



LOCAL MAYORS and consultants speak with Rep. Dewey Hill following Monday's "town meeting" in Shallotte. Pictured (from left) are Calabash Mayor Douglas Simmons, Holden Beach Mayor Wally Ausley, Rep. Hill, Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber, and Joseph Tombro and James Billups, consulting engineers. Rep. David Redwine, Hill and Sen. R.C. Soles discussed a variety of topics with about 25 citizens attending.

FIRST 'TOWN MEETING' IN SHALLOTTE

Citizens, Legislators Discuss The Issues

BY LYNN CARLSON

Health care and penal system reform, gun control, the proposed statewide lottery and the need for a regional stormwater management system were on the minds of citizens attending Monday morning's "town meeting" forum hosted by state Reps. David Redwine and Dewey Hill and Sen. R.C. Soles in the Shallotte Town Hall.

About 25 people attended the first in a series of Brunswick County meetings which fulfill a campaign promise to "let us hear your concerns and suggestions, and bring government from Raleigh closer to the people," according to Redwine.

Three such meetings have been held in Columbus County, and one in Robeson County. Two more are planned this month in Brunswick County—June 18 at the courthouse in Southport and June 25 at the Leland Town Hall, both at 7 p.m.

Local governments were heavily represented, with the mayors of Shallotte, Holden Beach, Sunset Beach and Calabash attending, and the chairman and one member of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners. Several Brunswick County school system representatives were on hand, along with a physician and other health care professionals.

Health Care

In response to a question from Dr. Charles Locke, representing the Brunswick County Medical Society, Redwine said the most serious problems of the state's medical system are access to care, cost containment and how governments would fund a program of universal health care coverage. He predicted that the legislature will make no major health care system changes during this session, but will be working toward a long-range prevention-based reform plan to be implemented "over 20 years, with no immediate cost savings but (savings) over a period of time."

Any changes the state were to make this year would likely be supplanted by federal health care reforms yet to be unveiled, he added.

Help For Towns

The mayors of Calabash, Sunset Beach and Holden Beach, along with their sewer system consultants, asked for financial help in designing a unique regional wastewater/stormwater management system to serve Brunswick County from the state line to the Cape Fear River.

Redwine has introduced legislation into the House capital budget bill to allocate \$500,000 for planning the proposed system, but added that he is not optimistic about its chances.

"That's a tremendous amount of money for just one part of the state," Redwine said. The consultants say they hope the state will fund the request because such a system would serve as a demonstration project for controlling water pollution all along the North Carolina coast.

Redwine agreed to arrange a meeting between members of Gov. Jim Hunt's staff and representatives

of Brunswick County government and the eight towns which have asked the governor's help in funding the study.

Lottery

Peggy Jaynes of Supply spoke in favor of a referendum on establishing a statewide lottery. Redwine is a major supporter and sponsor of the lottery proposal, which passed a second reading in the state Senate Tuesday but is languishing in the House.

Morris Hall, a Shallotte alderman, added that he believes lottery proceeds should go only toward education, and not into the state's general fund.

Crime And Punishment

Jaynes also said she believes the state should limit citizens' access to guns and asked why a bill recently failed which would have mandated a waiting period for handgun purchases.

"Because it would only get to the good guys," Redwine replied. "It only hurts the good people who are not going to abuse the privilege of gun ownership, not the bad guys who are going to go out and buy guns on the black market no matter what the law is."

Robert Thorsen of Southport said he is "mad as hell about this drug business," saying law enforcement

officers are often disgusted to find that "before the ink is dry on the indictments (against drug dealers), they're out on the street doing it again."

Thorsen, a former teacher, said he favors "boot camps and hard work, not TV and tennis courts. By golly, get mean with them."

Soles said prisons must conform to federal standards "or the feds will take over the system and run it and make you pay for it."

Soles said the state's prison construction program is going forward, and that a bill has been introduced which would allow new prisons to be built by inmates.

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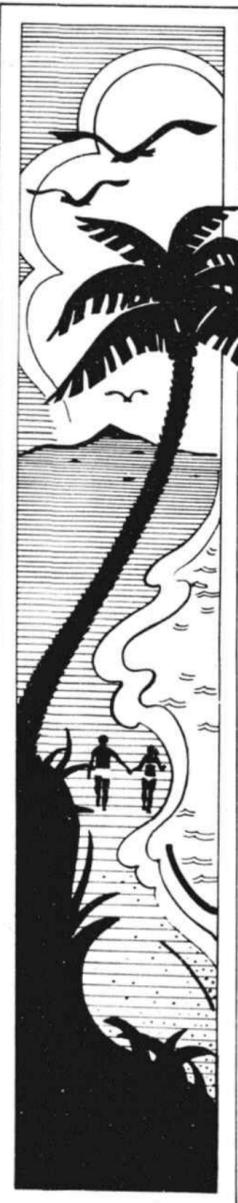
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Shrine Fish Fry Friday

The Brunswick County Shrine Club will hold its annual fish fry on Friday, June 11, from 11 a.m. until sold out.

Plates will cost \$4 each, and proceeds will benefit Shriners' hospitals for crippled and burned children.

Fish will be served from seven sites throughout the county—in Bolivia, Long Beach, Shallotte, Holden Beach, Seaside, Southport and Leland.