

PAY PLAN IN THE WORKS

Shallotte To Meet Engineers Over Sewer System Expansion

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte officials plan to meet next Wednesday with representatives of three engineering firms interested in designing expansion of the town sewer system.

Aldermen started reviewing preliminary proposals from Boney & Associates of Raleigh, Houston & Associates of Shallotte and McKim & Creed Engineers of Wilmington at a workshop last Friday.

Board members spent about two hours listing strengths and weaknesses of each firm, but want to speak with engineers face-to-face

before choosing a company to design the expansion.

"You get a better feel that way," Alderman Carson Durham said of the face-to-face meeting.

The board plans to spend one hour with each engineering firm when it reconvenes the workshop meeting next Wednesday at 9 a.m.

Shallotte officials are planning a major expansion of their existing wastewater treatment facility.

Public Works Director Albert Hughes said the town presently averages 140,000 gallons per day (gpd) at its plant, which has a maxi-

mum capacity of 206,000 gpd.

The town is looking for an engineering firm to design an expansion of the system that will serve Shallotte for the next 10 to 20 years, when officials expect continued residential and commercial growth.

Aldermen said knowledge of the existing sewer system and the Shallotte area are among the strengths of Boney & Associates, which designed the town's water and sewer systems.

However, some town officials said Friday the firm seems to be unwilling to consider alternatives to

the present system.

Houston & Associates is seen by board members as a company that wouldn't be afraid to take an innovative approach to sewer expansion. The firm also has a knowledge of Shallotte and a vested interest in the community's growth.

Aldermen indicated they like the number and experience of the engineers at McKim & Creed, although the firm is not as familiar with the Shallotte area as the other two companies.

As part of the decision-making process, aldermen plan to check ref-

erences and see how each company has performed previous projects and if they have met schedules and budgets.

Pay Plan Coming

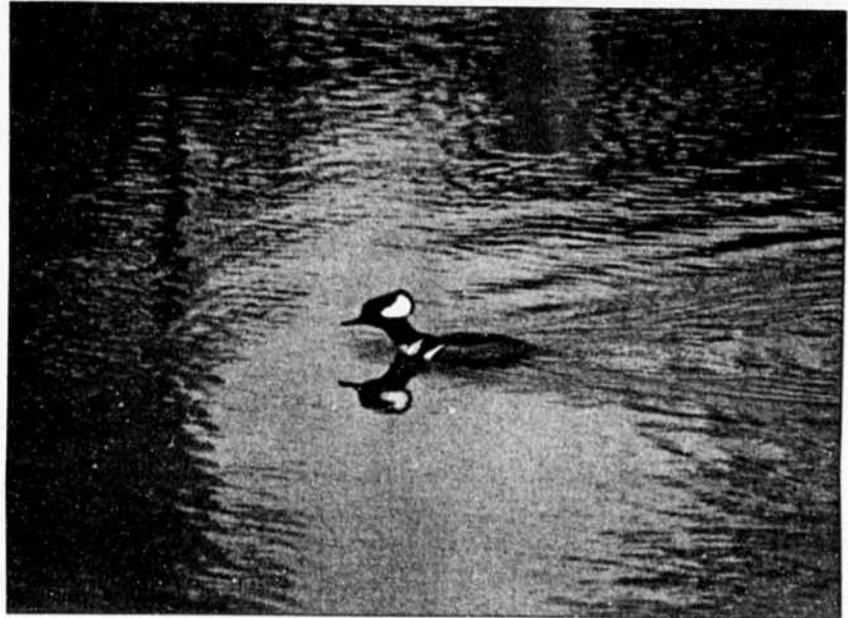
Rose Ann Mack, management services director with the Cape Fear Council of Government, told aldermen Friday she hopes to have a position classification and pay plan for the town sometime in April.

Mack planned to meet with all employees this week to explain the plan and hand out questionnaires that will be used to draft job descriptions.

Mack will then recommend a pay plan for Shallotte after comparing the salaries of its town employees with employee salaries in towns of similar size with like needs.

From a list of municipalities in four southeastern North Carolina counties, aldermen asked Mack to compare Shallotte's salaries to those in Southport, Burgaw, Tabor City and Whiteville.

"I think it's difficult to pick towns that are exactly like yours," Mack said. "These are all growing towns, and they all have a central business district that's lively."



STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Chilly Dip

It may be a bit too cold for human bathers, but this hooded merganser finds conditions perfect for an afternoon swim up a Holden Beach canal recently.

Fairley's Decision Leaves Republicans Pondering Choices

(Continued From Page 1-A)

whichever candidate doesn't receive the party nomination for the District 3 county commissioner's seat—Robert Slockett of Yaupon Beach or Leslie Collier.

Pfeiffer, who is enrolled at Brunswick Community College while between contract jobs in the nuclear power industry, said he withdrew because he has a career opportunity that may take him out of the state.

"That would be unfair to all involved," he said. "I thought it would have been interesting to get some new blood in there. We need that."

Season Ends With Demand, Harvest Called Below Average

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Marine Fisheries is planning an "oyster relay" this spring in Brunswick County.

The relay is a program that pays fishermen to take oysters from waters that are closed to shellfish harvesting due to bacterial pollution and move them to clean waters so they can be harvested next season.

"The relay has a fairly quick turnaround," Carpenter said. "Barring any outbreak of disease, anything we relay this year should be ready for harvest next season."

Carpenter also said state officials will plant oyster shells in local coastal waters this year. Tiny oysters attach themselves to the shells and eventually grow to legal size.

"The shell planting usually takes 18 months from the time we do it until the time you get harvestable size," Carpenter said.

Don't Put The Umbrellas Away Just Yet

Expect temperatures about normal, but rainfall above average for the next few days, says Shallotte Point weatherman Jackson Canady.

Canady forecasts at least three-quarters of an inch of rain in the latter part of this week, with average nightly lows in the lower 40s and daytime highs averaging in the lower 60s.

For the period Feb. 22-28 the maximum high reading was 73 degrees on the 23rd, with a minimum low of 26 on Feb. 28. The daily average high was 64; average nightly low, 43; and daily average of 53, about 4 degrees above normal for this time of year.

Unfortunately, it didn't work out."

At the school board's Feb. 14 meeting, Fairley was the only member to vote against dropping a policy that would have required teachers' Senate Bill 2 bonus pay to be linked to student performance on standardized tests. If students didn't meet their expected performance level, the teachers' bonus pay would be used for staff development purposes.

Fairley had written and championed the policy, which had been adopted by the board and then revised and adopted again. His contention was that if the schools and school board are to be accountable to the public, they need goals with measurable results.

Teachers protested the requirement, saying test scores were too limited a means of evaluating teachers' performance and that the policy would infringe on their right to site-based management. They said decisions about goal-setting and bonus pay criteria should be left to individual schools to determine as they develop their performance-based accountability plans.

The school board took back the school improvement policy, endorsed the concept of site-based management and directed that the school system begin the process of defining what site-based management actually means in Brunswick County.

Before Fairley arrived at the meeting, the board also voted to pass along to Brunswick County Commissioners a request from teachers for increased local pay supplements.

All five seats on the board are up for election this year.

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Aldermen Approve Brierwood Annexation

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte Aldermen annexed 10 lots in Brierwood Estates Tuesday night and hope to bring more of the golf course community into the town limits before too long.

Brierwood's developers requested annexation of the lots on Fairway Drive, most of which are vacant and privately-owned. Aldermen have asked the town planning board to recommend zoning for the lots.

In the meantime, aldermen said Tuesday they are interested in annexing other unincorporated areas in Brierwood Estates.

Some residents in the old section of Brierwood, which surrounds the back nine of the golf course and is not part of Shallotte, approached the town board last year seeking water service to their property.

When it was discovered that Brunswick County could provide the water cheaper than the town, aldermen gave the county permission to extend water lines into the area.

Chris Lane, who works with the developers of Brierwood, said the county has included the unincorporated area as part of Special Assessment District (SAD) 19.

The county is currently accepting bids for construction of the SAD, Lane said, so town officials may have to act quickly if they want to be the ones who provide water service to the area.

Alderman Carson Durham said he would like to see the town board consider providing water service to the area as a means of enticing property owners to request annexation.

"It's right at our back door. It should be part of the town," Durham said. "If we can sit down and talk about this thing I believe we can work it out."

Lane said most homeowners in the area want water service but do not need sewer service and do not want to pay town taxes.

Lane said Brierwood's developers support annexation of the area because sewer service would help make a lot of land marketable that is unsuitable for septic systems.

He also indicated that the developers would be willing to bring the streets in that section of Brierwood up to town standards before dedicating them to the town.

Nobody showed up for a public hearing on the Fairway Drive annexation at the beginning of Tuesday night's meeting, but Town Clerk Mary Etta Hewett said it cost the town about \$80 to advertise the hearing in local newspapers.

Mayor Sarah Tripp, who was absent Tuesday, has proposed that people who request annexation from now on start paying a \$50 fee to help cover the cost of advertising.

Shallotte property owners who request conditional use permits, variances or rezoning already must pay \$50 to cover advertising costs. The mayor has suggested adding annexation to the list.

Most town board members said Tuesday they are in favor of the proposal. A public hearing has been scheduled Tuesday, March 15, at 7:15 p.m.

Alderman Roney Cheers said he is against the proposal. "I have a problem with taxing every facet of your life. If you go to the bathroom, somebody's going to tax you for it," he said.

But Alderman Morris Hall said the way things are now, town taxpayers are paying to advertise public hearings on annexation.

"I don't feel I as a taxpayer should have to pay for Mr. Jones to advertise his property in the paper. If he wants to be in town and he wants the services he should pay for it," Hall said.

Other Business

In other business Tuesday, aldermen:

■ Agreed to renew the town's audit contract with Brock, Padgett and Chandler of Shallotte. The 1993-94 fiscal year will be the final year of a three-year contract with the firm. The audit should cost about the same as it did last year, \$8,200.

■ Authorized Police Chief Rodney Gause to apply for a \$7,500

state grant offered by the Governor's Highway Safety Program. The grant would help with enforcement of the state seat belt law. Most of the money would be used to pay overtime for police officers.

■ Received a funding request from Pete Barnette of the Brunswick County Volunteer & Information Center (VIC). After explaining VIC's programs, Barnette asked the town to include \$1,000 in its 1994-

95 budget. Town Attorney Mark Lewis has advised the board in the past that towns may not legally donate to organizations such as VIC, but aldermen agreed to consider the request.

■ Heard from Alderman Hall that he wants the police department to start writing tickets for littering. Hall said motorists throw trash out of their windows as they drive through town.

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