

Shallotte Purchases Land For Sewer Plant Expansion

BY TERRY POPE

Shallotte aldermen have agreed to purchase an additional 60 acres of land so the town's sewer plant will have room to expand.

"With this, we should be able to more than double the capacity of our

plant," said Mayor Jerry Jones.

The board authorized the mayor to offer U.S. Steel and Carnegie Pension Fund \$400 an acre for a 26.8-acre tract and \$300 an acre for an adjacent 33 1/2-acre tract.

The decision came following a 30-minute executive session with town attorney Mark Lewis at last Wednesday's board meeting. U.S. Steel and Carnegie previously sold the town the property where the sewer plant is located.

The plant is close to reaching its capacity. In June, sewer plant operator Albert Hughes informed the board that the plant was pumping an average of 80,000 gallons per day (gpd) while its capacity is 120,000 gpd.

At that time, the town could only accept new development with a sewage capacity of 6,000 gpd, since

that is the amount of sewage that has not been committed to the plant's total capacity. The town cannot approve development that will exceed its plant capacity.

Extension Denied

The need for expanding the sewer system was felt last week when aldermen denied a request to extend a sewer permit to a company hoping to build a moderate-income housing project within the town limits.

Terry Wade, of DTH Development, asked the board for an 90-day extension on a permit that will expire Aug 21. DTH proposes to build Shallotte Village Apartments off Smith Avenue with Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) financing.

The town had set aside 11,000 gpd of its sewage capacity for the units, which restricts what the town can offer other projects.

Wade said changes in FmHA requirements for its tenants and vacancies at other units have put this project on hold. Construction of Shallotte Manor Apartments on N.C. 130 West was subsidized by FmHA.

The DTH project will reapply for funding in October and could start construction in February 1988 if it is approved, Wade said. The board voted unanimously to deny the permit extension.

"We want to work with you," said Mayor Jones, "but we don't want you to hurt the town."

Jones said there is talk of another shopping center hoping to build in Shallotte.

"We'd hate to have to tell someone that wants to build that we have to hold off," he added. "If we wait another 90 days, we may have to turn someone else down."

Other Business

In other business last week, the board:

- Authorized attorney Mark Lewis

to file suit against Beach Country Mini Mart and Laundromat to collect a delinquent \$3,818.28 water bill. The board authorized the town to cut off the water if the bill is not paid.

- Hired two police officers, one full-time and one auxiliary. Ronnie Odom of Hope Mills will begin work full-time Aug. 21. He has served five years with Hoke County and 2 1/2 years with Hope Mills Police Department. Tim McGinn of Winnabow, formerly an officer at Ocean Isle, was hired as auxiliary.

- Agreed to purchase a 1984 used police vehicle from the state for \$4,000. Money had been set aside in the 1987-88 budget for the car.

- Hired David Moore of Shallotte as full-time electrical inspector.

- Voted to purchase liability insurance for all town employees (including fire and police personnel) from the Hunt Agency of Thomasville. The \$1,608.75 policy costs the town \$48.25 per person.
- Asked attorney Lewis to contact

Department of Transportation officials about a resolution on the U.S. 17 bypass construction that DOT has asked the town to accept. It states the town will be responsible for relocating sewer and water lines once construction begins. The town wants DOT to bear those costs.

- Voted unanimously to turn Bailey Street over to DOT, which plans to upgrade and pave the street. Paving would have cost the town over \$9,000, Jones said.

- Authorized the mayor to seek bids on repaving Hinson Street, White Street, Pender Street and marling and paving Forest Drive. The town has close to \$20,000 in Powell Bill funds it can spend on street projects before Dec. 31.

- Endorsed a house-numbering system proposed by the U.S. Postal Service for the town of Shallotte. Houses would be numbered on all streets by a using a grid system. It is not known when the system will go into effect.

Counseling Will Continue

State funding has been renewed to continue a education and counseling program for troubled youths in Brunswick County.

Cape Fear Substance Abuse Center of Wilmington has received a \$17,155 grant from the state Department of Human Resources Division of Youth Services to fund the program it operates in cooperation with the county schools.

The community-based alternative funds will allow a full-time counselor, Bill Renn, to continue working with local schools, said Flo Stein, director of the drug education and treatment center.

The center plans to again offer drug education programs in the classrooms in conjunction with the county's own educational program, to provide group counseling on a weekly basis at each of the high schools and middle schools for students with troubles that may be drug-related, and provide on-call emergency counseling to parents and students on a 24-hour basis.

"We also hope to add in some of the things we like to do," said Stein, such as the center's New Games and Outdoor Adventure projects.

Stein said she's pleased with plans for the school system to gradually implement its own drug education program for grades K-12. "We're happy the schools are getting more resources. It's really going to work well together," she added, and may allow Cape Fear Substance Abuse to begin offering its services on a more intensified level.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Fireman Cools It

Shallotte firefighter Ricky Danford slakes his thirst after working on a small woods fire behind Pender Street a couple of weeks ago. Temperatures in the mid-90s and higher didn't make the job easier for local firefighters then—whether containing woldfire in the Green Swamp or in town. Slightly cooler temperatures and thundershowers have helped conditions this past week.

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