

Holden Beach To Tear Down Section Of Pavilion Bulkhead

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials plan to remove part of a large bulkhead that helps protect an oceanfront business and two streets from the encroaching sea.

Commissioners voted 4-1 Monday night to tear down the two wooden "wings" that are part of the concrete seawall at Surfside Pavilion near the east end of the island.

Property alongside and behind the bulkhead has been eroding since early spring, forcing the town to close the southern ends of Holden Street and Ferry Road and beach walkways near those streets.

Town officials have blamed the erosion on the bulkhead, which sticks out into the ocean past the natural dune line.

Last month, the town erected a chain link fence around the eroded area to keep people from falling and injuring themselves. There is a steep drop-off from the streets to the strand below.

Holden Beach officials said at Monday night's town meeting that the wooden wings, which are located on town property, have deteriorated and become potentially dangerous.

Commissioner Judy Bryan said the pilings are cracked and should be removed for safety reasons. "They're cracking. They are dangerous. They could go into splinters."

Brothers Alan and Lyn Holden, who own the pavilion property, said earlier this year that they had paid

about \$60,000 for the cement bulkhead. The town contributed \$8,000 to help pay for the section that protects the streets.

Commissioner Gay Atkins cast the only vote against removing the wooden structures, saying she didn't want to vote on it without knowing whether the town could be held liable for further erosion damage.

"I just hope we don't all get sued," Ms. Atkins said. Prior to the vote, Town attorney Kenneth Campbell told the board there is always a chance of being sued.

However, he said the town board could order removal of the wooden structures if they are causing the erosion of town property and private property.

"At some point, you've got to decide where you want to allow nature to be at fault, so to speak," Campbell said.

Town officials voiced different opinions about what will happen once the wooden sections of the bulkhead are removed.

Commissioner Bob Buck said he doesn't think the erosion will be any worse without the wooden bulkheads.

But Mayor John Tandy believes water will swirl around behind the cement seawall and erode the Holden property.

Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Barrett voted in favor of the plan, but said during the discussion that she wanted to meet with the Holden brothers and a Federal

Emergency Management Agency representative before doing anything.

Other Business

In other business Monday, commissioners:

■Adopted resolutions directing the paving of Salisbury and Shrimp streets. The town board has not yet received bids for the paving work or awarded a contract.

■Decided not to require a defects guarantee for Yacht Watch subdivision, which is being developed by Waterway Development Corp. In the past, the town board has not required defects guarantees, which are documents guaranteeing for a period of time streets and utilities that are dedicated to the town.

■Set a public hearing on the 1991-92 budget for Monday, June 17, at 7 p.m. in town hall. The budget features no change in the 18-cent tax rate but does include an increase in the water rate.

■Took formal action on items that were tentatively approved during a board workshop last month. The board voted to spend up to \$4,500 for "Keep Off The Dune" signs, \$2,650 to replace and relocate a heat pump and \$1,500 for two lights at the foot of the bridge. The board also voted to allow use of an all-terrain vehicle on the strand.

■Met in executive session for about 35 minutes to discuss a personnel matter. Mayor Tandy said no action was taken.

■Adopted a resolution opposing reductions in state revenues that are given annually to municipalities. To balance the state budget, legislators are considering cutting reimbursements to towns such as Holden Beach.

■Set a public hearing on the Holden Beach Land Use Plan Update for Monday, Aug. 5, at 7 p.m. in the town hall.

■Discussed at length the issue of canal dredging, but took no action. Town officials don't plan to do anything else on the matter until they learn from an engineer what work needs to be done and how much it will cost.

■Took no action on a proposal to amend the zoning ordinance and require bulkheads on all canal lots before they are developed. Commissioners have asked the town attorney to find out if the town can require owners of vacant canal lots to build bulkheads.

■Took no action on a request from Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad for more money. President Kevin Mulholland asked the town to increase its \$1,200 donation, pointing out that the town gives \$20,000 per year to the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department. Mulholland said the Town of Varnamtown, which is much smaller than Holden Beach, gives \$1,600 per year to the rescue squad.

■Received a town flag from Johnny Craig, president of the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association. The flag is blue with a pelican in the center. It will be flown outside town hall.

Town Runs By Committee In Absence Of Manager

Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy has appointed commissioners to serve on several committees while the town operates without a manager.

Diane Clark, who had served as interim town manager since January, worked her final day last Friday. She resigned due to illness in the family.

To keep the town running in the absence of a manager, Tandy has appointed the following committees:

Police: Judy Bryan and Bob Buck.
Utilities: Gloria Barrett and Mrs. Bryan.

Access, Roads and Buildings: Gay Atkins and Buck.

Finance: Kenner Amos and Buck.
Sanitation and Recycling: Ms. Atkins and Mrs. Bryan.

Personnel: Amos and Mrs. Barrett.

At their regular meeting Monday night, commissioners voted to give Mrs. Clark a pay raise from \$17,000 to \$22,000 retroactive to when she started working as interim manager.

Commissioner Bob Buck said Mrs. Clark would receive a lump sum of \$1,500 for past work and \$12 per hour for assisting the town with ongoing projects as needed.

Buck said Mrs. Clark was expected to "hold the fort" as interim manager, but went beyond that and helped the town board solve more serious management problems. He said the \$17,000 salary was not adequate compensation for the work she did.

Meanwhile, the search for a new town manager continues. Commissioners have waded through approximately 100 applications and have interviewed several top candidates over the last two weeks.

Mayor Tandy said commissioners interviewed one of the applicants for a second time Saturday. The North Carolina resident is the only applicant for the post that has been interviewed twice so far.

Tandy said he hopes the town will have a new manager on the job in two or three months.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bolivia Bears Multiply

The number of "bears" at Bolivia Elementary School multiplied recently through the efforts of volunteers. Fourteen new wood-crafted and handpainted teddy bears, the school mascot, now decorate the school's media center. Parents picked out bear designs and enlarged them on heavy paper, then Tom Ragsdale cut the large bears out of wood. His wife, Bonnie Ragsdale (left above) and Sandy Sullivan (right above) painted the bears with acrylics and then Ragsdale hung them. Media Coordinator Pat Ellis invites parents to come by and see them.

DA WON'T PROSECUTE CASE

Democrats File Late Reports

BY DOUG RUTTER

District Attorney Rex Gore said he will not prosecute the Brunswick County Democratic Party Executive Committee for filing financial reports several months late.

Two financial statements covering the last eight months of 1990 and \$200 in penalties were received at the N.C. Board of Elections office Monday, said Yvonne Southerland, supervisor of the campaign reporting office.

One of the reports was due Oct. 29, 1990; the other, Jan. 25. The party executive committee was fined \$100 for each late report.

Glen Peterson, who was chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic Party in 1990, said he mailed the financial reports May 28.

Peterson said the statements were late partly because he had to account for a lot of donations to the party's building fund. "It was difficult to pull together, especially when you're working by yourself."

He said earlier that party officials had inadvertently neglected to file on time two of the three reports due for 1990. "It was just a matter of having too much to do and not enough time to do it," Peterson had said.

In April, the state elections office asked the local district attorney to prosecute the executive committee for its failure to file the reports as required by state law.

North Carolina statute says the district attorney shall begin prosecuting within 45 days of receiving notice from the board of elections. The two reports had not been filed when the 45 days ran out May 23.

However, Gore said Monday he will not prosecute the case because the party executive committee has complied with the requirement. "It just doesn't make economic sense or any other kind of sense to prosecute," he said.

The state's Campaign Reporting Act does not require the district attorney to prosecute since the party is in compliance, Ms. Southerland said.

While he said the matter of late filing is not "frivolous," Gore said his office and the court system have more important things to handle.

"We don't need something like this taking up court time," he said. "The intent of the legislation has been met."

Gore also said there is a question about exactly who could have been prosecuted. "Apparently they've never had to do this so they don't know."

Although filing financial reports usually is handled by the treasurer, Gore said the party chairman is ulti-

mately responsible for getting it done.

Ms. Southerland said the two reports for the period April 22, 1990, through Dec. 31, 1990, showed expenses totaling \$61,996 and contributions of \$19,363.

The party executive committee took out a \$26,100 loan which was paid off before the end of the year. The committee also took out a \$50,000 loan.

State law requires political parties, political action committees and some candidates to file financial disclosure statements every year with the Board of Elections.

Political parties must file three reports in even-numbered years when county, state and federal officials are elected.

The Brunswick County Democratic Party was one of 21 political parties, committees or candidates that failed to file reports for 1990 and were reported to local district attorneys.

Ordinance Adopted To Bans Adult Clubs

If the idea of opening an adult entertainment club at Holden Beach has ever crossed your mind, forget it.

Town officials, who take pride in the island community's "family atmosphere" adopted an ordinance Monday night that bans such clubs.

"We probably don't need this ordinance right now, but it's probably something to have on the books," Mayor John Tandy said Monday.

Town commissioners unanimously adopted the ordinance Monday night without the open discussion typical of the board.

The ordinance prohibits the operation of adult clubs, which are defined as "establishments used for any type presentation depicting, exhibiting or describing specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas" for observation by patrons.

Specified sexual activities are defined as the "depiction or exhibition of human genitals, acts of human masturbation, sexual intercourse, sodomy, masochism, sadism or sadomasochism, and fondling, exhibition of erotic touching of human

genitals, pubic region, buttock or female breast."

The ordinance defines specified anatomical areas as "less than completely and opaquely covered human genitals, pubic region, buttock and female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola, and, human male genitals in a discernibly turgid state even if completely and opaquely covered."

Tandy introduced the ordinance at Monday's town meeting by reading the definition of an adult club. "It goes on," Tandy said. "It is not a nice thing to read."

The mayor said he didn't want to embarrass anyone by reading the rest of the ordinance. Tandy said it would be posted on the bulletin board in town hall for anybody who wanted to read it.

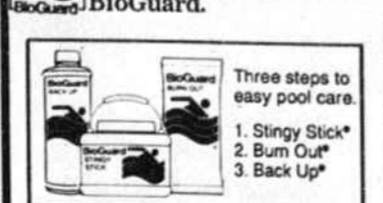
Sid Swarts, acting chairman of the planning and zoning board, said he hopes the town will never need the ordinance.

He added, "It would be a terrible thing if we needed it and didn't have it on the books."

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Commissioners At Holden Beach Appoint Boards

Holden Beach Commissioners reappointed the town's entire board of elections Monday, but made several changes on the planning and zoning board and board of adjustment.

Elizabeth Dameron, Mabel Dutton and Norma Swarts will continue on the elections board, which will handle the election this November of five town commissioners and the mayor.

Commissioners reappointed Perrian Padgett as a regular member of the planning board for another three years.

Roger Williams, who had been serving as an alternate on the planning board, also was appointed as a regular member. He received three votes and two other nominees received one vote each.

Williams takes the seat previously held by Sid Swarts, who was not eligible for reappointment because he had served two consecutive terms.

The town board appointed Johnny Craig as an alternate and reappointed Harold Steorts as an alternate. Alternates can vote when regular members are absent.

On the board of adjustment, Allan Dameron was reappointed for a second three-year term as a regular member, and Crawford Hart was reappointed as an alternate.

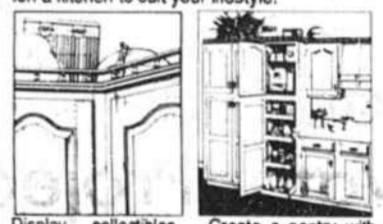
Alfred Bell lost his seat as a regu-

lar board member to Louise Greene. Commissioners Bob Buck, Judy Bryan and Gloria Barrett voted for Mrs. Greene, and Kenner Amos and Gay Atkins voted for Bell.

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WHAT: South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100 Organizational Dinner Meeting
WHERE: Sea Trail-Jones-Byrd Clubhouse
WHEN: Thursday, June 20
Existing members, potential members and anyone interested in learning more about the South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100 and its investment and commitment to our community should attend this meeting. Bring your questions and your enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing you. Call Angela (919)754-6644 or Lisa Strickland (919)754-4391 for further details.