

Holden Beach Commissioners Anxious For Dredging To Begin Before Easter

BY ETTA SMITH
 Holden Beach commissioners are anxious for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to begin dredging operations at the Lockwood Folly Inlet, because the dredge material will be placed on an east end of the beach which was badly eroded during the Jan. 1 high tides.
 During a special meeting last Thursday morning Commissioner Gay Atkins said she had hoped the dredging could be completed by Easter when the tourist season begins.
 Commissioners are concerned about a public beach accessway in the area that is to receive the material. Sand was eroded from around the accessway during the beach during the Jan. 1 storm.
 Atkins said that the accessway could be dangerous, but that to rebuild the steps before the material is placed there would be a waste of time.
 "We don't know what needs to be built until the material is placed there," she said.
 Corps Navigation Branch Chief Barry Holliday said the agency's

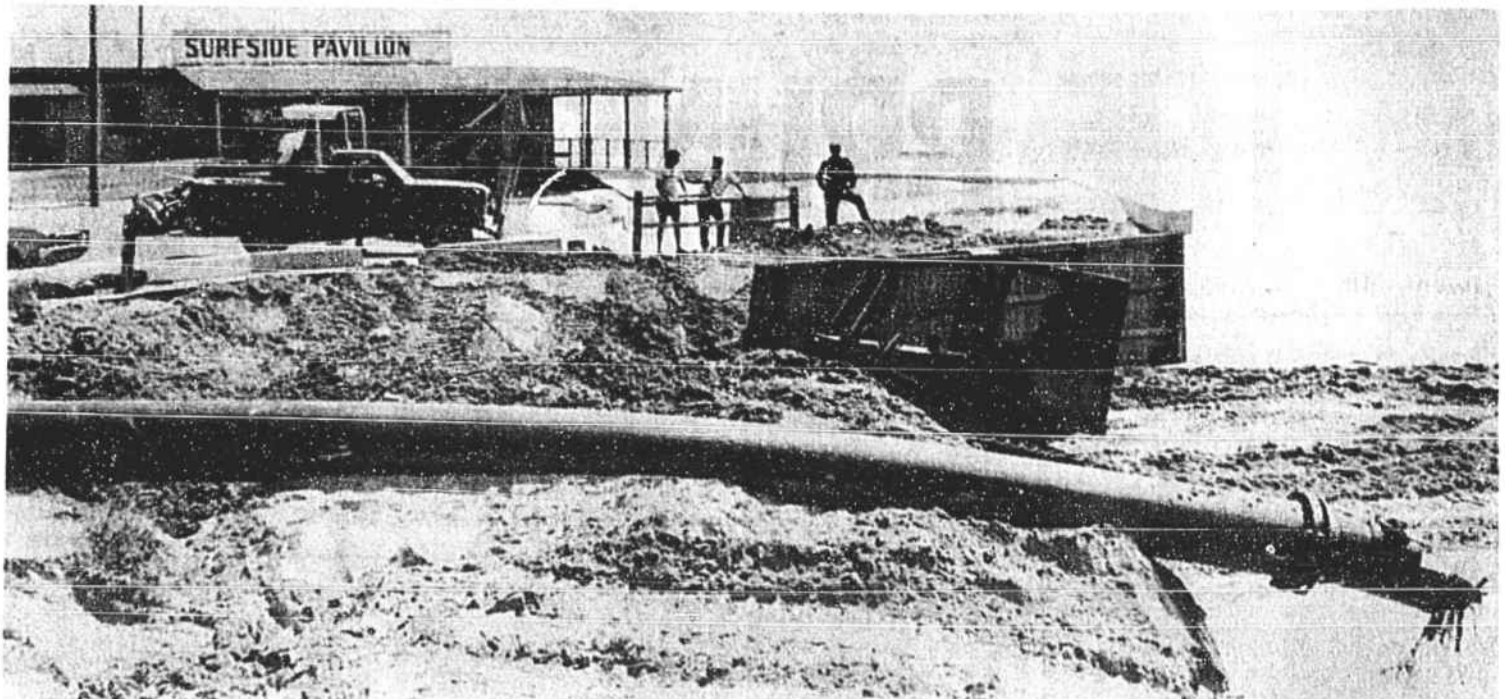
contractor will place the dredge material pumped from the Lockwood Folly Inlet in a 1,000-foot area along the oceanfront east of the foot of Old Ferry Road.
 Holliday said the Corps is using the beach as a disposal area because it is cheaper, since the material will only have to be pumped about 2,000 feet from the dredge.
 "Otherwise we would have had to build a dike to hold the material," said Holliday.
 He said the dredge boat was due at Holden Beach this week from Savannah, Ga. The dredging operation should take about 20 days to complete.
 Atkins said the damaged accessway, at Surfside Pavilion, had some exposed cables that could be dangerous if not fixed before the tourists begin visiting the island.
 Holden Beach Town Administrator Bob Buck said that all accessways damaged during the Jan. 1 storm had been repaired except that one.
 Mayor John Tandy suggested putting up a "Temporarily Closed" sign at the accessway until the material is

placed there and the steps can be rebuilt.
Retirement Approved
 Commissioners also accepted a let-
 ter from Buck announcing his intent to retire as of July 31.
 The town administrator assured commissioners that he would work a month beyond that date if necessary in order to assure a smooth transition for whoever replaces him.
 Buck has served as town administrator for the past five years. The board also asked him to start advertising for another town administrator immediately.

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THE U.S. ARMY CORPS of Engineers began pumping dredge material from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway to the Holden Beach oceanfront last Monday. The material is being placed along a 1,000-foot area near the Surfside Pavilion on the east end of the island, which was badly eroded during the Jan. 1 high tides.

Clegg's Authority Affirmed As Acting County Manager

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 Carter was at the meeting at the commissioners' invitation. He told the board it also should weigh the costs in productivity in having employees spend extra time driving to the complex to switch to a county vehicle before going to a job site.
 Commissioners reached their decision after meeting with specific department heads to review their employees' use of vehicles.
 Minutes earlier they had met with all department heads. At that meeting, commissioners publicly affirmed the authority they've placed in County Attorney David Clegg as acting manager.
 "The board of commissioners has not appointed a figure head or caretaker," indicated a statement read by Chairman Grace Beasley.
 "The board... stands behind his actions with the same degree of total support as it has had to his actions as county attorney," it noted.
 Beasley said the manager's decisions would be final regarding administrative matters, while the board sets policy and direction.
 The statement also noted, "Transition is never easy, but it can be accomplished with minimal confusion if all involved continued to effectively operate their departments within established procedures."
 "This is not an opportunity to seek to establish footholds in areas outside departmental jurisdictions nor is it a time to lose sight of existing protocol and chain of command."
 Beasley also said the board would move quickly in hiring a new county manager and asked employees to work together to make the transition period smooth.
 After meeting behind closed doors to discuss personnel and attorney-client matters, the board hired former County Manager Billy Carter as a budget consultant at the rate of \$25 an hour.

Also, starting May 4, the board's meeting on the first Monday of each month will begin at 10 a.m. instead of 6:30 p.m. The change is to accommodate Clegg's schedule as manager and attorney, and to make readily available the resources of various departments. It will continue at least through Clegg's tenure as acting county manager.
 They also:
 •Directed Finance Director Luthia Hahn to seek proposals for a new auditor, since the firm Touche Ross & Co. has withdrawn its services following a billing dispute.
 •After lengthy discussion, approved a request from Water Plant Director Kenneth Hewett to spend \$13,000 to hire a full-time engineering inspector from funds in the engineering department funds and four part-time employees from the water department funds. Hewett had first asked that the vacant inspector's post be moved from engineering to the water department, but met with hesitation from the board.
 As decided Wednesday, the positions are to be continued into next year's budget.
 Chairman Beasley said a decision on whether to hire an engineer and continue that department in-house will be made at budget time.
 Since the resignation of Dan Shields, their first in-house engineer, the county has utilized the services of a consulting engineer Jerry Lewis & Associates. Applications for the engineering post were advertised for and received, then shelved.
 •Adopted a resolution, as announced earlier, opposing placement of a low-level radioactive waste disposal site in the county, sending copies to commissioners in adjoining counties and asking their support.
 Commissioner Jim Poole was absent. He had to leave last Monday's meeting earlier because of medical problems.

New Cross Marks Site

(Continued From Page 1-A)
 and Rev. Raymond Faircloth will give the message, "No Longer The Victim, But The Victor."
 All are invited to participate in this interdenominational service.
Camp Methodist
 Camp United Methodist Church in downtown Shallotte will hold a Maundy Thursday communion service today (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m.
 Then, on Sunday, a sunrise service overlooking the

river will be held at 6:30 a.m., followed by breakfast in the fellowship hall and a service of music during the 11 a.m. worship hour.
Dixon Chapel
 A 6:30 a.m. sunrise service is also planned Sunday at Dixon Chapel United Methodist Church at Varnumtown.
 Rev. Bobby Norton, pastor of New Life Assembly, will be the guest speaker.

Town Creek Squad To Serve Plates

Town Creek Volunteer Rescue Squad will serve chicken and pork barbecue plates beginning at 11 a.m. Saturday at the squad's building located on U.S. 17 at the intersection of 87 South in Winnabow.
 The menu includes fried chicken, potato salad, green beans and rolls, or barbecue pork, cole slaw, candied yams and hushpuppies.
 Plates, at \$3 each, will be available until sold out. Proceeds go to support the squad.

Rain Expected For Area

Although mild temperatures will continue throughout the area for another week, precipitation will be a little above normal, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.
 Canady forecasts about three-fourths of an inch of rain, while the average for this time of year is about one-half inch.
 Daytime highs will be in the 70s and night time lows in the 50s, he said.
 During April 10 through 13, Canady said the maximum high temperature reached 79 degrees on April 13, and the minimum low of 42 degrees was recorded on April 10.
 The average daily high was 74 degrees and the nightly low 48 degrees during that period, making the daily average temperature 61

degrees.
 There was no measurable precipitation during the period, he added.
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