

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners Set Workshops On Planning Board, Fees

Ocean Isle Beach Commissioners plan to spend next Tuesday morning, Feb. 15, in two work sessions, one with the town planning board. The two boards will meet jointly at 9 a.m. at the town hall to discuss several issues first brought to the town board's attention by new Commissioner Ken Proctor, a former member of the planning board, as well as any other issues of common concern.

Proctor has asked the town to consider expanding the planning board to include five members rather than three from within the town limits, and to address what he described as a perpetual attendance problem for the planning board. Any change in size or rules for the planning board would require a public hearing before adoption.

Before the joint session, town commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. to review fee schedules for town-provided utilities and building permits and to discuss the possible need to increase certain of the fees; compliance with OSHA requirements; and options for administering the town's soil sedimentation and control plan.

Work sessions are considered meetings of the board and are open to the public; however, the board cannot take any action during a work session.

In other business at their regular meeting

Tuesday morning the board:

■ accepted the resignation from the ABC Board of Norfolk Underwood, who has accepted Commissioner Ken Proctor's former seat on the town planning board, and appointed Betty Causey to complete his unexpired term.

■ allocated \$500 to the Friends of the Library toward keeping the West Brunswick Branch Library open in a temporary location during renovation.

■ took no action on a request from the Town of Yaupon Beach to take a stand opposing Martin Marietta's application for a state permit to mine a site between CP&L's Brunswick Nuclear Plant and the U.S. Army's Military Ocean Terminal-Sunny Point. Members said research would be needed before the town took any stance and that it appeared state and county officials were addressing the matter.

■ authorized lease agreements for the ABC Board, \$1,500 a month; old town hall from Odell and Virginia Williamson, \$200 month-to-month for town storage and vehicle parking; and the smaller parking area at the Ocean Isle Beach Airport, a long-term lease from the Williamsons until 2011.

■ heard a presentation from Rick Kern, a Volunteer In Service to America, on the county-wide work of the Brunswick County Literacy

Council in providing free tutoring to adult readers.

■ heard from Mayor Betty Williamson that, as part of its ongoing study, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers expects a research vessel to test the Shallotte Inlet bottom within the next several months to determine how much sand might be available through dredging that could be transported to the east end to construct berms for beach renourishment.

■ presented Building Inspector Druied Roberson with a plaque and gift in recognition of 10 years' service to the town as of Jan. 14.

■ took no action on a request from east end property owner Glenn B. Hackney of Charlotte regarding removal of old roadbed debris from in front of his oceanfront home. The board generally agreed with Commissioner Ken Proctor that while the riprap is unattractive, removing it could increase erosion. "It appears to be the lesser of two evils," said Commissioner Kendall Suh.

■ heard a new officer, Eric Lammonds, has joined the town police force;

■ heard from Roberson that he issued 38 building permits in town during January, collecting \$11,476 in fees for improvements with an estimated value of \$1,340,000, and seven permits in the extraterritorial area, collecting \$718 in fees for improvements valued at \$88,875.

Group Plans To Seek Help For 'Children In Crisis'

The same committee that planned a countywide conference on Children in Crisis held Jan. 26 will be seeking the school board's approval next Monday night to continue its efforts.

Dr. Oscar Blanks, assistant superintendent for support services, said the planning committee made several decisions at a follow-up meeting held Feb. 3.

Assuming the Brunswick County Board of Education grants its support Monday night for the committee's proposed course of action, the group plans to expand into a task force with greater community representation and begin work.

"Right now there's a concentration of educators," said Blanks. The committee is proposing to begin with an initial project, which Blanks described only as "a major undertaking," then expand into some other levels.

"We have some rather committed individuals on that committee," he said.

Generally the committee is looking at adapting the Communities in Schools (CIS) approach to helping meet the needs of Brunswick County children. CIS can follow a variety of models, but all take a long-range approach to problem solving, based on partnerships among service providers, parents, the business community, civic organizations and churches.

School Board Accepts Offer Of Ports Authority Tract For New Elementary School

BY SUSAN USHER

Routine approval of two more boards will be sought before the Brunswick County Board of Education secures a 32-acre tract on N.C. 133 near Belville as the site of a new Leland area elementary school.

In a special called meeting Friday afternoon at North Brunswick High School, the school board voted unanimously to accept an offer from the State Ports Authority (SPA) to sell the property, contingent upon approval of the N.C. Council of State.

At a teleconference last Wednesday morning, authority members voted 5 to 4 to sell up to 32 acres of land to the school board at \$4,000 an acre, or \$128,000, giving the school board the privilege of designating its choice of acreage. The school system had expressed an interest in approximately 1,200 feet of frontage and conducted soil tests in December to determine the suitability of the site for construction.

"No one was against the school board buying the property. It was just a question of price," said SPA Executive Director James Scott. "Things are moving right along."

While the SPA can own property in its own right, any sale of that property must be approved by the

Council of State. Scott said the authority will try, but would be "pushing it" to get the transaction with the school board on the agenda of the Council's March meeting. As part of the process, the school system is to submit a formal survey of the tract to the Authority by next Tuesday.

Once the Council of State's anticipated approval is in hand, the school board will then seek clearance from the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to buy the land. Superintendent of Schools Ralph Johnston said Monday.

As part of a consent agreement reached between the two boards last August, county commissioners set aside \$500,000 toward land acquisition, planning and construction of the new school.

Last fall the school system hired Boney & Associates of Wilmington to design the new K-5 facility, modifying plans created originally for Supply Elementary School to suit the needs of the Leland school community. A committee of school personnel, parents and administrators has been working with the architect on those changes.

The new school is intended to relieve overcrowding at Lincoln Primary School and Leland Middle School and to help serve a growing population in the Leland area.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Nine Brunswick Students Receive Degrees

Nine Brunswick Countians were granted degrees from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington at the end of the fall semester.

They are Kellie Barber Benton and Joel Cameron Morgan, both of Leland; Suzanne Marie Cox and Christian Lyle Simmons, both of Southport; Laura Haley Destefano of Supply; Mary Dawson Graham and Billy Mitchell Jones, both of Ash; Mark Alton Wicker of Long Beach; and William Christopher Wyatt of Yaupon Beach.

Growers' Treasurer

A Brunswick County farmer has been selected treasurer of the N.C. Small Grain Growers. The growers' board of directors elected Gregg Swain of Winnabow during a recent joint conference of corn and soybean producers held in Raleigh.



SWAIN

Supply Spotlight

Debbie Lennon, a custodian at Supply Elementary School, was chosen Spotlight of the Month for the school for "doing an excellent job and going beyond the call of duty."

Lennon is a member of the Friendship Club and is a part-time assistant for the multi-handicapped

class. She is also active in church and PTA activities.

She lives at Bolivia with her husband Charles and son Shawn.

Dean's List Student

Kristina D. Blackmon of Country Club Drive, Yaupon Beach, was among students named to the first semester dean's list at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Dean's list students have earned a grade point ratio of 3.5 or better with no grade below C for the semester.

Bolduc Decorated

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class E. Joseph Bolduc recently received the Navy Good Conduct Medal.

Bolduc's is the son of Joseph E. and Natalie M. Bolduc of Long Beach. His wife Dorothy is the daughter of Stephen C. and Judy A. Carr of Bolivia.

The Good Conduct Medal recognizes the service member's "honest and faithful service" during a four-year period, according to a Navy news release. To earn it, Bolduc "achieved and maintained a satisfactory level of performance and an unblemished conduct record for the entire period."

He joined the Navy in 1981.

Green Trained

Army Reserve Pvt. Willie L. Green has completed basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

During the training, students re-

ceived instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

Green is a 1992 graduate of North Brunswick High School, Leland.

Employee Of Month

Thiry Hayes, a first-grade teacher at Bolivia Elementary School, has been selected as January's employee of the month.

Hayes has taught school for 16 years in Charleston, S.C.; Glade Springs, Va.; Wilmington and Bolivia.

She graduated from Bolivia High School, received a bachelor of science degree from Appalachian State University and a master's degree from the University of Virginia.

Hayes lives in Bolivia with her husband, Melvin, and their three children, Jonathan, Christopher and Blair. They are members of Myrtle Grove Presbyterian Church in Wilmington.

King Earns Honors

Becky King, a senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has been invited to join the Golden Key National Honor Society.



HAYES

Golden Key is a prestigious honorary founded to acknowledge and encourage students at leading universities. Selection is based on inclusion in the top 15 percent of the junior and senior classes at UNC-CI.

She is the daughter of Elon and Gail King of Ash and a graduate of West Brunswick High School.

Cooper Honored

John Cooper of Boiling Spring Lakes has been chosen as Bolivia Elementary School volunteer of the month for January.

Cooper works with many students and teachers at Bolivia and is considered a valuable resource, according to a school news release.

He received his bachelor of science degree from Ball State University and his master's and doctorate degrees from Indiana University.

Cooper has been a teacher, principal and a college professor of education. He also volunteers with the Brunswick County Literacy Council.

He lives with his wife, Jane. They have four adult children living in New Hampshire, New York, Nevada and Charlotte.



COOPER

Authority To Discuss Purchase Of Carolina Blythe

BY ERIC CARLSON

The Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, suppliers of raw water for the Brunswick County water system, will discuss the possible purchase of the Carolina Blythe Utility Co. at the group's next meeting Monday.

The town of Calabash had considered purchasing Carolina Blythe, which provides sewer service to the Carolina Shores golf and retirement community, as the cornerstone of a public sewer system initially aimed at serving Calabash's downtown restaurant district. That idea was rejected late last year in favor of a \$35 million joint sewerage project planned with the town of Sunset Beach.

County officials and members of the LCFWSA toured the Carolina Blythe treatment plant and collection system last week with company owner Billy Burnett. The group's observations and Burnett's offer to sell the company, fully financed, for \$4.5 million will be discussed by the

authority board at its next meeting. Executive Director Kurt Taube said Tuesday.

"The board will discuss whether we want to look into further evaluating the value of the system to see if it's something we might be interested in getting involved in," Taube said. "We would only entertain getting into such a thing on a sound financial basis."

"For the past 20 years we have primarily been involved in water service and we feel we have accomplished our first mission by implementing the regional raw water system," Taube said. "This would get us into the sewer business, but it has to stand on its own merits."

Taube said the authority may consider having independent engineers and accountants evaluate Carolina Blythe's operations and maintenance costs to determine whether the company generates the positive cash flow figures projected by Burnett in his offer to sell the utility.

"All we have heard so far is that

he wants \$4.5 million and he's willing to finance," Taube said. "We're not just going to say, 'Oh, That's great. We'll take it.'"

Similar negotiations between Carolina Blythe and Calabash on a possible purchase of the company fell through after town officials said Burnett failed to provide the information they needed to evaluate his offer.

Taube said the authority is in the "very early stages" of considering the sewer system purchase and stressed that those plans would not conflict with those of Calabash and Sunset Beach in implementing their South Brunswick Water and Sewer Authority.

He said that if the Lower Cape Fear Water Authority does purchase Carolina Blythe, it would simply

give Calabash another option for solving its sewer problems.

"We're not down there to impose anything on anybody," he said. "We're not going out to aggressively compete for sewer business. We're here to serve people. We would work together and cooperate to provide the most economical service possible for the citizens of that area."

In their tour of Carolina Blythe, Taube said the facilities "seem to be in good shape." He said his inquiries to state agencies indicate that the company's "operations have been clean, with no major problems."

The Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority will meet Monday, Feb. 14, at 10 a.m. in the Nations-Bank conference room at the corner of Front and Chestnut Streets in Wilmington.

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Thank You

I want to thank each and everyone whose love and support made the barbecue and gospel sing, on my behalf, Feb. 4 & 5 at the Civictown Fire Dept. a great success.

The hard work and monetary contributions are deeply appreciated.

Each of you will be in my prayers.

Gene A. Core and Family

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