

Shaw Asks Leland Area To Form Police Force

BY TERRY POPE

Three towns in northern Brunswick County may be working together by the end of summer to help combat a high crime rate in the Leland area.

Brunswick County Commissioner Donald Shaw met with leaders from Leland, Navassa and Belville Monday night to ask that the three towns work together to form a police force that would patrol the towns.

"I've put the pressure on the mayors," Shaw said. "The county has really done all that it can."

Shaw's proposal asks that the three adjacent towns and the Leland Sanitary District Board work together by chipping in to pay for a Belville-Leland-Navassa police force.

"Together, they could have a fine one," Shaw said, "one that can cover some area."



SHAW

Leland Mayor Russell Baldwin told Shaw Monday that Leland plans to start its own police force in July, after the town annexes an area known as the "Old Leland" community along Village Road in June, a move that would help boost the town's tax base.

Shaw said the town of Leland will be asking the county for two used sheriff's patrol vehicles to help get the police department started. Commissioners have promised the town that it could have one car.

"I would have to talk to some of the other commissioners about that second car," Shaw said.

An increase in break-ins to area businesses prompted members of the Leland Small Business Association to address county commissioners last week to ask for increased police protection. About 25 to 30 residents and business owners met at the Leland Sanitary District board office Monday with Shaw and Sheriff John Carr Davis.

Sheriff deputies now respond to calls in the area as part of their routine patrols. To contract off-duty

deputies to work as a town's police force would cost about \$75 to \$100 per hour for each officer, Shaw said. That money would be reimbursed to the county.

At a Leland Town Council meeting last Thursday, Kay Todd, who addressed the county commissioners earlier in the week, asked council members to address the crime wave in the area.

Leland's plan to annex the "Old Leland" area without first expanding the town's existing services has angered some residents there.

Immediately following the council meeting last Thursday, a petition was organized by residents and business owners in the proposed annexation area.

"We have a fire department, a rescue squad and a sanitary district which serves us and also serves you," the petition states. "You have no services to offer the proposed annexation area and it would be to your advantage to establish services to your own citizens before you try to enlarge a town that you have no services for now."

The petition states that Leland should spend its time establishing basic services "instead of trying to be the largest town with no services."

"We deserve the right to choose to live in a town with no services to offer. We choose the county. Please let us be your neighbor and not your enemy," it concludes.

Shaw said the mayors of Navassa and Belville, Bobby Brown and Ken Messer, have told him that those two towns have funds available to support a unified police force.

Unity is what Shaw is hoping the three towns can achieve.

"There's still a hatchet there," Shaw said. "I still see a little coldness."

Before it organizes a police force in July, the town of Leland plans to launch a police study to determine how to combat crime in the area and what times officers are needed the most.

Calabash Appoints Committee To Explain New Zoning Rules

BY DOUG RUTTER

Faced with complaints and questions about a proposed book of zoning rules, Calabash Commissioners have set up a committee that will speak with landowners who are worried about how the new laws might affect them.

Town officials set up the committee to address the specific concerns of people who live in the different neighborhoods around Calabash that would be affected if the new zoning regulations are adopted.

As proposed by Commissioner Jon Sanborn, the committee will include one member each from the finance, community service and planning committees and the code enforcement officer.

Sanborn suggested the committee at the town meeting Tuesday night, saying there are a lot of people in the Calabash area who don't realize how the new ordinances might affect them.

If the committee works hard, Sanborn said the people can be informed by the end of the month, when a recessed public hearing on the proposed zoning rules will be reconvened and wrapped up.

The town board conducted a public hearing on the new zoning regulations Jan. 30. But the hearing was recessed until Feb. 28 after several people said they didn't have enough time to review the new code.

The new zoning rules have been drafted and refined over the period of a year. They cover everything from zoning districts and signs regulations to dumpsters and tree preservation.

Instead of waiting for the second part of the public hearing, several Calabash area residents voiced their concerns at the board meeting Tuesday. About 25 people packed the tiny commission chamber room.

Jody Nance of Calabash was one of several people who raised a ques-

tion about the proposed ordinances.

Nance lives along Ivey High Road, which would be zoned commercial under the new zoning regulations. Nance said if the house burned down, the ordinance would prevent him from building it back.

Without sewer service, he said the lot the house sits on is too small to develop for commercial purposes. He asked that the ordinance be changed so people could improve their homes or build them back if they have nowhere else to go.

The owner of a convenience store in town questioned the proposed rules on off-street parking, which he said would put a lot of people out of business if they're strictly enforced.

Code Enforcement Officer Ed Schaack said the town will work with owners of existing businesses if they can't comply with the rules. He said there are several places in town that will have trouble meeting the off-street parking requirements.

Kemp Causey, who is developing the Village at Calabash, submitted a pair of requests Tuesday night for the board's consideration.

He asked that proposed setback regulations in the zoning ordinance be relaxed so he can develop the 524-lot subdivision as it was approved by the Brunswick County Planning Board.

Causey said the setbacks proposed in the town zoning code are more strict than the setbacks in the deed restrictions. If the town enforces the setbacks as proposed, he said it will hurt the developer and more than 100 people who have already purchased lots.

Causey also requested that part of the property that is proposed for residential zoning be zoned commercial. He said the property has always been intended for commercial use.

Right To Rule?

Calabash officials spent a good

portion of their meeting defending what they say is a statutory right to have jurisdiction in the extraterritorial area (ETA), which extends about one mile beyond the town limits.

William Earl Benton, who lives and runs a business in the ETA, accused the town of illegally enforcing ordinances and collecting fines and permit fees in the ETA.

He said the town didn't follow the proper steps to get jurisdiction over the area and didn't take the right steps in appointing ETA representatives to the planning and zoning board.

However, Town Attorney Mike Ramos said state statute gives towns the right to enforce zoning regulations in the ETA.

Although the law says county commissioners appoint representatives from the ETA, Ramos said the town commission has always made those appointments in the past and the county has approved them without question.

Benton also complained about the town sign ordinance. He was forced to remove two off-premises signs that were in violation, and he said his business has dropped off 50 percent. "Your ordinance is breaking us up,"

Commissioner Keith Hardee told Benton he's not allowed to have an illegal sign promoting his business either. "What's good for the goose is good for the gander," he said.

Other Business

In other business Tuesday, commissioners:

- Rejected an offer to sell a portion of Putter Place in Carolina Shores that was dedicated to the town but has not been opened for use as a street. The vote followed a 50-minute executive session. Sanborn said the offer was inadequate. It's the only bid the town has received on the property so far.

- Agreed to seek informal bids from contractors interested in installing drain pipe and two catch basins along Persimmon Road adjacent to the town hall. The town has received permission from the N.C. Department of Transportation to put the drain pipe in the street right of way.

- Voted to give \$100 to the Calabash Merchants Association, which has scheduled its first meeting Feb. 28. Organizer Rich Johnson asked for the money to pay for a newsletter outlining the town's goals. Commissioner Stu Thorn said the newsletter will be distributed to businessmen in town.

- Discussed the new trash collection program in place at the Persimmon Road dump site. Commissioners said they were pleased with the way employees have kept the dump area clean. Employee Don Shaw said there have been about 10 complaints about the limited hours the dump is open—three mornings during the week. Town officials may change the hours later.

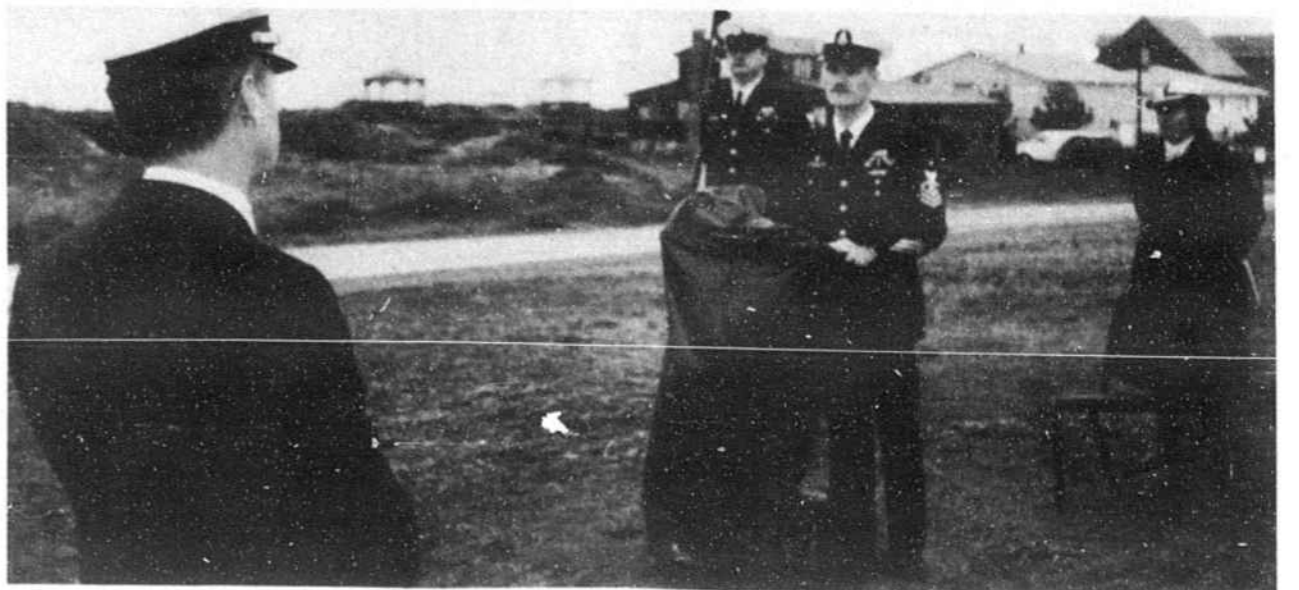
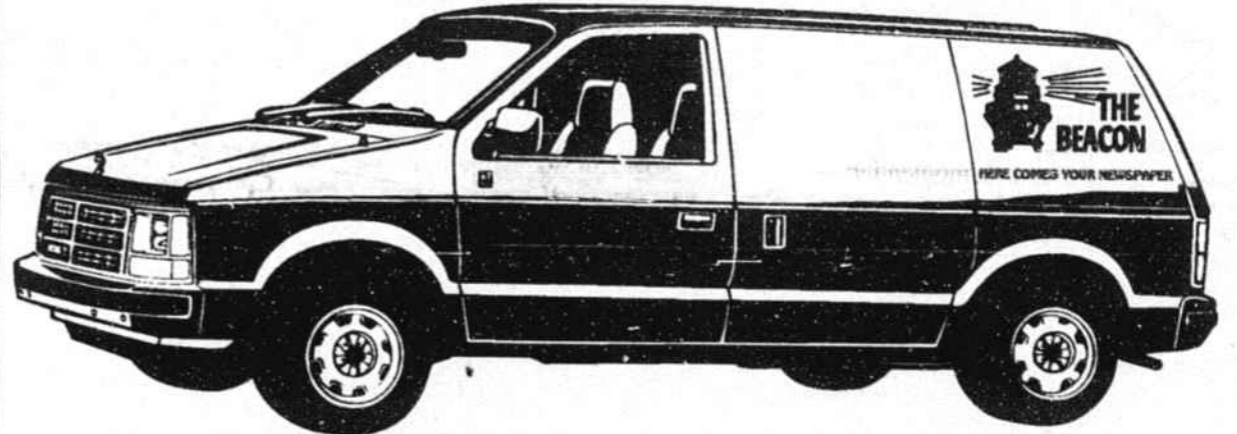


PHOTO BY BILL GRANCSAY

Coast Guard Breaks Ground

The U. S. Coast Guard broke ground recently for a new Oak Island Station that should be completed in February 1991. It will replace the existing station, built in 1932. Above, an unidentified guardsman (foreground) listens attentively to program participants (from left) Dale Putnam, executive officer, Oak Island Station; J.D. Arndt, commanding officer, Oak Island Station; and Cynthia Coogan, group commander, U.S. Coast Guard Station, Fort Macon.

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Symphony Society Receives \$500

The Brunswick County Chapter of the N.C. Symphony Society has received \$500 from the Brunswick Arts Council. Arts Council President Stephanna Tewey (left) presented the check to Symphony Society President Polly Fish at the recent symphony season kickoff at Brunswick Community College. The donations will help pay for the symphony's two concerts this year at Caswell Beach. For more information, call Mrs. Fish at 457-9864 or Gelene Russ at 754-6237.

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