

Holden Beach Loses Another Inspector

Holden Beach Commissioner Dwight Carroll served more than nine years as the town's building inspector before he resigned last April because of a back injury.

In the nine months since Carroll's departure from the staff, Holden Beach has already been through two inspectors and is looking for a third.

Inspector Bill Goodman resigned suddenly last Tuesday after just five weeks on the job, said Town Manager Gus Ulrich. "Really all I can say on that is he resigned for personal reasons and that's it," Ulrich said. "It was not related at all to the performance of his duties. He was doing a very good job in my estimation."

Goodman, a former self-employed architect from Hickory, is the second Holden Beach inspector to resign recently after a short time on the job. Jim McSwain, who took over for Carroll last spring, resigned after six months to go into the construction business.

Ulrich said he hopes to hire a new inspector by the end of the month. He will consider some of the people who applied the last time the position was advertised. "It's an extremely important position," he said.

In the meantime, the Brunswick County Inspections Department will handle inspections at Holden Beach. "We're very grateful to have the help from the county, and I think we'll be able to handle the inspections with no problem," Ulrich said. "We may have some delays that we wouldn't normally have, but that shouldn't be a problem."

Town employee Kate White will coordinate permit activity at town hall.

Ulrich hired Patricia Bowman of Calabash last Thursday to fill a vacant, part-time position in the inspections department. She will ultimately work about 15 hours per week as the inspector's secretary.

While the town is without an inspector, Ulrich said Bowman will take over some of the finance duties previously handled by White.

Plans Announced To Step Up Checks On Wooden Boats

The Coast Guard says it will take steps to improve the safety of wooden-hulled boats which carry passengers, following the sinking of a fishing boat in Chesapeake Bay during a storm Dec. 5.

Transportation Secretary Federico Pena has announced actions to include:

■ Under way inspections of the hulls on older wooden vessels by the Coast Guard. "The inspections will help inspectors and owners identify problems not visible when a boat is in dry dock or stationary at a pier," according to a Coast Guard news release.

■ Guidance on the removal and inspection of hull fasteners. "More emphasis will be placed on this aspect of the inspection program to provide an additional safety measure and ensure that inspection techniques are consistent."

■ Refining record-keeping systems currently used to document hull repairs and fastener removals and replacement. "This will provide

inspectors with all available information for evaluating vessels."

■ Conducting additional inspections and record reviews. "Records of wooden-hulled boats throughout the country will be reviewed and additional inspections will be conducted to alert owners of problems which could go unnoticed until the next regularly scheduled Coast Guard inspection."

■ Reviewing local guidelines and developing national standards to ensure a consistent nationwide policy.

Owners of the affected type of boats will be notified if further problems are identified during the stepped-up inspections, Pena said.

Admiral J. William Kime, commandant of the Coast Guard, has issued a special safety directive to all Coast Guard inspection offices to announce the program.

The Coast Guard inspects more than 5,000 small-passenger vessels each year. Of these, about 1,400 are wooden-hulled and at least 1,000 are more than 15 years old, Pena said.

Educational Foundation Starting Three Projects To Boost County Schools

Members of the Brunswick County Educational Foundation's support committee are beginning to contact local businesses and individuals seeking money to underwrite its first three projects.

As one of its first three projects the BCF plans to sponsor a spring event to replace the Superintendent's Awards Dinner, which was cut from this year's budget because of funding shortfalls. "We're going to have a get-together to recognize outstanding teachers and students," said Bob Slockett, the foundation's executive director. "It probably won't be exactly the same as the superintendent's dinner, but it will be similar."

The foundation will also raise funds to award mini-grants for projects identified by school faculty members and administrators and to purchase specific materials to help

enhance the curriculum.

Mini-grant project proposals will be screened by a foundation committee on the basis of merit, possibly with assistance from the school systems.

Curriculum materials will be selected with the advice of school system administrators such as Dr. Jan Calhoun, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

At the foundation board's Jan. 4 meeting, Calhoun and Superintendent of Schools Ralph Johnston participated in committee meetings with the directors and Calhoun discussed some of the effort undertaken by public school foundations with which he has had experience.

The foundation will meet again 6 p.m. Feb. 7 at Supply Elementary School.

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Varnamtown Gets Started On Land Use Plan

BY DOUG RUTTER

Varnamtown residents will be asked what they like about their town and what can be done to improve it as town officials and a consultant develop the community's first land use plan.

The plan, which officials will use to guide future growth and development, is required by the N.C. Division of Coastal Management for coastal counties and towns.

The land use plan will include town policy statements on land use, environmental and economic development issues as well as a map showing existing land use in the town.

A state grant will cover \$4,480 of the total cost of \$5,040, leaving the town's share at \$560.

The planning committee, which is chaired by Alderman Ada McDonald, will work with consulting planner Howard Capps of Wilmington. The first meeting is scheduled Monday, Jan. 24, at 7 p.m.

Capps said he will review the land use planning process on the 24th. That meeting will be followed by several public participation sessions in which residents will be asked for their opinions.

Tentative meeting dates are Feb. 7, March 21, May 2, June 6 and Aug. 1. The plan should be completed by Sept. 30.

Capps said the plan, which must receive final approval from the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission, can be used as a reference if the town ever applies for state or federal grants.

Mayor Pro Tem Ennis Swain chaired Monday night's meeting in the absence of Mayor Judy Galloway, who was out of town on vacation. Alderman Tony Varnum also

was absent because he had to work.

Boat Ramp Coming

Varnam's Docks and Bulkheads is expected to begin working Feb. 1 on the community's new concrete boat ramp on Lockwood Folly River and finish the job by March 15.

Aldermen voted Monday night to sign the \$19,500 contract with the local firm as soon as the contract has been typed and the contractor secures a security bond.

Also Monday, the board accepted a parking plan recommended by the town planning committee. The town will lease a lot next to Garland's Seafood House that will provide 20 spaces for vehicles and boat trailers.

Improvements to the parking area, such as lights and a fence, will be discussed at the February meeting.

The town has received \$25,000 from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to build the public boat launch. Any money left over will be used to improve the parking area.

Not In Our Back Yard

Alderman John David Dawson and Swain planned to represent Varnamtown at a public hearing in Bolivia Tuesday night called to discuss the proposed site of a new county landfill.

Swain said Monday night that the top five sites under consideration by the Landfill Siting Study Committee are located in the Lockwood Folly River watershed.

"If there's runoff allowed it will end up passing our waterfront and our oyster area," Swain said.

"I think we should stand up and be counted. Too many of our people depend on this river," Swain added. "We want them to know we're not going to stand for any more coming our way."

Aldermen indicated they favor a

proposed landfill site near Leland, which has a sewer treatment plant nearby and is situated in an area that is not as environmentally sensitive.

"It might be a disadvantage to haul it further but I would rather have that than risk the environmental damage," McDonald said.

OSHA Requirements

Varnamtown will buy workman's compensation insurance and a new front door for town hall in order to comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards.

Aldermen voted to secure workman's compensation insurance through Risk Management Services at a cost of \$160 per year. It will cover all elected and appointed town officials.

Alderman Will Mumford reported Monday that A Touch of Glass of

Shalotte has been hired to install a new front door at town hall. It will cost \$578 and will be installed next week.

Appointments Approved

Before leaving on her Florida vacation, Mayor Galloway left a list of committee appointments for 1994, which were approved by the board of aldermen Monday night.

Finance committee: Ennis Swain, Will Mumford, Luellen Norris, Beverly Wooten and Chris Lancaster.

Planning committee: Ada McDonald, John David Dawson, Paul Vealey, James Mannara and Tracie Varnum.

Building and grounds committee: Will Mumford, Tony Varnum, Maurice Galloway, O'Neal Varnum and Edsel Norris.

Routine School Personnel Actions Approved By Board

The Brunswick County Board of Education adopted a list of routine personnel actions Monday night following a two-hour session behind closed doors discussing personnel, attorney-client and land acquisition matters.

The board approved these hirings: Tonya Hanc of Wilmington, interim math teacher, and William Ruff, Wilmington, math teacher, North Brunswick High; Sharon Elwood, Southport, Chapter 1 parent facilitator, Supply Elementary; Lucille Peters, Shallotte, office assistant, West Brunswick High; Sarah Lee, Supply, computer support specialist, Union Elementary; Cassandra Bryant and Patsy Hewett, Supply, interim teacher assistants, and Gladys Frink, Shallotte, teacher assistant, Union Elementary; Brenda Hickman, Calabash, physical therapist assistant, central office.

Resignations were accepted from Bill Hewett, coach and physical education teacher, South Brunswick High School (see related story in this issue); Lisa Brown, Wilmington, pre-school diagnostician, Supply Elementary; Kelli Furry, Leland, special education teacher, Lincoln Primary; Rita Sue Starnes, Long Beach, custodian, Southport Elementary.

Retirement was approved for Teddy Stone Sr. of Bolivia, longtime head custodian of Bolivia Elementary; Lloyd Fullwood of Supply, a Maintenance Department carpenter.

Employment was extended for interim teacher assistant Ella Clemmons at Lincoln Primary; and shortened as requested from 12-month to 10-month for Don Frink, a South Brunswick High custodian.

Five persons were approved as substitute teachers.

Steel Subcontractor Sues Hatcher For Non-Payment On Auditorium Work

BY SUSAN USHER

As the Odell Williamson Auditorium nears completion at Brunswick Community College more than a year behind schedule, another subcontractor has filed suit against the former general contractor for non-payment.

Hercules Steel Company Inc. of Fayetteville, the company that built the girders and provided other steel for the auditorium, claims Hatcher Construction Co. Inc., also of Fayetteville, has refused to pay \$55,555.85 plus interest at 18 percent owed for work completed as of last June.

Change orders issued during the term of the contract brought the total contract price to \$501,436.

Also named as a defendant in the suit, in the event Hatcher cannot pay, is Hartford Fire Insurance Co., the bonding company that insured the project.

Hercules is the latest in a series of subcontractors to sue Hatcher Construction Inc., which college trustees have declared in default on the project.

Hatcher was awarded the general contract in August 1991, with the auditorium to be completed by October 1992. Hatcher missed one deadline and received a two-month extension. No further extension were granted.

In late 1993, with work already a

year behind schedule, BCC Trustees hired Graka Builders Inc. of Whiteville and various other contractors to complete "punch list" items not handled by Hatcher, bring the sprinkler system over the stage into compliance with state insurance codes by installing additional sprinkler heads below the lighting grid, complete sedimentation and erosion control and other sitework, and lay a new water line from U.S. 17 Business to the auditorium to insure adequate water pressure for the fire suppression system.

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