

Board Bans Smoking In Public Areas Of County Buildings

BY ERIC CARLSON

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners agreed in a split vote Monday to ban smoking in all waiting areas, hallways, restrooms, employee lounges and other public areas within county-owned buildings.

In a vote taken without discussion, Commissioners Don Warren, Tom Rabon and Jerry Jones approved the second reading of a smoking policy for all government buildings. For the second time, Commissioner Donald Shaw voted against the smoking ban.

International "no smoking" signs will be posted in every public building regulated by the ordinance. County employees who violate the ordinance will be subject to disciplinary proceedings, with repeated violation leading to dismissal. Visitors to county buildings may be issued a citation and fined up to \$50 for violating the smoking ban.

The policy leaves it up to county department heads to establish their own rules regarding smoking in private offices. Regulation of smoking within county vehicles was deleted from the policy before adoption.

The law cites "reliable studies" that have determined that tobacco smoke "is a major contributor to indoor air pollution and have shown

that breathing sidestream or second-hand smoke is a significant health hazard to nonsmokers."

It states that the county commissioners also recognize the increasing evidence that smoke "is a cause of annoyance and physical discomfort to those who are in confined spaces where smoke is present."

As adopted, the policy is a modified version of one recently approved by the Brunswick County Board of Health. That ordinance would have banned smoking in every enclosed space within county buildings and vehicles.

The health board also approved and passed on to the commissioners a proposal to regulate smoking within all businesses and restaurants in the county. That ordinance was returned to the board of health without action.

Asked about his opposition to the non-smoking policy, Shaw said it was a "personal" decision. He said neither he nor anyone in his family is a cigarette smoker.

"I just didn't feel right about forcing this on people. I think smokers should have some rights, too," Shaw said in an interview Tuesday.

"It's not against the law to smoke," he said. "I believe they

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The no-smoking ban was scheduled to become effective May 3. Signs notifying the public of the new restrictions will be installed immediately.

In other business at Monday's meeting, the board:

■Voted unanimously in support of a motion prohibiting the county manager from creating any new job positions without formal authorization

from the commissioners. Asked if his vote indicated disapproval of Interim Manager John Harvey's recent move to create a position and hire a recently fired employee to fill it, Chairman Warren replied, "I would think it would. It was his decision to do that, not mine."

■Heard a request for "guidance" from Resources Development Commission Director Tom Monks regarding a proposal to locate a state correctional facility in Brunswick County.

Monks estimated that a prison

could create 100 to 350 new jobs with a capital investment of \$5 million to \$30 million. Due to the amount of suitable land and public services required for such a facility, there would be only a "limited number of appropriate sites," such as the Leland and Navassa areas, he said.

■Scheduled a June 7 public hearing on a proposed amendment to the county subdivision ordinance. The new regulation would allow developers to begin selling lots in a subdivision before all roads, curbing, drainage and other required improvements are in place. To assure that all improvements are eventually completed, the amendment requires a developer either to post a bond or to complete all improvements in one phase of a subdivision before selling lots in the next one.

■Heard a report from Harvey stating that if all requests for county funding are approved, the 1993-94 budget would require a property tax increase of 31 cents per \$100 valuation. The interim manager said he plans to cut the proposed budget significantly be-

fore passing it on to the commissioners at their May 17 meeting. Warren said he wants to "target the budget at 68 cents," which is the current tax rate.

■Approved the selection of the engineering firm McKim and Creed for design and construction of waterline improvements within Special Assessment District (SAD) 19. This latest SAD will provide water service to residents in areas around Calabash and Leland and in the Sea Village subdivision.

■Adopted a resolution requesting that the state "cease creating any additional mandated administrative or fiscal burdens for county governments unless these legislatures appropriate funds sufficient to pay the direct costs for these mandated expenditures. "In other words," said Warren, "if you're going to mandate a program, you need to send a check with it."

■Agreed to hold public interviews of the five candidates for county manager Monday, May 17, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. (See related story, Page 1-A).

Board Agenda Includes Only Routine County Road Items

Several routine funding actions relating to Brunswick County roadways are on the agenda when the North Carolina Board of Transportation meets Friday in Raleigh at the Transportation Building.

Items on the agenda for funding approval or increased funding are as follows:

- Widen and regrade Northwest Road (S.R. 1419), \$40,000;
- Grade, drain, base and pave Green Bay Road (S.R. 1317), increase funds by \$36,083;
- Widen Ocean Drive (S.R. 1104) in Long Beach from Yaupon Beach town limits 1.25 miles west, an additional \$30,000;

■Grade, drain, base and pave Green Hill Road (S.R. 1410), increase funds by \$27,755;

■Under the old subdivision rules, add National Avenue, Paddington Avenue and Lexington Avenue in Parkwood Estates, and Pam Street to the state road system for maintenance.

Also of note, an 8-page list of proposed revisions to the 1993-199 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) on the agenda includes no additions or deletions of Brunswick County projects, including a planned interchange at the intersection of N.C. 130 West and the U.S. 17 bypass of Shallotte.

Couple Injured In May 1 Wreck

Two persons were injured Saturday, May 1, in a one-vehicle accident on N.C. 133.

Transported to Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport with serious, but not incapacitating, injuries were Francis Lee Killian, 63, of Long Beach, and passenger Jackie Killian, 60, also of Long Beach.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. Killian was traveling north on N.C. 133 about 7.8 miles south of Leland in a 1988 Ford truck.

According to the report filed by

Trooper B.L. Wilkes, the right wheels of the trailer dropped off the shoulder causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. The truck went off the left side of the road and rolled over.

No charges were filed. Damage to the truck was an estimated \$1,000.

Details of another one-vehicle accident that occurred Sunday in Supply were not available, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

HOW'S THE LOCKWOOD FOLLY RIVER?

Government Agencies Report Tuesday On Efforts To Improve Water Quality

BY SUSAN USHER

How is the river and what's being done for it?

Those are the questions state, federal and local agencies will attempt to answer next week at a status meeting on water quality in the Lockwood's Folly River Basin.

The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 11, in the Lockwood Folly Community Building on Stanbury Road in Supply.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers will report on recent dredging activity in the river and inlet, and various state agencies will report on the status of water quality in the 138-square-mile basin that includes Bolivia, Supply and Varnantown.

John Harvey, interim Brunswick County manager, has been asked to discuss the possible impact of the county's new zoning ordinance, and the status of current efforts by several towns to develop a regional wastewater treatment system and regional stormwater management plan.

The county's zoning ordinance, which was to go into effect July 1, includes a special "overlay" district in the basin area that allows greater control of land use in the area below Genoe's Point. These include a one-acre minimum lot size for land that is not already subdivided, and a provision that not more than 30 percent of the lot can be covered by "impermeable surfaces" including structures and pavement.

However, Harvey said Tuesday he has advised county commissioners that the earliest the zoning ordinance can be implemented will be Oct. 1, since a zoning officer has not been hired and a board of adjustments has not been appointed or trained.

Studies of the Lockwood Folly River began in earnest in 1988 when area residents, organizing themselves as the now defunct Save Our Shellfish (SOS), became concerned about the permanent closing of more local waters to shellfishing, evidence of a continuing decline in water

quality in the river. At stake is an area of extremely productive shellfish beds made unmarketable because of high fecal coliform bacteria levels caused by human and animal waste.

Initial study of the river resulted in a report issued in June 1989 that failed to pinpoint a single cause of pollution, but made a series of recommendations for managing the river basin to improve water quality and restoring shellfishing levels.

"In order to reverse the closure trend of these shellfish beds, county and state agencies and citizens of the basin must make a firm commitment to share in the responsibilities of developing, financing and implementing remedial actions and future plans," the study noted. "Only with this magnitude of cooperation and coordination can this problem be alleviated."

The study recommended, among other things, establishment of a committee to develop an overall management plan for the basin in order to reduce pollution from sources such as stormwater runoff, failing septic tanks and other discharges into the river and its tributaries.

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