

# Marsh Lot Building Still In Bog At Holden Beach

BY EDDIE SWEATT

An amendment to the zoning code that would lift the moratorium on building on marsh lots at Holden Beach continues to be bogged down. Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to amend the amendment so that requirements for building on lots with marsh and wetlands are similar to those regulating building on canal lots.

"We've been talking about this since March and folks want a decision," said Commissioner William Williamson, who pointed out that the moratorium has been in effect off and on during this time.

Commissioners decided to require the same 75-foot depth for marsh lots as is required to build on canal lots, and pilings located no closer than six feet from an existing bulkhead, the Corps of Engineer (COE) line or CAMA line, whichever is closer.

The zoning change, as written by the planning and zoning board, did not include the 75-foot requirement and called for pilings to be seven feet back from the bulkhead.

Planning and zoning chairman Alan Holden explained that his board left out the number since "it is already covered by state legislation, which requires 50 feet to be maintained between a septic tank and the

waterway."

Commissioners took Holden's advice not to "average" the 75 feet, as recommended by Commissioner Graham King and supported by Commissioner Lyn Holden. King argued that lots on the marsh often have irregular boundaries and some might qualify if the footage is averaged.

**Paving Projects Approved**  
The regular monthly session of the commission began with public hearings on paving of Sand Dollar, Tarpon and Dolphin drives. Resolutions approving all three projects were approved.

No objections were raised by the public, but some questions were asked. Harriet Payne was told that bids would be obtained and work hopefully will be finished before the first freeze, prior to Dec. 1.

Commissioners directed Town Administrator Tom Birmingham to get bids individually as well as for all three projects in order to get the lowest price.

Another resident questioned specifications for the projects, wanting to know if there are any plans for drainage. Plans call for a three-inch crown at the center of the streets, four inches of marl and 1 1/2 inches of asphalt, but no provision for drainage.

Robert Rhode told commissioners he wanted it on the record that storm-water runoff should not be collected and diverted into the canals as was done by town to eliminate a drainage problem on one town street. Instead, he suggested shoulders contoured to drain the roads.

"Water diverted from the road will just end up on people's property," one commissioner remarked.

In other business, commissioners unanimously approved an amendment to the zoning code to prohibit sleeping in any kind of motor vehicle

on the island, and referred a request for another change to the zoning and planning board.

Robert Moise of Brunswickland Realty petitioned commissioners to change the zoning law to allow placement of "For Sale" signs on property lines instead of being set back ten feet as is now required. He said the present restriction "works a hardship on brokers and property owners in many cases." The signs cannot be seen from passing autos on many wooded lots or in landscaped yards,

his petition explains.

He noted that Sunset, Ocean Isle and Long Beach allow signs on the property line and asked that Holden do likewise.

Mrs. Celia Jones, who succeeded Gloria Buffaloe as town clerk, was also appointed to replace her as special voter registration commissioner.

A bid for \$1,075 was accepted for Tony Lewis to purchase a 1983 Jeep pickup owned by the town. The low bids were two for \$101 each and one

for \$500.

Disposal of the Jeep and appointment of an alternate member to the board of adjustments were on an addendum to the agenda for Monday's meeting from the town administrator. However, there was no discussion of the appointment.

### Reports Heard

Public Safety Commissioner King said police answered 133 service calls during September, when there were 33 parking violations, one breaking and entering, two breaking and entering and larceny, 42 investigations and four arrests.

Commissioner Gay Atkins reported that the regional parking facility is three-quarters finished and the restrooms there are working. Work will be done on accessways during the winter, she added.

Garbage pickup will be only once a week, on Mondays, according to Commissioner Lyn Holden's report.

Building Inspector Dwight Carroll's report listed six permits issued during September for new house construction valued at \$349,113. This is twice as many as in 1986, when permits were issued for only three new houses.

Eleven repair and bulkhead permits were issued for construction valued at \$27,100, there were six applications for CAMA permits and \$1,547 in building permit fees was collected.

At the end of the month there were 31 houses and one condo unit actively under construction.

### Behind Closed Doors

Monday night's session ended behind closed doors where a legal matter and personnel performance evaluations were to be the topics. The town administrator said Tuesday that no action was taken by commissioners after the brief executive session.

## Mayor Will Appoint Annexation Committee

Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy revived the issue of mainland annexation Monday night when he asked for and got permission to appoint a committee to study that possibility.

He said his six-member annexation committee would include two members of the town board of commissioners, two planning board members, and two from the affected annexation area.

It was the first public mention of annexation since the first of the year when the idea generated a storm of opposition and prompted a move to incorporate the causeway area into the town of North Holden Beach to avoid being annexed.

Both incorporation and annexation moves were allowed to quietly fade away when Rep. E. David Redwine and Sen. R. C. Soles suggested a cooling down period of time.

The mayor, while not elaborating on the subject, said it would be the job of the committee to determine what area, if any, should be considered for annexation. The annexation boundary drawn by the town last year drew a lot of opposition from some property owners on the causeway who said the town wanted to take in just the areas where it could collect taxes and not have to provide any town services.

Tandy's request to appoint an environmental committee was also unanimously approved by the commission. This committee would "use our wells and continue to monitor" the water quality in the canal system, he explained. It would be operated under the planning board, Tandy added.

Committee members were not announced by the mayor and he could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

## Hurricane Data Only Call Away

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