

UOB Selects Local Firm For Study Of 'Immediate' Needs

BY RAHN ADAMS

If approved by county commissioners, a local engineering firm will soon begin a study on how to satisfy the increasing demand for water in southwestern Brunswick County.

The county's Utility Operations Board Monday voted unanimously to recommend that commissioners hire Lewis & Associates of Shallotte to study and design a proposed water line from Shallotte to the Sunset Beach area along U.S. 17.

Engineers Jay Houston and Alan Lewis presented their company's proposal to the board at its 1 1/2-hour meeting Monday night in Bolivia. Board members William English, Robert Nubel, Ed Gore, Alfonza Roach, Ernest McGee and Frankie Rabon were present. Jimmy Oldham and Morris Crouch were absent.

The meeting included a 15-minute closed-door session, which was requested by UOB attorney Michael Ramos to discuss "contractual matters" involving proposed special water assessment districts. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Needs Outlined

In January, Brunswick County Water System Director Kenneth Hewett told the UOB that expansion of the system will be necessary by next year to meet anticipated water demand in areas southwest of Shallotte.

He estimated that peak water consumption in those areas will be approximately 2.9 million gallons per day in 1989, with the peak expected to occur over the July 4th holiday week.

However, the county's water system can now supply those areas with only 2.6 million gallons per day, which is 300,000 gallons less than would be needed, Hewett noted. He said the water supply should be adequate this summer.

But according to Houston, the system's needs are immediate. "At this time, the situation is critical west of Ocean Isle Beach in that there may not be enough water to meet fire flow in the event of a fire during the peak season," Houston said Monday in his proposal to the board.

UOB Chairman English agreed,

"This is an immediate study of immediate needs."

—William English
UOB Chairman

saying, "This is an immediate study of immediate needs."

Houston proposed that his firm initially perform a hydraulic study of the existing water system from Shallotte to Calabash, and analyze existing flows and demands in the southwestern section of the county. The engineers would then propose various alternatives and prepare construction cost estimates on each option, before recommending a solution to the county.

According to Houston, the study would take from four to six weeks to complete. Its cost would be \$7,500.

The second phase of the company's proposal was for Lewis & Associates to design and oversee construction of the alternative chosen by the county. Houston said he could set no fee or

time schedule on those services until a definite alternative is selected.

The engineer said his firm would coordinate its work with another study that the UOB has recommended be done on the entire water system's needs.

At a special meeting on June 7, the UOB voted to recommend to commissioners that William G. Daniel & Associates of Cary handle the overall study. The study would take about 35 weeks to complete at a cost of \$20,000.

SAD Progress Updated

Houston, whose company has handled all of the county's special water assessment districts so far, also brought the UOB up to date on the first six SADs.

He said his firm issued an order of "substantial completion" on June 7

for SAD 1, located in the north Holden Beach area. As of that date, residents were able to sign up for water service.

A field inspection of SAD 1 on June 8 found no problems except one residential septic tank that was damaged by the construction work, Houston said. The tank will be replaced by the contractor.

He noted that at least three residential water taps have been made in SAD 2, located in the area between Brick Landing Plantation and Bent Tree Plantation. SAD 2 was substantially complete on May 5. No difficulties were found in a June 8 field inspection there.

According to Houston, an order of substantial completion was being prepared this week on SAD 3, located in the Seaside area. He said paving and patching work was all that remained to be done. All tests of the water line extension were satisfactory.

The engineer said a pre-construction meeting was to be held Tuesday (June 14) on SAD 4, located in the Sea Pines area on Long Beach Road. Contractors are supposed to begin the project by June 20.

He added that plans for SAD 5 are

nearing completion, while plans for SAD 6 are about 50 percent complete. SAD 5 is in the Ocean Pine Acres area, and SAD 6 is in the Whispering Heights/Water Wonderland area.

Other Business

In other matters at Monday's meeting, the UOB:

- Approved a recommendation to authorize contract change orders amounting to \$16,480.70 on SAD 1, \$9,304.10 on SAD 2, and \$399.64 on SAD 3.

- Agreed to suggest redefining the boundary of SAD 5 to exclude a large undeveloped tract of land off N.C. 904.

- Recommended a proposed policy that SAD property owners whose lots have double frontage on water line extensions should be assessed only for one side of their property, instead of on a strict frontage basis.

- Voted against allowing the developer of River Run Shopping Center in Southport to connect with the county water system, because the center's private system does not meet county specifications, according to Hewett.

Budget

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would benefit Brunswick County citizens.

Other Business

After considerable discussion, commissioners decided to allow Smith, Ludlum, Chappell, Operations Services Director Darry Somersett and Solid Waste Director Lee Hewett handle arrangements for excavation of a 26,000-cubic-yard hole at the Brunswick County landfill.

The board balked at hiring a local contractor to dig the hole at 90 cents per cubic yard. Instead, commissioners explored the possibility of Operations Services handling at least part of the work to save money.

After Hewett explained that the hole would be needed within five weeks, commissioners authorized the informal committee to work out the details of the project without having to obtain the full board's approval.

Sanitarians

(Continued From Page 1-A)

God of the septic tank installation on a provisionally suitable site, if it fails to meet the conditions set forth in the permit, the installation of the system will not be approved.

In other action, Rhodes said Tuesday, the board decided to invite a representative of the Brunswick County Board of Education to a future meeting to discuss ways in which the two boards can coordinate their efforts at drug abuse prevention and education.

The action followed a report from Dr. Bill Phillips of Cape Fear Substance Center in Wilmington, a long-time drug abuse prevention educator. Phillips recommended the health board formally request the school system to include drug abuse prevention education in its curriculum. He also recommended the two boards examine a program used by the State of Arizona that he said has been very effective.

Cape Fear Substance Abuse Center currently provides a full-time counselor who works within the Brunswick County Schools. The school system also incorporates the "Say No" approach into the health education curriculum for several grades, among other prevention education approaches now in use.

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VFW Installs New Officers

Officers of Calabash Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7288 were installed June 5 at the new VFW building at Trader's Village. Standing from the left are George Hricz, one-year trustee; Jack Thomas, three-year trustee; Howard Muth, chaplain; Pat Patterson, advocate; Dick Guarino, service officer; Jerry

McMahon, adjutant; and Bob Botts, two-year trustee. Seated from the left are Tom Balinger, quartermaster; Ed Rice Jr., vice commander; Eddie Cook, commander; Bob Gross, senior vice commander; and Barry tiger, surgeon.

PHOTO BY GEORGE HRICZ

Godwin Sentenced To 30 Years For Shallotte Armed Robbery

A Columbus County man who was the subject of two manhunts in March admitted to robbing a Shallotte supermarket and was sentenced to 30 years in prison last week in Brunswick County Superior Court.

Dewayne Edward Godwin, 25, of Lake Waccamaw, pleaded guilty June 6 to robbery with a dangerous weapon and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office. As part of a plea arrangement, a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill inflicting serious injury was dismissed.

Judge I. Beverly Lake Jr. sentenced Godwin to a 20-year prison term on the robbery charge and a consecutive 10-year term on the assault count. He was given credit for 81 days served while awaiting trial.

The defendant was facing a possible maximum prison sentence of 50 years and a mandatory minimum sentence of 14 years on the two charges.

The convictions stem from a March 10 armed robbery at Wilson's Supermarket on U.S. 17 in Shallotte. Godwin robbed the store of more than \$20,000 after holding about 15 customers and store employees at gunpoint. All but about \$30 of the stolen money was recovered by lawmen.

During the robbery, Godwin struck a female store clerk over the head over a .44-cal. Magnum revolver. The woman was treated at The Brunswick Hospital and released. Two customers also were slightly injured, with one of them requiring hospital treatment.

According to police, Godwin ran from the store to the Shallotte Middle School parking lot, where two other suspects were waiting in a car. The vehicle was stopped by a N.C. Highway Patrol trooper on N.C. 211. Anthony D. Corbett, 20, and Gregory Dudley, 19, both of Lake Waccamaw, were arrested at the scene.

However, Godwin fled and was apprehended four days later near his Lake Waccamaw home. On March 19, Godwin escaped the Brunswick County Jail and was recaptured after a three-day manhunt, again in Lake Waccamaw. He was then transferred to Central Prison in Raleigh for safekeeping.

All three men were indicted by a Brunswick County grand jury on March 21 in connection with the Wilson's robbery. According to the clerk of court's office, Corbett and Dudley are still awaiting trial on armed robbery charges.

SERIES 8 OF 12

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By George Tate, Jr., M.D.

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