

# Latest County Budget Plan: Tipping Fees Out, Water Hikes In

**BY ERIC CARLSON**  
The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has tentatively trashed a proposal to impose fees for dumping garbage in the county landfill. Instead it plans to increase its flow of revenue with a 10-cent hike in wholesale water rates.

Also under consideration are personnel reductions in two county departments and a total of \$827,000 in spending cuts from the budget proposed by Interim County Manager John Harvey earlier this month. So far, the planned reductions would reduce the proposed 6.75-cent tax increase by about two cents.

No changes in Harvey's budget have been formally adopted by a vote of the

board.

At the latest of four workshops on the proposed 1993-94 budget Tuesday night, the three board members present expressed agreement with the idea of increasing the wholesale cost of county water to \$1.35 per 1,000 gallons.

If the rate hike is included in the adopted budget, the proposal would increase a typical household's county water bill from the current rate of \$8.50 per month to \$10, although municipal rates might see different adjustments as determined by their local town boards.

The proposed water rate increase is predicted to generate an estimated \$4.8 million in additional revenue.

*Another budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, at 7 p.m. at the complex.*

Commissioners Don Warren, Tom Rabon and Jerry Jones also tentatively agreed Tuesday that one position each should be cut from the county sign shop and the cafeteria as a reduction in force.

Under the county personnel policy, an employee's seniority and job performance will be considered along with departmental needs before a position reduction is designated. The last employees hired in the departments were Donald Reavis in the sign shop and Sandra Dennis in the cafeteria.

One week after Harvey's budget proposal was announced, Warren called it "unacceptable" and the board went to work creating its own spending plan.

Among the changes suggested, but not voted on, are the retention of the Brunswick County Library Board, the Resource Development Commission and the Parks and Recreation Department, which were all slated for elimination under Harvey's bud-

get proposal.

The board has also tentatively agreed to continue funding for nearly all of the agencies that were recommended to be cut from the budget including county fire district allocations, the Hope Harbor Home domestic violence shelter, the Southport Maritime Museum, the Volunteer Information Center and the Brunswick County Literacy Council.

County Finance Officer Lithia Hahn was asked Tuesday to prepare a summary of the changes made in Harvey's proposal for consideration at the board's next regular meeting next Monday, June 7. Another budget workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 10, at 7 p.m.

# Hearing On Food Managers' Certification Proposal Set June 16

**BY LYNN CARLSON**  
The Brunswick County Board of Health has rescheduled to June 16 a public hearing on proposed regulations to require all food-handling establishments to have a trained and certified food service manager on duty during operating hours.

The hearing will be held at 7 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building of the county complex in Bolivia. It was originally set for June 9, the same evening as all the county high schools' graduation exercises.

The proposed regulations, drafted by a committee of restaurateurs and health officials, were revised after about 80 people voiced opposition

to a more stringent plan at a public hearing in January.

The revised proposal, presented to the health board by Environmental Health Supervisor Andrew Robinson last week, would require the owners or operators of food service establishments to:

- designate a food service manager who holds a valid certificate. Food service manager certificates would have to be posted in establishments, and the managers would be required to carry identification cards while on duty;
- make sure that designated food service managers become certified within 12 months of the regulations'

enactment, or within three months of a manager's date of employment, whichever is longer;

- maintain a list of employees designated as food service manager with proof of dates of employment;

The certificates would expire every three years.

The health department's Environmental Health Section would be required to develop and administer a six-hour food service manager course to teach proper food-handling techniques and hygiene. To be certified, managers would have to pass a final examination with a grade of at least 70 percent.

A manager's certificate could be

revoked if the establishment's sanitation score falls below 80 percent in two of three consecutive grading periods. Establishments receiving two consecutive provisional classifications would have their food service managers' certificates revoked also.

Recertifications would have to be obtained within the next three consecutive courses. There would be a \$500 fine for managers or owners who fail to comply.

The plan also sets forth a process of appeal to the board of health.

Robinson told the health board last week the revised plan is being "well-received by the restaurant owners" since the committee revised

them to make them "more palatable." Public interest in food safety has heightened since the deaths of several restaurant patrons who consumed tainted meat at Jack-in-the-Box restaurants out West several months ago, he added.

Robinson proposes that food service manager courses be offered monthly, beginning in September or

October, and take place from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., or 3 p.m. until 9 p.m., with breaks for lunch and dinner.

He said he would like to limit classes to 30 or 35 people. A food service managers' manual would be prepared, and the examination would include 70 to 75 multiple choice and true/false questions, he added.

The sheriff's department was asked to look into the matter after the district attorney's office received a call from Wetzel's attorney, Robert Dundas, also of Kent, who outlined the alleged misdeeds and indicated his client's willingness to prosecute the case.

The two were released from custody on a written promise to appear in court.

## Two Charged With Embezzling From Englishman's Corporation

A Carolina Beach man and his son were arrested last week after an English businessman notified Brunswick County authorities that the two had allegedly embezzled property from a defunct business he owned in Leland, police said Monday.

Robert Alexander Williams, 62, and William Alexander Williams, 29, of Wilmington each have been charged with two counts of embezzlement, according to Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Charles Miller.

The Williams' had been officers in the THK Corporation, a cleaning supply dealership owned by Peter Wetzel of Kent, England, Miller said.

After the venture failed and was shut down, Wetzel discovered that the two men had allegedly kept the company's \$1,800 facsimile machine and listed their personal automobiles on the company's insurance, according to Miller.

# Personnel Policies On School Board Agenda

**(Continued From Page 1-A)**  
changes with the understanding that "what you do to one person you do to everyone else. You treat everybody alike. You don't sit on one or two particular people when everybody else is in the same boat."

"It sounds to me like something personal between the school board and Joe Butler to me."

Among other things, he had expected reassignment of North Brunswick High School Principal Robert Harris, one of four principals appointed on an interim basis last year.

Board member Polly Russ said the board had been looking at several alternatives from the beginning, but that the plan presented and approved May 10 "was the superintendent's with input from the board members."

"We could have gone full-force and done fruit basket transfers, but I don't think it would have done any good," she said. "If you make change you have to have a plan for it and you have to have the people in place. And you have to realize you don't just affect one position or one school when you make a change."

"We looked at a whole lot of options, but I think it was good we did this," she continued. "I think it is a good start to getting things squared away in Brunswick County."

"The changes that have been made (at North Brunswick High) this year are very positive—we're hearing that from faculty, students and parents," said Russ. "But at Lincoln Primary that wasn't the case."

Johnston and the board decided to

allow principals assigned on an interim or temporary basis last year an opportunity to put their schools' new plans into effect this coming year, and to make use of new evaluation techniques and test results that will be available next spring for the first time under the performance-based accountability plans. He said he had not had an opportunity this year to observe principals as closely as needed.

At the board's May 19 meeting, Lincoln PTA President Lee Harrison asked the board to support Superintendent Johnston's reorganization plan, saying that changes have to be made in Brunswick County and citing concerns about Lincoln's low test scores.

"This isn't racial, this isn't anything personal against Joe Butler. It is a question of supporting efforts to improve the school system," said Harrison. "Something's got to change."

Butler, who is tenured, has been at Lincoln Primary since 1985.

Johnston said Tuesday that he has received a "great deal of input" regarding Butler's transfer and has been reflecting on the transfer decision.

"I'm still convinced Joe can pro-

vide tremendous assistance to the system by bringing him into the central office, but I also understand that what the board was hearing was to give him an opportunity to work with his staff and carry out their plan."

"I'm going to give them my reflections, but the final decision depends on the board. It's in their control."

## Shalotte Board Has No Quorum

Shalotte Aldermen postponed their meeting Tuesday night because there weren't enough board members for a quorum.

Mayor Sarah Tripp and board members Roney Cheers and David Gause were the only ones present.

Absent were Wilton Harrelson, Paul Wayne Reeves and Morris Hall.

The board will meet Monday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m. Items on the agenda will include discussion of the proposed 1993-94 budget and a report on improvements at the town's sewer plant.

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