives of the causeway group who attended Monday night's meeting of the Holden Beach Commission to discuss annexation went away disappointed.

The only discussion by the town board of the controversial subject was to table hiring another surveyor to map the causeway area boundary being eyed for possible annexation.

The first surveyor hired for the task declined after learning of opposition by some property owners who vowed not to let survey teams on their property.

Of the five causeway representatives who attended, only two of them spoke briefly before commissioners began discussing other items on the agenda.

"They invited us over there for a show," causeway resident Cletis Clemmons said Tuesday. "It was just so they could tell Sen. (R.C.) Soles and Rep. (David) Redwine they had

invited us." At the beginning of the meeting Mayor Pro-tem Gay Atkins asked the representatives if they had any comments to make. Cletis Clemmons and J.W. Robinson both said the area's property owners want some say as to whether they would be annexed and what areas would be included.

After Clemmons and Robinson spoke, Atkins asked if there were any more comments. When no one answered she opened discussion on another matter.

A short time later, Robinson asked why causeway residents had been invited if the board wasn't going to talk about annexation.

Atkins told him that when Mayor John Tandy returns from vacation on March 6, a committee would discuss annexation with the causeway group.

After the meeting Atkins said the causeway visitors all had an opportunity to speak, and that when Robinson attempted to continue discussing

annexation she had already moved on to the next item on the agenda. "I had no intention of cutting them short," she said. "But I had moved on to the next item and couldn't turn back."

"I asked them all if they had anything to say and had no reply, so I moved on," she said.

The causeway group recently asked Sen. Soles and Rep. Redwine to introduce legislation to have the area incorporated to avoid annexation by the town. But on Saturday Soles asked Holden Beach commissioners to stop annexation proceedings and causeway residents to end their efforts to incorporate until the two can seek other solutions. If either side fails to honor his request, Soles said he and Redwine would introduce legislation to stop them.

Clemmons said Tuesday that his group will be happy to meet with the Holden Beach commissioners again—if they want to talk about an-

nexation. Following the meeting, Holden Beach resident H.G. "Chic" Simmons said, "These people came over here in good faith and they weren't treated properly. They didn't get the opportunity to ventilate their opinions. Nothing was accomplished by the meeting and I doubt that they'll be back."

Amendments Proposed

Commissioners received no public comments on proposed amendments to the town's zoning ordinance during a public hearing held before the regular meeting.

The first amendment will limit to 11 feet the height of vegetation or structures that can be placed on lots at intersections. The second amendment will add lot front and lot width to definitions in the ordinance. Commissioners are expected to approve the amendments at their March 2 meeting.

Reports Heard

Public Safety Committee Chairman Graham King reported that one pet, 11 speeding and five state violations were issued in January, along with nine warning tickets. Three breaking and entering incidents and three breaking and enterings with larcenies were reported, he said. The police department conducted 11 investigations and made no arrests during the month. One fire and rescue call each were reported.

Commissioner Lyn Holden reported that the town will be negotiating a new contract for sanitation services. He asked that anyone with comments or complaints about the current service contact him.

Building Inspector Dwight Carroll was absent. According to his written report, 26 repair and bulkhead permits were issued in January for construction valued at \$48,250. During the month six permits were also issued for new house construction valued at \$318,714. The town collected

\$1,800 in building permit fees. At the end of the month 26 houses and two condominium units were under construction.

Other Business

In other business, the board: •Tabled action on several items, including an election board request for the town to pay poll volunteers and amending the personnel policy to allow town employees to be paid time-and-a-half for working on holidays they're scheduled to be off. The personnel committee will study the amendment and make a recommendation to the board.

•Temporarily suspended an ordinance that prohibits burning on the strand, to allow property owners to burn debris from the Jan. 1 storm, after getting advance permission from town hall.

•Voted to charge only \$10 for returned checks. The town has been charging \$15, but state law allows only \$10 to be charged.

Legislators Want Causeway Status Put On Hold

(Continued From Page 1-A)

department and rescue squad if they were annexed.

Alan Holden, who owns property on both sides of the bridge and is the island's planning board chairman, said the town gives the fire department about \$15,000 a year and that many people from both sides of the waterway work together on the rescue squad.

"One man I know on Holden Beach even gave you an ambulance," he said.

"The group leading this thing (incorporation) is infuriating everybody," he said.

Holden said that the facts being given to people are wrong, like the \$200,000 figure the town will collect yearly on taxes from the causeway.

"We've got lifelong friendships here. Let's look at the facts before we go around accusing each other of this stuff," he added.

Holden asked where North Holden Beach would be if it's incorporated. He said he hasn't seen any maps, and people need to know how far those boundaries reach.

Clemmons replied that it would include the exact same area as what Holden Beach plans to annex.

"We're not forcing anybody into anything," said Clemmons. He added that with incorporation there would be no taxes.

Redwine said that unless North Holden Beach plans to provide services it will not be incorporated. He said many "paper towns" are unincorporated after they become a separate town because they can't provide any needed services to the residents.

Following the meeting Soles said that he and Redwine had talked briefly about halting the race between incorporation and annexation. He said

that more details needed to be worked out at home before any action is taken in the legislature.

"It's like getting married," he said. "Before North Holden Beach can be incorporated, they (proponents) need to show that its needs can be provided for."

"I hope that both sides will halt their efforts and think about this some more," he said. "I'm asking them to please not put us on the spot and have us stop it in the legislature."

He said he was recently appointed to the Municipal Incorporations Committee, which was formed to avoid establishment of more "paper towns." The committee has yet to have its first meeting, he said.

Half-Cent Sales Tax Added

(Continued From Page 1-A)

development policy to the county, but rather someone who can help the county organize its own ideas and thoughts on paper in a format acceptable to the state.

"We don't need any more discussion (in the media) like we've had," added Holden. "People don't understand the normal process (of reviewing the plan)."

Other Business

In other business, commissioners: •Heard from the Cedar Grove NAACP, again requesting the county to adopt Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday as a paid, legal holiday for county employees. •Agreed to forward petitions to the N.C. Department of Transportation on behalf of roads in Hurricane Haven subdivision, Long Acres subdivision and Rivers and James Streets in Fisherman's Village subdivision. •Approved the following appointments: Resources

Development Commission—District 1 Commissioner Chappell Reappointed Medford Mintz. Poole delayed the District 3 appointment to the seat resigned recently by Francis until April. Commissioners are also looking for a senior citizen to serve on the COG Aging Advisory Committee.

•Authorized Operations Department head Darry Somerset to advertise bids for a small tractor to do maintenance work in the construction department and project completion work.

•Approved a budget amendment accepting a \$2,100 Grassroots Art grant for the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department for the Very Special Arts Festival and Arts on the Move programs.

•Reserved March 31 as the date for a reception for General Assembly members hosted by local counties in Raleigh.

Drainage At The Forefront

(Continued From Page 1-A)

"We only have \$5,000 budgeted for drainage and it's going to take a lot more," Ms. Hunt told the residents. "Drainage is at the forefront of our needs right now. The sidewalks will be mush if we don't fix the streets first."

Other Business

In other business Monday, the board:

•Approved the 1986 audit report. The board delayed a vote on the audit at its Jan. 5 meeting. Ms. Hunt said she met with the auditors last month to "clear up" the board's questions.

•Voted to purchase 2,500 windshield stickers for property owners. The stickers must be shown when seeking access to the island in the event of a hurricane. Property owners will be allowed to purchase more than one sticker.

•Heard the police report for January that included one larceny, one town citation, one state citation, one auto wreck, five uses of fireworks and two disturbances of the peace. The board also hired Edward Rudloff as an officer. Rudloff has served four months as an auxiliary officer. He will earn \$13,585 a year.

•Heard the building report for January that included issuance of permits for 15 repairs valued at \$222,000 and for three new houses valued at \$180,326. One CAMA application was also filed.

•Agreed to hold a joint meeting with the town ABC board to discuss

future upgrading and enlarging of the ABC store. The ABC board is requesting additional funds to pay for a new building, but it "did not indicate what kind of money they are asking for," Ms. Hunt said.

•Accepted the final section of the reclassified town zoning codes compiled by a committee of council members and planning board members. The codes will be sent to Raleigh for printing. Before the final codes are printed, the board agreed to review a section on residential multi-family dimensions after Councilman Gore said the dimensions are too restrictive for the island lots.

•Voted 3-1 to ask N.C. Sea Grant program coordinator Spencer Rogers to visit the island and give advice on how to begin a dune building program. The town has a supply of Christmas trees it wants to place along the beach strand to trap sand. Mayor James Gordon suggested the town place a bulldozer on the strand to push up sand around the trees, but Hunt said it would do more harm than good and voted against the motion.

"I firmly do not believe that this town should spend its revenues to protect a single row of houses," said Hunt, an oceanfront property owner.

•At Gore's request, adopted two resolutions supporting mandatory hook-ons to the county water system and countywide zoning. The town planning board will be asked for similar support.

Lots Of Rain Fell In January

A lot of rain fell in January—9.45 inches, according to measurements taken by Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady, about three times more than normal.

And there's more on the way. The forecast for the next few days calls for above normal rainfall, at least three-quarters of an inch, Canady said Tuesday.

During the period Jan. 27 through Feb. 2, the area got some relief from heavy rainfall, with only .09 inch recorded.

A maximum high of 61 degrees was recorded on Feb. 2, while the minimum low of 24 degrees occurred on both Jan. 27 and 29.

An average daily high of 52 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 31 degrees for a average daily temperature of 42 degrees, about three degrees below normal.

However, during the next few days the outlook calls for temperatures to

be near normal, ranging from the mid-30s during the night into the mid-50s during the daytime.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

Established Nov. 1, 1962
Telephone 754-6890
Published Every Thursday
At Main Street
Shallotte, N. C. 28459

SUBSCRIPTION RATES IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY
One Year \$7.50
Six Months \$4.00
ELSEWHERE IN NORTH CAROLINA
One Year \$10.00
Six Months \$6.00

ELSEWHERE IN U.S.A.
One Year \$12.50
Six Months \$7.00

Second class postage paid at the Post Office in Shallotte, N. C. 28459. USPS 777-780.



ASSOCIATE EDITOR MARJORIE MEGIVERN accepts her award from the N.C. Press Association for editorial writing.

Beacon Wins Awards In Newspaper Contests

The Brunswick Beacon is winner of two second place awards in the 1986 newspaper contests sponsored by the North Carolina Press Association.

Awards were presented by Gov. Jim Martin last Thursday night at the 62nd annual N.C. Newspaper Institute at Chapel Hill.

Associate Editor Marjorie Megivern won second place in the weekly division for editorial writing and the newspaper won second place for its editorial page. Both awards were accepted by Megivern.

This year's awards bring to 18 the number of N.C. Press Association awards won by the Beacon in the past six years.

The contests were judged this year by members of the Kentucky Press Association. Here is what the judge had to say about Megivern's editorials:

"Interesting and effective leads encourage reader to consider editorial. Hopefully, the students will read

valuable editorial concerning their behavior during their awards ceremony. That editorial made difference in strong competition."

About the Beacon's editorial page, the judge wrote:

"Effective page. Has a good, well-written local column, local editorials, variety of comment. Close to first place. Suggest a letters box here, too, which solicits letters and gives policy. Very easy to read. Editorial on state room tax was well researched."

Another Brunswick County weekly newspaper, The State Port Pilot of Southport, won three awards in the contests, including a first place for investigative reporting presented to Richard Nubel, news editor of the Pilot and a former Beacon staff writer.

Other Pilot awards were third place for appearance and design, and second place for news coverage.

Treat Your Valentine To A Special Evening!

FEBRUARY 14th

Make reservations to enjoy a special dinner we're planning for Sat., Feb. 14...

...a delicious dinner in a quiet, relaxed atmosphere. We'll make it a real occasion!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ALL ABC PERMITS

At Sea Trail Golf Links
Sunset Beach, 579-5067

Tavern On The Tee
RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

©1987 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

NOW LEASING OFFICE SPACE

at Shallotte's prestige address...

Village Park CENTER

Located near the center of Shallotte's growing business district in the beautiful Village Pines apartment complex on Highway 179 across from Calvary Baptist Church, yet the tranquil wooded setting is perfect for the professional who wants to make a positive impression. Office space at this new center can be tailored to your needs. At Village Park Center, developed by Patrick H. Simmons & Co., your office will be one that will be a joy in which to work.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JODY SIMMONS AT 754-7200