

Six Local Bills Filed By Redwine Don't Include Incorporation Bids

BY SUSAN USHER

Rep. David Redwine County has submitted six local bills in the N.C. House of Representatives, but none relating to incorporation of the Seaside and Sunset Harbor communities.

While pro-incorporation groups in both small, waterfront communities had done "a good job" in preparing their requests over the past year, Redwine didn't honor those requests. "They'll be getting letters from me this coming week," he said.

In addition to a general rethinking of his position on additional incorporations, Redwine said he didn't see the kind of public support for incorporation in either community to spur him to introduce bills. Brunswick County leads the state's 100 counties in number of municipalities, with 18.

In the Seaside area between Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach, Redwine said he talked to residents and local business people. "There really wasn't a large amount of support for it."

While he has always required that incorporation bills include a local referendum for adoption, Redwine said that in this case, "you can gauge public opinion pretty well in a small area like that."

Most petitioners opposed to incorporation were from Laketree Shores and Tarheel Acres areas, which made up a large portion of the area proposed for incorporation.

Redwine said there had been no meetings related to incorporation of Sunset Harbor this year. "I was unsure whether there was still enough support at this point for me to go forward with it."

"I decided just to hold that and let the people down there continue to work on it until the short session in 1994. If there is sufficient interest, I could introduce it then."

"If there are good reasons for incorporating an area and it will be a good thing, it will be just as good a thing a year from now as it is now," he said, "and in the meantime they will have more time to work on what they want their community to be."

Citing an "explosion of areas wanting to incorporate" in recent years, he said, "I think it is time for us to stop and take a look at where we're headed, perhaps we've been moving too fast."

"I use Calabash and Carolina Shores as an example," he said, referring to division in the community now over whether to continue as a town. "Involvement in debate over that community's future has taken a lot of time and energy."

"You just can't have a town on every corner," he said. "I know that won't be a popular stance to take."

When dealing with any future requests to introduce incorporation bills, Redwine said he is considering relying more on the House Incorporation Commission to review the requests objectively and decide if becoming a town is in a community's best interest.

"I'm not in a position to gauge whether a community can be viable town," he said.

Not all of Brunswick County's legislative delegation agrees. Rep. Thomas Wright of Wilmington has introduced a bill for incorporation of Northwest community. It would be Brunswick County's 19th town, village or city.

Local bills Redwine has submitted are as follows:
 ■H.B. 420, which changes the name of the Resources Development Commission of Brunswick County to Brunswick Economic Development Commission. It has passed the House and passed a Senate committee, said Redwine. "It's on its way."
 ■H.B. 700, which limits building height on the island at Sunset Beach to 35 feet, and provides for the height to be changed only by a referendum.

■H.B. 492, which creates a Boiling Spring Lakes bird sanctuary. It has passed the House and is in the Senate.
 ■H.B. 493, which allows Southport to create a no-wake zone between Marker 1-A and Marker 2-A of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.

Two additional bills were filed late. One would prohibit discharging from a gun or hunting from a floating device on Town Creek during deer season. The other provides for Columbus County to establish a no-wake zone on the Waccamaw River from S.R. 1940 to the Richard Boone property, in Columbus County. This is

south of the state boat ramp at Pireway.
 "There is no development on the Brunswick County side of the river, but on the Columbus County side there are some homes," said Redwine.
 In addition to the six bills filed in advance of a local bill deadline last week, Redwine has recently introduced several bills of statewide interest.

Tuesday, he introduced House Bill 920, which would cut the unemployment insurance tax paid by North Carolina businesses by 30 percent. The measure, introduced simultaneously in the Senate, is expected to save businesses approximately \$171 million, which Redwine predicted "could be a great economic stimulus." Previewed at a joint press conference Tuesday, the bill is expected to have clear sailing through the General Assembly.

Should the federal fund from which unemployment benefits are paid, currently valued at a comfortable \$1.37 billion, drop to \$800 million, the tax will go back into effect.

Redwine has also introduced a health care reform package and plans to introduce a bill that would expand the pilot beaver management program begun this year in Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen and Sampson counties at a cost of \$50,000 to the state. Redwine expects to ask for \$100,000 next year, and to include at least two more southeastern North Carolina states, Robeson and Pender. More counties, and more money, may be added as the bill progresses through the legislature.

"This program has worked so well, it has been such a success," said Redwine, "there is a tremendous amount of interest in expanding it to additional counties."

"I think it is time for us to stop and take a look at where we're headed..."

—Rep. David Redwine

NRC'S DECISION DUE SOON

CP&L Anticipates No Major Block To April 26 Restart Of Nuclear Plant

BY SUSAN USHER

Preliminary findings by a team of federal inspectors indicate Carolina Power & Light Co. may be in position to restart its Brunswick Nuclear Plant near Southport a year after both its units were shut down for repairs.

"We don't anticipate any of the items still to be resolved to be major," said CP&L spokesman Wayne Ennis. "We're expecting to start up on or around April 26."

A nine-member team from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Division of Nuclear Reactor Regulation met with company officials Friday at the conclusion of a two-week study of the readiness of the plant and its personnel.

Ken Clark, spokesman for the NRC's Region II office in Atlanta, said the team, made up of NRC personnel all from outside Region II, determined that CP&L is "pretty much on target," but that there are several things that "need fixing" before restart is allowed to begin.

Otherwise, "Koltay said that based upon the team's preliminary findings the plant appears to be ready to resume operations."

Monday, April 19, at 1 p.m. at the plant CP&L officials will meet with NRC Regional Administrator

Stewart D. Ebnetter and his senior staff, after which Ebnetter will decide whether the NRC concurs with restart. Prior to that meeting, CP&L plans to brief news media on the company's restart procedure.

The NRC inspection team identified several communications-related problems. During an emergency shutdown drill that required operators to leave the control room and shut down operations from other locations throughout the plant, a voice-powered telephone communication system did not work as planned. Operators had to resort to backup pagers.

Koltay also pointed out the need to standardize instructions for use of equipment and to assure that appropriate managers know when work is being performed.

Ennis said that it will take several weeks to bring Unit 2 up to full power once restart begins; Unit 1 will be restarted a little later in the summer.

CP&L shut down the Brunswick Plant April 21, 1991, after on-site inspectors discovered that because of fake or missing wall bolts, the emergency diesel generator building did not meet NRC standards for earthquake resistance.

A report issued by the NRC in

May after a six-week, in-depth inspection of the plant detailed a lengthy series of discrepancies and deficiencies at the plant and blamed top management's lack of leadership for their not being corrected. In June the plant was placed on the NRC's "watch list" of the country's worst-run nuclear power plants.

Since then CP&L has replaced and restructured the Brunswick Plant management team, restructured its nuclear division, completed a lengthy backlog of needed maintenance and repairs and some upgrades at the plant, and developed a five-year plan to improve the plant's operation and performance.

In August, the North Carolina Utilities Commission will hear a request from Carolina Power & Light for an increase in its fuel costs adjustment.

Meanwhile, the commission's public staff is researching the request to determine what portion, if any, of shutdown-related costs are appropriate to pass on to customers.

"Each day the plant doesn't run

means they have to buy additional power," said the staff's executive director, Robert Gruber. "They should only recover reasonable fuel costs."

If the plant is out of service for normal refueling or routine maintenance, associated fuel costs are considered reasonable, he said. "But if the plant is down because of management, it shouldn't be allowed to recover those costs."

The staff's findings and testimony are due to the Commission in late July.

Correction

Due to an error in transcription, it was incorrectly reported in the *Beacon's* April 1 Superior Court account that Stanley Randall Faulk, 42, of Little Lane, Calabash, had pleaded guilty to possessing 7.5 ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Faulk pleaded guilty to misdemeanor possession of less than a half-ounce of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Volunteers Sought For Insurance Program

People who have questions about Medicare insurance benefits can get up-to-date information as Senior Citizen Health Insurance (SHIP) volunteers, according to Pearl Stanley, Brunswick County home economics extension agent.

The SHIP program is scheduled for Tuesdays, May 4, 11, 18 and 25, and June 1 and 8, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Cooperative Extension Service Center of the Brunswick County Government Center.

SHIP trains senior citizens and

other volunteers about medical protection available to those 65 and over. SHIP volunteers are trained by a representative of the N.C. Department of Insurance to help retired people with their insurance problems.

Stanley emphasized that no selling or soliciting of insurance is involved.

Those interested in volunteering should call the extension office at 253-4425 to register.



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