



### Board Breaks Ground

Calabash ABC Board broke ground last Tuesday for a new self-service ABC store to be built by Graka Builders Inc. of Whiteville at a cost of about \$178,000. From the left above are Jack Scarborough and Jay Houston of Houston & Associates, designers of the project; Mayor Doug Simmons; Commissioner Phyllis Manning; Assistant ABC Store Manager Kathy Tucker; ABC board chairman Sheryl Hardee and ABC board member David Arthur. Not pictured are ABC Store Manager Roy Wrenn and ABC board member Suzy Moore.

PHOTO BY SUZY MOORE

## HALF MILLION BUDGETED FOR SEWER EXPANSION

# Ocean Isle Sticking With 17-Cent Tax Rate

BY DOUG RUTTER

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners haven't proposed any change in the tax rate in next year's budget, which includes funds for sewer system expansion and land acquisition at the airport.

The proposed budget includes \$500,000 for sewer system expansion and \$30,000 for engineering fees.

Town officials recently hired Boney and Associates of Raleigh to design expansion of the system, which commissioners want to extend to serve the east end of the island.

The town board also has included \$175,000 in the budget to buy land at the east end of the airport. Commissioners expect half of the money to come from a state grant.

Based on a tax rate of 17 cents per \$100 of property and a tax valuation of \$305 million, town officials expect to collect \$514,446 in taxes next year.

Other sources of revenue in the general fund include \$56,000 in ABC store revenue and rent, \$50,000 from the accommodations tax fund and \$46,000 in building permits and fees.

General fund expenses included in the proposed budget are \$226,287 for the police department, \$96,690 for administration, \$84,169 for streets and \$83,342 for sanitation.

Transfers from the general fund include \$225,000 to the sewer fund, \$74,100 to the airport fund and \$50,000 to the water capital project fund.

## Board Wants Road Resurfaced

Ocean Isle Beach officials want the state to resurface First Street, which has become bumpy under the weight of heavy trucks and damaged by utility line cuts.

Commissioners adopted a resolution Tuesday asking the N.C. Department of Transportation to put a fresh layer of asphalt on the street that runs parallel to the ocean.

"It's in very bad need of resurfacing," said Mayor Betty Williamson. Copies of the request will be sent to the DOT's district engineer and N.C. Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson.

"I'm sure it will probably be a year or so before funds are available but at least we can put our name down," Mrs. Williamson said.

Ocean Isle Beach Streets Commissioner Odell Williamson pointed out that the state DOT recently resurfaced main roads at Holden Beach and Long Beach.

"We've just got to make sure we get our turn at bat," Williamson said. "I have noticed that the squeaking axle tends to get the grease."

Ocean Isle Beach officials expect \$357,700 in accommodations tax revenue next year, which includes \$32,700 carried over from this year.

Commissioners have proposed using \$88,200 of the accommodations tax money for the sanitation contract, \$50,000 for an erosion control fund, \$50,000 for police and administration and \$30,500 for tourism promotion.

In the \$416,332 water fund, town officials expect to spend \$140,606 to purchase water from the county and \$110,853 for operations.

Commissioner met in executive session for nearly an hour at their meeting Tuesday to discuss employee salaries recommended in a position classification and pay plan done by the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

Mayor Betty Williamson said the proposed 1991-92 budget includes salary increases of about 5 percent. The town board might adopt the pay plan later this month.

A public hearing on the proposed budget has been set for Tuesday, June 25, at 8:45 a.m. in the town hall.

### Other Business

In other business Tuesday, commissioners:

■ Heard from Mayor Williamson that a public hearing on the land use plan update is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, at 9 a.m. in the town hall.

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# House Money Package Before State Senate

Budget and finance issues continue to dominate discussion in both houses of the state's General Assembly.

Rep. E. David Redwine, in his weekly report, said the House passed a revenue package Friday that totals \$698.7 million for the 1991-92 fiscal year and \$756.8 million for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

In addition, the House has recommended \$507 million in cuts, the largest in state history.

The bill is now in the Senate, where members will incorporate their version and return the bill to the House for concurrence.

A conference committee representing both houses will debate and iron out questions relating to items handled differently in the two versions and begin negotiating the final 1991-92 budget.

The house revenue package was added on to H.B. 83, the House Appropriations Committee budget pack.

Redwine said its measures include:

■ A half-cent sales tax expected to generate \$225 million;

■ Local option half-percent sales tax, with local reimbursements covered, expected to generate \$237.8 million;

■ An increase from 1 percent (an \$80 cap) to 2 percent (a \$160 cap) in sales taxes on farm and manufacturing machinery, expected to generate \$29.5 million;

■ An increase from 7 percent to 8 percent in the corporate income tax rate, generating \$80 million;

■ Adoption of a "throwback" rule that would affect multistate corporations and generate about \$12 million;

■ Adoption of an 8 percent individual income tax bracket for net taxable income exceeding \$100,000 for married couples filing jointly; \$60,000 for a single; \$80,000, head of household; and \$50,000 for married couples filing separately, with anticipated revenues of \$68 million;

■ An increase from 2 cents per pack to 7 cents per pack in the cigarette excise tax and an excise tax on other tobacco products, to produce revenues of \$32.3 million;

■ Also, an increase from 2 percent to 3 percent (keeping \$1,500 cap) in the sales tax rate on boats, aircraft, railway cars and locomotives, for \$2 million;

■ Changes in administration of the soft drink tax, for revenues of \$500,000.

■ Repeal of the sales tax exemption on purchases by the N.C. Department of Transportation, for new General Fund income of \$8.7 million.

■ To offset the losses in the transportation budget, the package proposes fee increases that would result in a \$600,000 annual gain, as follows: motor vehicle record fee from \$4 to \$5; learner's permit, special identification card or duplicate driver's license, from \$5 to \$10; permit for oversize or overweight vehicle, \$5 to \$10 and \$25 to \$50; license fees for motor vehicle dealers, manufacturers and sales representatives that range from \$5 to \$75, to \$10 to \$100; penalty for late title applications, from \$5 to \$10; and impose \$10 penalty on late title work submitted by a dealer.

Redwine can be reached in Raleigh at 919-733-5787 or at Room 632, Legislative Office Building, Raleigh, N.C. 27603-5925.

## Calabash EMS Elects Officers

Kathy Morfit will serve as president of Calabash Volunteer EMS for the 1991-92 year.

She was among officers elected at the unit's annual meeting on June 4.

Other officers are Sharon Benton, vice president; Grace Ratigan, treasurer; Maryn Hall, secretary; Joan McMahon and Jeannie Cameron, two-year board members; Dick Guarino, one-year board member; and Jay Morman and Alan Howarth, continuing board members.

Mark Christy has been elected chief of the squad.

For the year ending May 31, the squad responded to 515 calls; worked 1,890 man-hours and traveled 21,749 miles while providing around-the-clock service, a news release indicated.

A highlight of the year's accomplishments is purchase of a new ambulance, to be delivered at the end of June.

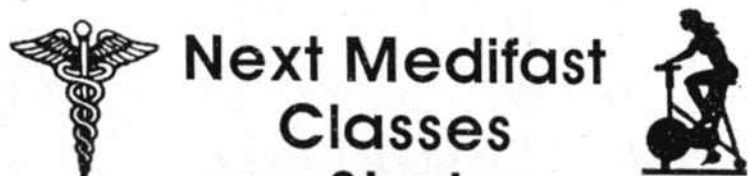
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