

# Consultant To Help Complete County Land Use Plan Update

**BY SUSAN USHER**  
Brunswick County Commissioners last Wednesday night unanimously approved the hiring of a consultant to help update its land use plan and authorized the planning board to begin reviewing the subdivision ordinance.

Commissioner Benny Ludlum was absent.

Several members of one board or the other stressed the need to maintain some controls over the rapid changes the county is experiencing in growth and development, though tools such as subdivision regulations and zoning may not be readily accepted.

"Over the next five years we will experience major changes our citizens are not going to want to accept," said Commissioner Chris

Chappell. "We have to start looking at all our regulatory boards, we have to make some changes—like it or not."

Added Chairman Grace Beasley, "Plowing new ground is never easy; change is never easy. And in Brunswick County it happens so fast it's hard for us to get a grasp on it."

**To Hire Consultant**

The planning board had asked to hire a consultant at a cost not to exceed \$10,000, saying the move would allow Planning Director John Harvey to give attention to his new duties as coordinator for the Utility Operations Board. The consultant; to be chosen from three candidates interviewed by a committee of planning board members, will work in-house, supplementing the work of the county planning staff. The commit-

tee's recommendation may be presented to the commissioners as early as Feb. 16.

The decision came during a joint meeting of the commissioners and the planning board.

"Go find him," said Grace Beasley, chairman of the commissioners. "Proceed, Mr. Harvey."

Harvey reviewed with commissioners comments by the Coastal Resources Commission and its staff when a rough draft of the update was reviewed in the fall. Of the 258 comments, he classified 18 as "substantive" and 41 as "absolutely irrelevant," while the majority were strictly editorial in nature.

CRC Chairman Dan Besse, noting the draft had been due in March, recommended the county hire a planning consultant.

"They've criticized this county for not having sought their grants," said Harvey. "There may be some sensitivity there."

The two boards took advantage of the joint meeting to talk about several other common concerns, namely an upcoming hearing on zoning and the need to update the county's subdivision ordinance.

That need was recently called to the county's attention by Rep. David Redwine, who had been asked by commissioners to seek a legislative change in DOT regulations that would allow all subdivision roads to be accepted for state maintenance, regardless of when they were built.

Redwine advised the commissioners that legislators would not eye such a bill favorably, since Brunswick was about the only county

in the state that hadn't upgraded its subdivision road standards so that they could be taken over by the DOT when the residents so desired.

Along with upgrading road standards, the planning board has also suggested revising the subdivision ordinance to require hook-up to county water where it is available.

Planning Board Chairman Ed Gore told Beasley adding water would only increase the price of a lot \$1,000 to \$2,000, which Commissioner Chris Chappell said was similar to the cost of installing a well and a pump. At the same time, installation of a water system might allow subdividing into smaller lots.

New subdivision ordinances could contain two sets of standards, Harvey noted, citing the example of Orange County—one for more ur-

banized areas and another for rural areas.

"If we get into major revisions," he said, "it would be something to consider."

Planning board members will begin reviewing the existing subdivision ordinance and a proposed revision that was shelved some years ago after it failed to receive commissioners' approval.

Current commissioners will also get sets of both copies for their own review.

In discussing a public hearing on county zoning, members of both boards stressed the need for more public information on the subject.

Harvey noted that zoning ordinances would not have to be same all over the county, but could vary according to the needs of each district.

## Ocean Isle Approves Land Use Plan Update

**BY ETTA SMITH**  
After making only a few minor changes in wording, Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners adopted the town's land use plan update Tuesday.

The first review of the update was called excellent by a reviewer for the N.C. Office of Coastal Management, who said it needed only slight changes. Now the consultants, Talbert, Cox and Associates will resubmit it to the agency for final approval by the Coastal Resources Commission.

The only changes commissioners requested at the meeting were that the need for a traffic signal at the intersection of N.C. 179 and the causeway be deleted, since that light has now been installed, and that policies on recovery and reclamation of public and private facilities be added after they are developed at the next planning session.

Mayor LaDane Bullington also said she thought that it should be clarified that reclamation didn't mean the town could take private property, but could reclaim or renourish property damaged by severe erosion.

Chappell to either seek hook-up to a municipal system or to build a private one.

Ocean Isle Beach buys much of its water from the county, supplementing that supply with well-water. Until the county's new 24 mgd plant begins operation and can supply Ocean Isle with all the water it needs, commissioners said, the town isn't in a position to add on customers.

**Other Business**

In other business commissioners:

- Nominated Mayor LaDane Bullington for the YWCA-sponsored Cape Fear Women of Achievement Award. She was nominated by Commissioner Betty Williamson.
- Accepted a \$2,000 matching state grant to install a rotating beacon to help direct planes to the town's airport.
- Approved purchase of about 2,000 sprigs of beach grass to plant along oceanfront dunes.
- Accepted the resignation of Ann McMillan from the Board of Elections and appointed Martha Benton to the position.
- Voted, following a 45-minute executive session, to have Jess prepare a letter to the Department of Transportation regarding the removal of the town's old water line from under the Intracoastal Waterway. The town wants to know if the money it spent toward having a new water line suspended from the Odell Williamson Bridge can be considered its share of the cost of removing the old line.
- Heard a report from Building Inspector Druid Robinson that during January 18 building permits were issued and \$5,450 in permit fees collected.
- Heard from Police Chief Jerry Gurangus that the annual auto stickers for permanent residents should arrive on Jan. 31; failure to display them on vehicles can result in a fine, he said.



**TAKE HOME** Dusty, a 5-year-old sable and white collie, from the county animal shelter in Supply.

## Collie's Up For Adoption

A male sable and white collie with an up-to-date rabies shot is among the pets recommended for adoption this week by Zelma Babson, animal control supervisor for the Brunswick County Health Department.

Also listed are a male collie-German shepherd mixed breed with reddish-blond hair, and a male, medium-haired grayish-white kitten.

These pets and others can be seen at the county animal shelter, located off N.C. 211 south Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Exhibit Continues Through Feb. 28

A one-person watercolor exhibit by Iris Raynor will continue at the Art Quest Gallery in Wilmington through Feb. 28.

The public can view the artist's work from 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Raynor's work "bridges realism and abstraction with personal meaning and powerful mood," according to Brooks Pearce, publicity chairperson for the gallery.

The gallery is located at Second and Grace Streets in downtown Wilmington.

A reception for the artist is planned Saturday, Feb. 14, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the gallery.

## Higher Tap-On Fee Recommended

(Continued From Page 1-A)

engineering figures developed by former county engineer Dan Shields as the estimated cost of the first project—a mainland area near Holden Beach—at just under \$11 per front foot, a sum that would be divided equally between residents on both sides of the street. But the total cost for each project—including borings under streets and the like—won't be determined until the work has been completed.

A public hearing on the first assessment area is planned March 10 at 7 p.m. in the public assembly building at the complex.

His questions might be answered at that meeting, a Holiday Ranches subdivision resident was told Monday.

The man didn't identify himself, but said he and others in the community don't understand the assessment system and need more information. He added that not all residents favor running public water in the area.

In his subdivision there are only eight permanent residents, he said, with the rest only part-time. All have their own wells, he continued, with only two households unable to use

their water supply.

"We're in the dark on it," he said. "We don't understand what's going on. We can't afford to have an expensive water line going in through there."

For use in hiring an engineer on a contract basis, board members received a list of registered professional engineers doing business in the county.

They also received from Hewlett

drafts of proposed new standard technical specifications for water distribution systems and a proposal for accepting water distribution system projects before they are completed.

In addition to English and Nubel, members Alfonza Roach, Jimmy Oldham and Morris Crouch were present, along with ex-officio member Commissioner Frankie Rabon. Member Ed Gore was absent.

## Two Injured In Accident

Two people received minor injuries in a two-car accident at the intersection of N.C. 904 and U.S. 17 on Feb. 7.

David Roger Keaton, 35, of Shallotte, was charged by the N.C. Highway Patrol with driving while intoxicated and failure to reduce speed after his 1984 Datsun truck hit Anna Bozeman Wheeler, 40, also of Shallotte.

Wheeler was stopped at the intersection when Keaton's vehicle hit

her car from behind, according to a N.C. Highway Patrol report filed by Trooper L.M. Richardson.

She and a passenger, Dianne Price of Ash, 40, were slightly injured in the 7:20 p.m. accident that occurred about six miles south of Shallotte. Neither required being transferred to the hospital.

Wheeler's 1976 Ford received about \$500 damage and Keaton's \$1,500, said the report.

**Request Heard**

The board directed Town Attorney Elma Jess to prepare a conditional contract to allow a development to be connected to the town's water system after the county treatment plant is completed at Malmo.

County Commissioner/Developer Chris Chappell asked the board to consider allowing connection of Ocean Aire Estates subdivision to the town's water system. Chappell is vice-president of the mobile home development.

He said he wanted to hook up to the town's system instead of the county water system because it would be cheaper, since the town already has a line running past the subdivision.

The three wells in the subdivision are not enough to serve its 48 homes, he said. The state recently asked

could take at least 75 days for the 12 agencies involved to review and approve the application, according to Commissioner Gay Atkins.

However, Atkins said state officials who promised to expedite the approval process kept their word.

Before the bulldozing can begin, participating property owners must obtain permits from the town. While there is no charge for these permits, the town paid \$100 for its blanket permit, said Atkins.

The blanket permit allows sand to be pushed from the high water mark, and expires on Dec. 31, 1990. The permit also prohibits any sand being pushed during the loggerhead turtle season from May 15 until Oct. 15 of each year.

## Holden Beach Gets Blanket OK To Push Sand On Strand

**BY ETTA SMITH**  
Holden Beach property owners can now get permits from the town to push sand up to repair dunes abutting their property.

The town received a blanket permit from the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development last Friday that authorizes the bulldozing.

Commissioners voted in January to act as a broker for interested property owners, offering to solicit the cheapest price for a contractor to repair dunes damaged in the Jan. 1 high tides. Later they learned the town needed a permit to authorize the work.

When the town applied for the permit on Jan. 19, it was told approval

## Near-Normal Weather Expected

Near-normal temperatures and precipitation are expected over the next few days.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday that temperatures should range from the upper 30s at night into the upper 50s during the daytime, with about a half-inch of rainfall.

For the period Feb. 3 through 9, a maximum high of 66 degrees was recorded on the 6th and a minimum low of 30 degrees occurred on the 8th and the 9th.

An average daytime high of 58 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 38 degrees for a daily average temperature of 48 degrees, which Canady said was about one degree above normal.

For the period he recorded 1.4 inches of rain.

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