

Commissioners Bow Out

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Commissioner Benny Ludlum disagreed and questioned it's motivation as an attempt "to look good with a certain group."

"About 24,000 people voted on us as commissioners to make this decision," he continued, twisting a paper clip with his fingers as he spoke. He added that commissioners previously discussed the need not to put more work on Clegg.

The issue died for lack of a new motion and the vehicles will remain parked and requests for their release on hold.

Water On Line

County residents along N.C. 179 from Shallotte to Calabash began drinking water from the county's Malmo last Friday, while other segments of the system are "virtually complete," Water Plant Director Kenneth Hewett told commissioners. He said water was being pumped through several other distribution lines for chlorination and that leaks along N.C. 87 were being fixed. Then, he added, "we will twist out all the bows in all of them."

Rate Increases

The county's health insurance rate will increase overall about 20 percent to 30 percent based on the self-insurance pool's claims experience, Brunswick Insurance David Pridden advised commissioners in presenting his 1987-88 proposal for Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage. He said the county should be able to recover the 120 percent loss.

As of Aug. 1, the county will be able to reduce the cost protection fund from \$130,000 to \$88,000, transferring the rest to its general fund. "That will be your savings this year," he said, over a standard group policy.

While medical coverage will increase in cost next year, dental rates will drop slightly, he noted.

Pridden also recommended the county provide short-term disability coverage, at a flat rate of \$2,165 per month. He presented two other options—a prescription drug card and either a low-option or high-option vision care policy, for which self-

insurance pool rebates would be possible. He also suggested the county consider adding on retired employees to its program.

Commissioners must decide on whether to renew with Blue Cross/Blue Shield before July 1.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners: •Met behind closed doors for a total of more than four hours, from 10:45 a.m. to shortly after noon to discuss independent contractors, attorney-client matters, personnel and land acquisition, and then from 1 p.m. to 3:40 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and personnel matters. Part of the time was spent talking with three state representatives of the Soil and Conservation Division regarding the county's role in relation to the former CawCaw Drainage District. The local Soil Conservation District President, James Bellamy, has threatened legal action by the federal government if the county doesn't begin maintaining the district's drainage system. Commissioners have received letters from several parties, including Mason Anderson of Sunset Beach and the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association urging it to survey the district and do whatever maintenance is required.

•Amended the cafeteria budget to reflect higher revenues of \$21,800.

•Accepted a bid for a backhoe loader for operation services from North Carolina Equipment Co. for \$29,566.

•Accepted a proposal by the Brunswick County Bar Association to hang a portrait of the late District Judge Lee J. Greer Jr. in the county courthouse and donate the painting to the county.

•Accepted a bid of \$26,850 from American Augers for a horizontal boring machine for the water system. It was the second lowest of three bids, but water plant director Kenneth Hewett said it had better weight and forward thrust.

•Approved a contract with David M. Griffith & Associates to update the cost allocation plan for 1987, and a contract for the Shallotte law firm

of Ramos & Lewis to provide specific services to the Utility Operations Board.

•Continued their meeting until May 6 at 7 p.m. at, when they meet the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a program/dinner meeting at the Sandpiper Restaurant in Leland. That meeting will then be continued until May 13 at 9 a.m., when commissioners meet to review applications for the county manager's job.

•Proclaimed the week of May 11 as "Land Use Week," urging residents to participate in planning for the county's future land use. A series of 7 p.m. meetings has been set for that purpose as follows: Monday, May 11, Leland Senior Center; Tuesday, May 12, South Brunswick High School; Wednesday, May 13, West Brunswick High School; and Thursday, May 14, Public Assembly Building, Brunswick County Government Center, Bolivia.

Officer Joins

Narcotics

Squad

A second municipal officer has joined the Brunswick County Interagency Drug Squad.

Detective Sgt. David Crocker, head of the unit, said Battista Delia was recently sworn in and authorized to make arrests out in the county.

Delia was recently promoted to detective with the Long Beach Police Department. As a member of the drug squad, he will pool information on narcotics activities with the sheriff's department, execute search warrants and help with joint investigations.

Sgt. Rodney Gause of the Shallotte Police Department is the only other non-county officer who works with the squad.

Crocker said persons with information on illegal drug activities can contact these local officers or the sheriff's department.

Some Voters Will Go To New Polls

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Waccamaw Township," she noted.

Residents of the affected areas won't have to re-register to vote, Britt said. Related paperwork has been completed for all but Secession, which will require fieldwork to confirm who actually lives within the precinct boundaries.

Once all the changes are made at the office, all registered voters will be sent cards notifying of their precinct name and polling place, and giving them an opportunity to notify the office of any needed changes or corrections.

These are the first precinct line changes in the county since the creation of Boiling Spring Lakes several years ago, but with recent changes in federal election laws that are expected to affect the county, they won't be the last.

Britt said the current changes were made with those new laws in mind.

"After the 1990 census," she explained, "township, precinct and census block boundaries must be coterminous. With these changes, we have made a step in that direction."

"Coterminous" means they share a boundary with a major physical feature, a township, census block or municipal boundary.

Brunswick County's compliance at this time is voluntary, since the new laws specifically apply only to

counties with a population of 55,000 or over according to the 1980 census.

There are still several other nonconforming areas, where precincts overlap township lines and the like. These will be adjusted in advance of the 1992 elections.

"We don't know what we'll have to do. We'll have to take an overall look at the county."

But changes are expected in the southwest corner of the county, with the growth of the Shingletree (Calabash) and Grissetown (Ocean Isle-Grissetown area). Shingletree, while not the largest precinct in terms of population, had the highest voter turnout last November.

Creation of additional precincts increased the demand for voting machines, leaving only one spare, according to Britt. Her office plans to request upgrading of all machines in the upcoming budget, in time for the 1988 elections.

The county's machines, which scan handmarked paper ballots, were retrofitted in 1985 to, among other improvements, read both sides of a ballot, reducing the amount of paper fed into the machines' bins and increasing the number of voters they could accommodate.

Britt said the machines can be upgraded to a more current model, with a credit given for each existing machine.

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Temperatures Expected To Cool

Temperatures will range below normal over the next few days, while precipitations remains about average, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday.

That means the area can expect temperatures to average from the low 50s at night into the lower 70s during the daytime, with about one half-inch of rainfall.

For the period April 28 through May 4, Canady recorded a maximum

high temperature of 87 degrees on May 1 and a minimum low of 39 degrees on the 29th.

An average daily high temperature of 81 degrees combined with an average daily low of 55 degrees for a daily average temperature of 68 degrees, which Canady said is "just about normal."

He recorded no measurable precipitation on his gauge at Shallotte Point.

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