

Quarry Opponents Intensify Efforts; Zoning Plan Suspended

(Continued From Page 1-A)

"In my opinion, due to the steps they have already taken, any regulatory change (by the county) would not be valid as to Martin Marietta," Ramos said. "If you were to change the zoning from heavy manufacturing to anything else, it would not be valid as to them."

"The county has very little to say about it anyway," Ramos said. "Environmental and mining regulations are state-mandated and state-maintained."

Besides pursuing a modification of their existing permit, Martin Marietta on Friday applied for a new state mining permit for the entire 1,000-acre tract it owns near the intersection of N.C. 133 and N.C. 87. A public hearing on that request will be held in Bolivia on Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

In an interview shortly after the meeting with Martin Marietta Monday afternoon, Chairman Warren said the company had revealed "their ace in the hole," a previously unknown factor that would make it very difficult for the county to prohibit the mining operation without risking court action.

"I never understood why they bought all that land," Warren said. "Normally, you wouldn't purchase a thousand acres of land for something like that without having all your permits in hand. You would get an option and close after you got your permits."

"I never understood why they didn't do that," Warren said. "Now I do."

Brunswick county's new zoning law went into effect Monday morn-



MINING OPPONENTS turned out in force at Monday's Brunswick County Board of Commissioners meeting to protest Martin Marietta Aggregates' planned limestone mine near Southport. Among the more than 250 protesters were (front row, from left) Southport lawyer John Snyder, former Boiling Spring Lakes mayor Arthur Greene and Susan Osborne, president of the Brunswick County Anti-Mining Alliance.

ing. It designates a large area for east of N.C. 133 between Sunny Point and the Brunswick Nuclear Plant as a heavy manufacturing zone where mining is permitted. Martin Marietta's property is located within

that zone.

Under the zoning ordinance, Martin Marietta would be required to "assure the absence of adverse impacts beyond the zoning district boundary," including loud noises,

noxious odors, pollution and excessive vibrations. The law also requires that a vegetative buffer be left around the mine site.

"Because there was no zoning until today, the only thing they needed

was a building permit and a septic tank permit," Ramos said in his earlier remarks.

The mining alliance has made a formal request to the Brunswick County Planning Board, asking it to remove mining and other permitted uses if it finds objectionable from the H-M district. A public hearing on that proposal will be held Nov. 17.

Still, some speakers at Monday's meeting demanded that the commissioners halt enforcement of the zoning ordinance.

After adjourning to a 30-minute closed session "to discuss an attorney-client situation," the board resumed its public meeting to consider two resolutions concerning Martin Marietta.

Commissioner Wayland Vereen of Long Beach, who opposes the mine, offered a resolution to postpone enforcement of the zoning law because it "appears to disregard the health, safety and welfare and the quality of life of the citizens."

Vereen's proposal also asked that until the zoning law is modified, Brunswick County "shall accept no applications for nor issue permits in connection with, land use."

Ramos cautioned that such a proposal might be illegal because a board of commissioners cannot resolve that a statute not be enforced.

"You would be stopping anyone from getting a permit to build in Brunswick County," he said.

Vereen found himself the sole supporter of his resolution, which was voted down 4-to-1. Then Ramos was asked to read a second resolution that also called for a delay

in the implementation of zoning.

The resolution states that "the Brunswick County Commissioners is opposed to the mining operation of Martin Marietta and to the issuance of applicable state and federal permits by them."

Commissioners Warren, Rabon and Donald Shaw voted in favor of the measure, which was opposed by Vereen and Jerry Jones.

After the meeting, Susan Osborne, president of the Anti-Mining Alliance, called the vote "a minor victory," but said she had not read the text of the resolution.

Tuesday afternoon, the group issued an "urgent notice" alerting supporters that "we have not achieved what we set out to do." It notes that suspension of zoning means that "anything goes" for Martin Marietta's plan.

"What the commissioners did was a dodge," said Alliance Vice President Robert Quinn. "They led our people to believe they were supporting the opposition to mining without putting any teeth in it. They tried to appease them by putting a pacifier in their mouths. On the other hand (the commissioners) were undercutting their efforts and causing the opposite results."

Quinn also said that the county does have the right to prohibit Martin Marietta from mining in Brunswick County. He said fears of legal action are unwarranted.

"The courts have ruled that a zoning change that prohibits a use of property is not a taking of that property as long as other uses can be made," he said. "Anyone who says otherwise is just throwing smoke grenades."

Shallotte Auditor Commends Board

BY DOUG RUTTER

As far as Mike Chandler is concerned, Shallotte officials have come a long way in terms of managing the town's money wisely.

When the local firm of Brock, Padgett & Chandler took over the annual audit a few years ago, Chandler had three pages of recommendations for the board of aldermen.

Chandler had just one page of suggestions for the town board Tuesday night, when he presented the financial report for the 1992-93 fiscal year.

"You all have done a fine job," he said. "Three years ago you didn't have anything. The board should be commended for actions taken years ago that have allowed you to make a little bit of money without having to work for it."

Chandler said there's still room for improvement, particularly in the area of property tax collection.

Shallotte collected 93.5 percent of its taxes last year, which represents a 1.5-percent improvement over the 1991-92 fiscal year. The town received \$323,967 in taxes, leaving \$22,683 uncollected.

In a related matter Tuesday night,

the town board postponed a decision on whether to continue using Southern National Bank or switching the accounts to United Carolina Bank.

Both banks have submitted proposals to the town, but aldermen said they want more specific information on service charges so they can determine which bank will give the town the most for its money.

"I think the bottom line is what's this going to cost the town each month?" Alderman David Gause said.

Other Business

In other business, aldermen:

■ Took no action following a 5-minute executive session requested by Town Attorney Mark Lewis to discuss a pending lawsuit.

■ Voted to apply for a credit card

Calabash MOTEL



"Open Year Round"

Rooms & Efficiency Apartments • Heart of Seafood Capital

(919)579-6576

RATES: Single \$20; Double \$25; Efficiency \$32

HEALTH DEPARTMENT INSPECTION 98.5

Cable TV, coffee and phone in rooms.

1115 River Road, Calabash, NC 28467 (1 Block Below Stoplight)

Say 'I Saw It In The Beacon!'

The
12th Annual

Dickens Christmas Show

FOUR BIG DAYS

Thursday, November 11 - 1:00-9:00

Friday, November 12 - 9:00-9:00

Saturday, November 13 - 9:00-9:00

Sunday, November 14 - 1:00-6:00

Myrtle Beach Convention Center



Travel back in time...to 19th Century London...Stroll down avenues laden with magnificent Victorian decorations.

View hundreds of Artists...Craftsmen and Vendors of fine Gifts...all decked in period attire...offering jewelry...wreaths...smoked turkeys...carved fowl...handmade gifts...antiques...laces...rocking horses...children's toys...and much, much more.

See the Festival of Trees...

offering multitude of elegantly decorated trees.

Visit the Festival of Worlds...

experience foreign customs and partake of their many culinary specialties.

See the Festival of Wreaths...

featuring an array of beautifully decorated wreaths.

Santa's Station...

your direct connection with the North Pole.

"Truly an enchanting show with something for everyone"

5 TIME RECIPIENT OF SOUTHEAST TOURISM SOCIETY AWARD AS ONE OF THE TOP TWENTY EVENTS IN THE SOUTHEAST

Admission \$5.50 Adults • \$2.00 Children

Multiple Day Pass \$8.00 (Prices include Tax)

Advance Tickets Available at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center

Another Leisure Time Unlimited, Inc. Production

**When you leave
the Brunswick shores,
take the Beacon with you!**

**Orthopaedic
Urgent Care**

John A. Azzato, M.D.
Walter F. Weis, M.D.
Jimmy R. Whaley, R.N. F.N.P.
Monday thru Friday
by appointment
Treatment of Neck & Low Back Pain
(919)457-4789
902 N. Howe St. • Southport, NC

**SOUTH BRUNSWICK
MEDICAL GROUP**
Gary D. Ross, M.D. (Internal Medicine)
Samuel W. Kirtley, M.D. (Family Practice)
For Complete Outpatient Medical Care
Routine Health Maintenance
Adult Medical Concerns/Pediatrics
Women's Concerns
(Pap Smears/Contraception)
Laboratory & X-Ray Facilities
For Complete Minor Emergency Care

Express CARE

Located off Hwy. 17 at Union School Road
Open Mon.-Fri., 9 A.M. to 6 P.M., Sat. 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.
579-9955 or 579-0800