

# Shallotte Board Urges Engineers To Move Fast On Sewer Expansion

BY DOUG RUTTER

If nothing else, the engineers hired to design expansion of Shallotte's sewer plant left a meeting with town officials last week with one thought branded in their minds.

Aldermen are demanding that preliminary designs and studies are finished in the next six months so the board can follow through with plans to apply for a low-interest state loan.

Town board members emphasized repeatedly during a special meeting last Wednesday that engineers must complete their work quickly so the town can meet the Sept. 30 application deadline for a State Revolving Fund loan.

"Our biggest concern is getting this plan together to meet the September deadline," Alderman Bill Allen told engineers Street Lee and William Riddick of McKim & Creed of Wilmington.

Board member Carson Durham said state officials have indicated Shallotte has a good chance of receiving a loan, which would mean a substantial savings for the town in terms of interest payments.

Riddick agreed the town needs to go after the state loan, which carries an interest rate around 3 percent. "That 3 percent is a real deal and you should try to get as much of that as you can stand," he said.

Shallotte's 12-year-old sewer system has already been expanded once. It presently treats about 140,000 gallons of wastewater per day, which is nearly 70 percent of the maximum daily capacity of 206,000 gallons.

Town board members say they want to expand the system to accommodate anticipated commercial and residential growth well into the

next century.

Although a contract has yet to be signed, McKim & Creed has been selected to design the expansion. A contract could be signed as soon as April 5, when the board and engineers plan to meet again.

Engineering fees will be one of the biggest items discussed at the next meeting. Some board members are concerned the town will be charged too much because McKim & Creed is a large firm with a lot of overhead.

"I know we are not always the cheapest, but we're not the most expensive. I think we're very competitive," Riddick said last week.

Before the Sept. 30 deadline, McKim & Creed engineers will have to design expansion of the plant and complete a 201 facilities plan update as well as an environmental assessment.

The engineers said last week they will start working on the 201 facilities plan update even though they don't have a contract.

"We will start knowing we don't have a contract. We will have a contract. I know that," Riddick said.

It will take five or six weeks to finish the facilities plan. Among other things, it will include wastewater flow projections based on population growth trends and what town officials know about plans for future development.

"I think the really critical issue is agreeing on the flow projections. Once we do that the rest is pretty straightforward," Riddick said.

Once the town board and engineers can pin down how much wastewater treatment capacity Shallotte will need in the future, they can determine how much land is needed for additional spray fields.

"To me, your biggest problem is finding land to put the water on," Riddick said.

Shallotte's consulting engineer, Finley Boney of Raleigh, has been trying to negotiate a lease arrangement with Federal Paper Board for approximately 200 acres of timber-

land near the sewer plant.

If the deal can be worked out, Boney has estimated the extra property would allow the town to treat an additional 300,000 gallons of wastewater per day. Town officials also plan to contact International Paper Company.

As the town plans for expansion, Riddick said it will have to provide enough additional treatment capacity to last at least 10 years. Otherwise, the state will probably not approve the loan application.

"Generally speaking what you want to plan for is a 20-year peri-

od..." Riddick said. "Whatever built in this first phase must at least meet a 10-year need."

If the town receives the state loan next January, Riddick indicated that construction could begin in February and the expansion could be completed by the fall of 1995.

## Thank You

I would like to say thank you to Mom and Dad for our many wonderful years together. Saying farewell to Jeff's Grocery is very hard, but I know it's for the best.

You've taught me so many things over the years that mean so much to me. I will always cherish the wonderful memories forever. I wish you the best...you deserve it.

I love you both.  
Dee

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### Rotarians Donate To Library

Felecia Hardy, West Brunswick Branch librarian, receives a check for \$500 from Joe Barry, member of the South Brunswick Islands Rotary Club. The donation is toward the cost of leasing temporary quarters for the library while planned renovations take place.

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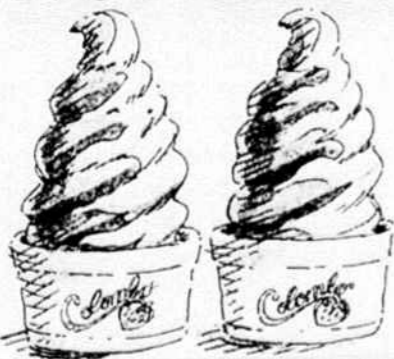
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### TO THE EDITOR:

Recently, a number of Letters to the Editor have been written regarding the entry of another Hospice into the local area. Unfortunately, these letters may be regarded as being somewhat less than positive. As owner of Comprehensive Home Health Care, I made the decision several months ago to pursue opening a Hospice in the area traditionally served by Comprehensive. Permission to do so was requested of the state of North Carolina through a detailed approval process, and permission was granted.

While all these letters to the editor were written by members of the Board of Directors of Lower Cape Fear Hospice, I continue to have tremendous respect for that organization. I applaud Lower Cape Fear Hospice's ability to provide care and comfort to terminally ill patients and their families. However, the **only** criticism of these board members was that Comprehensive Hospice, a part of Comprehensive Home Health Care, is a for-profit company.

Because Lower Cape Fear Hospice has brought up the question of being "For-Profit" and "Not-For-Profit", it may be appropriate to clarify some of the differences between the two.

#### "For-Profit" Companies:

- Bill for services performed
- Profits are called "Profits"
- Charity care comes out of other operational profits
- Pay taxes

#### "Not-For-Profit" Companies:

- Bill for services performed
- Profits are termed "Excess revenues over expenses"
- Individuals and companies are solicited for donations to pay for charity care and operational expenses
- Are not required to pay taxes

Two major factors led us to develop Comprehensive Hospice. First is our belief in continuity of care. It is important to remember that there is a tremendous amount of stress, fear and apprehension when a patient is diagnosed with a terminal illness. We think that allowing the patient to have the option of keeping his/her home health care providers tremendously benefits the patient. Comprehensive Hospice provides this very important continuity of care. Second, we recognized that we had very capable staff for delivering high-quality hospice services. We were, in fact, already providing significant hospice services as a back-up to Lower Cape Fear Hospice, particularly on weekends. Because of these two factors, many area physicians suggested to us that we begin providing hospice services—to better meet the needs of their patients.

I am not, nor is anyone else in business, ashamed of being for-profit. Both hospice agencies have been established for the purpose of providing the high quality of care which terminally ill patients and their families need, deserve and are entitled. I, personally, am looking forward to working with Lower Cape Fear Hospice to enable the remaining time of these patients to be of the highest quality possible and to assist grieving family members through their time of bereavement.

Sincerely,  
Ed Harris, President/CEO  
Comprehensive Home Health Care  
Comprehensive Hospice