



STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON

Beefing Up The Poultry Fund

Three organizations came to the aid of the Brunswick County Volunteer and Information Center this holiday season when VIC needed more funds for its turkey and baking hen gift certificates program for poor families. Representing the contributors (from left) were Glenn Johnson, Johnson Golf Carts Inc.; Mary Locklear and Bill Robinson, Brunswick Island Board of Realtors; and Bill Bright, Brunswick Island Home Builders Association. Each contributing organization gave \$450 to help VIC with the poultry fund in the last week before Christmas, and pledged to participate in future years. Accepting (right) is Pete Barnette, executive director of VIC.

OIB Completes Sewer Expansion, Saves Taxpayers Money On Bonds

BY LYNN CARLSON

Highlighting the municipal year at Ocean Isle Beach were completion of a sewer extension on the island's east end and the refunding of \$3 million in water and sewer bonds.

The bond refunding—or refinancing to take advantage of current low interest rates—was expected to save Ocean Isle Beach taxpayers about \$370,000 over the life of the bonds.

The town's fiscal year 1994 budget, effective July 1, totaled \$3.05 million, holding the tax rate at 20 cents per \$100 property valuation.

Ocean Isle Beach commissioners were the first Brunswick County board to endorse a resolution to route the proposed new Interstate 73 highway through Brunswick County. The suggestion was brought to the commissioners by Odell Williamson, the town's streets and utilities commissioner and former mayor who was appointed this year by Gov. Jim Hunt to the powerful N.C. Board of Transportation.

The plan, later endorsed by Holden Beach and Sunset Beach governments, was approved at the state level in December and characterized by Williamson as "a done deal."

Throughout the year, the town commissioners and planning board worked with consultant Roger Briggs toward an update of the Ocean Isle Beach subdivision ordinance. At year end, the document still was undergoing last-minute revisions and had not been adopted by the boards.

Among changes the board worked on in 1993 was a relaxation of the town's 36-foot residential building height limit. Though the change had not been formalized by the year's end, the commissioners and planning

board were working toward regulations which would permit every new home built to have two finished living floors with eight-foot ceilings, with a 40-foot maximum height and adequate roof pitch.

A change is needed to allow all property owners to maximize their investment at Ocean Isle while still meeting federal home elevation standards and municipal height limits, Planning Board Chairman DeCarol Williamson argued.

From the first meeting of January to the last meeting in December, the commissioners dealt with proposals and proposed changes to three new subdivisions under development by Ocean Isle Partners.

The ocean-to-sound Crouse, Ross and Summerplace developments brought about a town-mandated public parking lot—an ocean-front lot later moved to two 25-foot-wide street-side strips between Shelby Street and Duneside Drive. In December, the partners received a special use permit from the board of adjustments to construct a private swimming pool for subdivision residents adjacent to the parking lot.

Relations between the partners and the town board were frequently strained, with the partners charging that they were being singled out for arbitrary requirements, and town officials countering that the partners continually made changes to their original plans.

Two Stay, One Goes
Mayor Betty Williamson ran unopposed for a second term in the November election.

Mayor pro tem Bill Benton kept his seat on the board, but Commissioner Terry Barbee was defeated by newcomer Ken Proctor, a planning board member who amassed the largest number of votes in the election.

Shalotte Sewer System May Expand On Leased Timberland

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shalotte would get the land it needs to expand its sewer system and a paper company would get the water it needs to grow big trees under a deal that could be worked out early next year.

Finley Boney of Raleigh, consulting engineer for the town's sewer system, said Federal Paper Board Co. is interested in leasing property near the sewer plant that would allow the town to more than double its treatment capacity.

For a nominal lease fee, the town would be able to expand its spray irrigation system on the timberland and increase its treatment capacity to handle future development.

By allowing the town to use the property for spray irrigation, Federal Paper would have steady irrigation for its pine trees, which it would continue to harvest to make paper.

"It's a win-win situation truly," Boney said in a telephone interview Tuesday. "They (Federal Paper) see the benefit of having these high, sandy hills irrigated. They can grow better pine trees."

Shalotte also would benefit financially. Boney said the deal could save the town about \$200,000—the going rate for 200 acres of sandy timberland. "It could be a significant savings for the town," he said.

Boney said he has identified a 200-acre tract of Federal Paper timberland northeast of town that would be ideal for the lease arrangement. Approximately 110 of the acres would be suitable for wastewater application.

The engineer said Shalotte needs about 75 acres of spray irrigation fields to increase its treatment capacity from 206,000 gallons per day to 500,000 gallons per day.

"We believe at this time we can work it out with the

paper company to lease adequate land," Boney said.

Boney said he could present his recommendations to the Shalotte Board of Aldermen as soon as next month.

"Hopefully in January we'll be putting this more together in a formal manner for their consideration," he said. "Everything looks very positive that they have enough good, sandy property out there to allow the town to expand their treatment facility as they want to."

The town currently receives an average of 130,000 to 150,000 gallons of wastewater per day.

Within the next few weeks, Boney said he will have estimates on how much it would cost the town to expand the wastewater treatment capacity to a half-million gallons per day.

It will be up to the town board to decide how to finance the expansion. "Financing would be the biggest holdup. Engineering would not be a holdup," Boney said.

Depending on how the expansion is financed, the town may have to hold a public referendum.

"One of the biggest reasons we need to enlarge is for future growth," Boney said. "There are things going on out there that we need to be prepared for."

Boney said the town may have to purchase some additional property from Carnegie Steel for a wastewater storage lagoon. However, the town already owns a few sites that may be suitable.

Carnegie Steel is not interested in a lease arrangement like Federal Paper, Boney said. "If we need a portion of the Carnegie Steel property that's OK. We can buy it."

Boney said he doesn't know of any other municipalities or counties that have worked out lease arrangements with paper companies for spray irrigation sewer systems.

"We might be breaking some new ground with this," he said.

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—Finley Boney, engineer

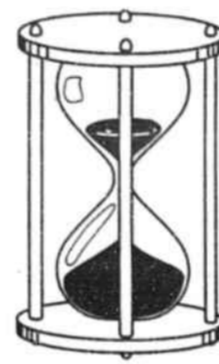


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