

Brick Landing Area Owners Tell County They Need Water

BY SUSAN USHER

An audience with a thirst for county water turned out Monday night to comment on county plans for a special water assessment district in the Brick Landing area.

Of the 45 to 50 people present during the 50-minute hearing, a few had questions that needed clarifying or were concerned about the method by which they're to be assessed. But none appeared to be against the project itself.

The scene differed dramatically from a hearing earlier this year for the county's first special assessment district, to be constructed on the

mainland near Holden Beach. At that hearing, a clear majority of speakers said they didn't need or want county water.

Despite those objections the county voted to move ahead on the project.

After Monday's hearing, the Utility Operations Board voted to recommend to county commissioners at their July 6 meeting that they also approve this second project. The UOB hopes to let bids for both projects at once as a cost-saving measure. Earlier it had hoped to do the first of six or seven districts together, but preparatory work for District No. 3, in the Seaside area, is

taking more time than anticipated.

Monday night, comments were the opposite from that first hearing as UOB members heard from property owners in Shangrila, Long Acres, Stanley Campground, Brunswick Shores and a portion of Brick Landing Plantation.

Representative of the speakers was Horace Wheeler, who owns property in Shangrila. "I want to get rid of my jugs—the sooner the better," he told members of the Utility Operations Board, which conducted the hearing. Thelma Soles of Brunswick Shores reiterated, "We need the water."

A woman who identified herself as a resident of Long Acres told the board, "My water stinks so bad and is so dirty I can't wash clothes in it."

UOB members wouldn't give an estimate of the cost of the project or each property owners' fair-share assessment. A ballpark figure will be available when the preliminary assessment resolution is drafted and taken to public hearing, in plenty of time, said UOB attorney Michael Ramos, for property owners to make preparations for paying the assessment within 60 days after water actually is available.

The assessment for construction of

the line will include a 10 percent "impact" fee to help cover the cost of capital projects that will benefit users in a broad area.

The assessment method used by the county could vary for property owners, with options including front footage assessments and calculations based on area and value.

While assessments are required, tap-ons will be voluntary. As an incentive a lower rate is offered to those who tap on when water is first available to them.

Referring to a method where owners on each side of the road split the assessed cost of the water line,

E.V. Gore, who owns property along N.C. 179 from the junction to Shangrila Estates, told UOB members, "I'm not planning on paying half the distance to Shangrila."

When asked by UOB member Ernest McGee what he thought the best approach would be, Gore replied, "The county pay for it." John T. Madson of Brick Landing Plantation, which has a development tract along N.C. 179, said his group would trust the UOB's judgement as to the best means of assessment. "Progress makes advantages to some and disadvantages to others," he noted.

Point Resident Expresses Frustration At Water Lack

Frustration was evident in her voice when Dorothy Suggs asked Monday night what plans there are to get county water to the Shallotte Point community where she lives.

She was speaking in Bolivia at a hearing for residents of the Brick Landing area, where the county has proposed a special water assessment district.

Because of gasoline contamination, one of the Suggs' wells has been shut down and they have been hauling water for household use for approximately a year now waiting action by the state regarding their groundwater contamination problem.

She stressed the overall community's need for public water, a point reiterated by UOB member Bill English.

Noting that no county water project is slated in that neighborhood in the near future, English suggested residents get together to begin considering their alternatives.

"We feel like we've already begun," said Mrs. Suggs. "We've had water meetings before. I just want to know how far we have gotten. It seems like it must be dead."

"Everybody in our area needs it. But we can't do anything; we can't get anywhere."

According to Planning Director John Harvey, Shallotte Point is one of 100 or more areas with a known need for public water. "We have to set priorities," he added.

New County Manager Resigns After SBI Probe Uncovered

(Continued From Page 1-A)

and he was also given the use of a car, as was his predecessor.

Clegg, who was authorized by the board to offer Barnes the manager's post, was also directed to make a background check on the candidate before hiring him.

"I followed standard procedure," Clegg said Monday.

Clegg said he called Robert Hester, field representative for the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, to ask about Barnes and to run a "full background check" on him. Hester had previously assisted the board in locating a county manager.

Clegg indicated Hester gave Barnes a clean bill of health, stated that he was a fine candidate and wished him the best at Brunswick County.

Hester said Tuesday that he did not know what Barnes had told the commissioners during the interview session. Barnes had "apparently told them his firing was due more to political pressure," Hester added.

Hester said that when Clegg called him to ask if there was anything else the county should know about Barnes before they offered him a job, he asked Clegg, "Did he tell you about the Halifax County situation?"

Hester said Clegg told him that Barnes had.

"I was referring to the SBI investigation," Hester said. "I pro-

bably should have gotten more specific.

"That one simple statement is probably the whole basis for the whole misunderstanding," Hester said.

When asked if he thought Barnes was a good candidate for Brunswick County, Hester replied, "I sure do. I think Thomas Barnes would have been a good county manager."

Barnes, an East Carolina University graduate, had also graduated from the Municipal Management Program of the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill. He had been affiliated with the Central Region Planning Commission of the Region L Council of Governments.

The board also reappointed Clegg as interim county manager Monday, giving him a renewed vote of confidence. Since April, Clegg has been serving as acting county manager.

The board received more than 70 applications for the job and interviewed four candidates, including one from Brunswick County.

Commissioners did not discuss how they would approach refilling the county manager's seat. However, they are not required by law to advertise the position or readvertise, since the manager's position is one of three county posts not under the state personnel system. Others are the county attorney and the clerk to the board of commissioners. They are employed at the commissioners' discretion.

Typical Summer Weather Due

Typical summertime weather's ahead for the South Brunswick Islands.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady says the area can expect near-normal temperatures and rainfall. He expects temperatures to range from nightly lows averaging around 70 degrees to the upper 80s during the daytime, with about three-quarters inch of rainfall.

For the period June 16-22, he

recorded .72 inch of rainfall, with some places, he said, receiving quite a bit more.

He recorded a maximum high of 88 degrees on three consecutive days, June 16-18, and a minimum low of 70 degrees on both June 19 and 20.

An average daytime high of 87 degrees combined with a nightly low average of 72 degrees, for a daily average temperature of 79 degrees, which is about two degrees above normal.

Utility Board Says County Would Gain By Helping Run Water Line To Project

BY SUSAN USHER

It would be to Brunswick County's advantage to help pay the cost of extending a water main to a large golf course subdivision being developed near Holden Beach, members of the county's Utility Operations Board agreed Monday night.

The UOB will recommend financial participation in the project at the commissioners' July 6 meeting. Meanwhile, board Chairman Robert Nubel has asked developers of Lockwood Folly Golf Course subdivision to document on paper justification for county participation. Up 'til now, said Nubel, the operating directive for the UOB has been "no free ride" except as allowed in the oversizing policy.

The developers plan to install and then dedicate the water lines within their subdivision, as is standard procedure. However, they said Monday they don't think they should have to

share the cost of the line from the Holden Beach traffic signal along Sabbath Home Church Road and Stone Chimney Road S.W. to the edge of their property.

That's what they want the county to handle.

"If an industry that was going to employ 75 to 100 people and needed 1½ miles of line came before you, there would be no question," suggested Mason Anderson. "Everybody would vote for it."

UOB member Ed Gore, a developer himself, said that development should be considered as the industry it is. But, he added, he doesn't think any additional water lines should be installed at the county's expense except for where the county picks up the difference in cost for oversizing above six inches.

He recommended that a narrow "linear" special assessment water district might be one way to have

others who benefit from the water share the cost of running the line. Such a district would include property owners along Sabbath Home Church Home, where a 12-inch line is planned, and along Stone Chimney Road S.W., where an 8-inch line is planned.

UOB members noted the project might be handled concurrently with Special Assessment District 3, since the developers have said they are looking at a November deadline.

According to a recently-adopted policy, the county would pay for the difference in a six-inch line and the line used, with the property owners sharing the remaining cost.

UOB attorney Michael Ramos said the only problem he could see with this type of participation project is a "political" one.

"Shallotte Point residents need water but it may be ten years for them and you run water to Lockwood Folly," he offered as an example.

Paul Dennis and Tripp Sloane, two of the developers present, told commissioners that if the county chose not to participate, Lockwood Folly would install the water lines anyway—but as part of a private water system it would operate and from which it would collect any profits realized.

"If we pay for the cow, we want all of the milk," said Dennis.

However, Anderson pointed out the county hasn't been making money from water sales, from the growth associated with development, some of it made possible by the availability of county water.

UOB members agreed among themselves that the project offers economic and social benefits to the county, including that for the mile of line the county would install, the developers would initially install two inside the subdivision; the tax base of the developed property would be in the \$10 million figure; development of up to 1,000 units, all of which would be required to hook on to county water; and hiring of permanent

employees.

According to Sloane such a change in county policy "would encourage developers to put lines in the ground."

In other action, the board agreed to recommend fulfilling a request from developers Bill Benton and Paul Dennis for participation in installing a 2,350-foot long oversized (12-inch) line north up N.C. 904 from its intersection with N.C. 179 at Seaside. It would serve Long Bay Center and Seaside North subdivision, with about 15 initial customers and the potential of more than 200.

The county would pay the difference in the cost between a 6-inch line and a 12-inch line, about \$14,100.

The developers submitted a plan for a water system nearly two years ago specifying use of a six-inch line. They also included a promise to provide county water in their HUD documentation for marketing the project outside the state.

The county turned down the application, saying a 12-inch line was needed to meet the area's water demand.

Said Dennis, "You all are holding us up."

Until recently, county policy dictated that developers pay the cost of any oversized line up to 10 inches, not six inches, in diameter.

The UOB board recessed the meeting until Monday, June 29, at 6 p.m., at which time it will review the draft of revised contract with Jerry Lewis & Associates engineering firm of Shallotte.

Two Shallotte Officers Get Permanent Status

(Continued From Page 1-A)

On Stovall's recommendation, the board agreed to take patrol officers Robert Joel Hoagland and Charles B. Yager off probationary status and hire them on a permanent basis. Both officers had been employed by the town on six-month probationary terms.

The board met in executive session for 20 minutes to discuss personnel before Alderman David Gause made the motion to hire the two officers on a permanent basis.

The board also hired Wayne Mason, 34, of Varnumtown, as a full-time employee in the maintenance department. Mason, who is a maintenance employee for Brierwood Golf Club in Shallotte, was hired on a six-month probationary term.

Other Business

In other business last Wednesday,

Correction

A typographical error led to an incorrect statement in a June 18 news story regarding indictments of 32 persons on cocaine trafficking charges.

The word "said" was inadvertently omitted in a sentence that should have read as follows: "The alleged offenses involve more than 200 pounds of cocaine, which Easley said sells on the street for approximately \$2,000 an ounce."

The Brunswick Beacon apologizes for the error.

Apply Now For Privilege License

J.C. Raines, revenue officer for North Carolina, urges taxpayers who are liable for state privilege licenses to apply before July 1.

He said the 1980 census is to be used where the applicable rate of tax is based on population.

Applications, together with the remittance, should be mailed to the N.C. Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 25000, Raleigh, N.C. 27640, or submitted to the local office in Bolivia.

Penalty for failure to comply, Raines said, will be five percent for each delinquent month, or fraction thereof, after July 1.

Look for our Grand Opening ad in this week's paper!
Lanco Homes

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.

The FAMILY BUSINESS that can make a house YOUR HOME
...PROUDLY PRESENTS...

OUR REDMAN HOMES MUST GO!
Prices are too low to trade with, these are CASH ONLY DEALS!
2 OR 3 BR, 2 BATHS—\$15,500
Price includes set-up in Brunswick County
Payments starting at \$197.00 per month.

...Our Complete Turn-Key Jobs mean NO surprises or headaches...
...We handle everything, from clearing the lot to installing the air conditioner...
SEE US TODAY ABOUT YOUR SECOND HOME BECAUSE YOUR TIME AT THE BEACH SHOULD BE PLEASURABLE & RELAXING

East Coast Housing and Sales
Hwy. 130, Holden Beach Rd., 4½ miles from Shallotte
842-4003 • Mon.-Sat. 9-5, Sun. 1-5

F&R DEVELOPMENT, INC.
•SEPTIC SYSTEMS •COMPLETE EXCAVATION SERVICE
•PERMITS & INSTALLATION •FILL DIRT

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
POST OFFICE BOX 2558
SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459
For Award-Winning News Coverage

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:

In Brunswick County	7.50	Sr. Citizen	6.50
Elsewhere in North Carolina	10.00		9.00
Outside North Carolina	12.50		11.50

Complete And Return To Above Address

Name

Address

City, State

Zip

8 1/4% MORTGAGE LOANS

•OTHER LOANS AVAILABLE•

- HOME EQUITY
- LOTS
- CONSUMER
- CONSOLIDATION
- CONSTRUCTION
- BEACH PROPERTY
- HOME IMPROVEMENT
- COMMERCIAL

First Investors
SAVINGS & LOAN, INC.
CALL 754-5400
Coastal Plaza, Hwy. 17 S, Shallotte
Whiteville—642-8143

ESLIC
Equal Housing Lender