

Holden Board Buying ATV For Beach Patrol

BY DOUG RUTTER

If you're catching some rays on the Holden Beach strand this summer and spot an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) buzzing down the beach, don't bother running inside to call the cops.

Chances are it will be a police officer who is operating the ATV, or at least an agent of the Holden Beach Police.

Town commissioners voted 3-2 Monday night to spend up to \$5,500 to buy an ATV for the beach patrol, the group hired each summer to enforce ordinances such as the leash law.

Sid Swarts, Dwight Carroll and Mariane Thomas voted in favor of the purchase, which was opposed by David Sandifer and Jim Fournier.

Most board members said the ATV will be safer than the four-wheel-drive truck used in the past. The ATV also can be used more hours than the truck, which cannot drive on the beach at high tide.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich said Police Chief Robert Cook requested the ATV because it will allow for more patrolling of the strand.

Commissioner Swarts said police officers in New Hanover County who use ATVs say they are safer than full-size vehicles and are relatively easy to maintain.

However, Sandifer said the all-terrain vehi-

cle is a "toy for a part-time employee" and recommended the board wait until an upcoming budget workshop to talk about the purchase.

Swarts said the ATV is needed immediately so the beach patrol can be trained before the summer tourist season.

"It's basically a toy we're going to use five months out of the year and watch it rust for seven," said Sandifer, adding that an ATV is not big enough to carry emergency equipment.

Fournier said he wasn't going to vote in favor of the purchase unless the ATV was replacing another vehicle.

Appointment Delayed

Commissioners decided to wait until their May 25 meeting to fill a vacant alternate seat on the Holden Beach Board of Adjustment.

On Monday, Fournier nominated Lynn Carlson to fill the vacancy created when Thomas was appointed to the board of commissioners.

Final nominations will be accepted at the May 25 meeting. The unexpired term runs through July 1995.

Sandifer, who recently nominated Jeff Lee for appointment to the planning and zoning board and later the board of commissioners, did not nominate Lee Monday night.

"I don't want to put the kiss of death on anyone," Sandifer said.

Other Business

In other business Monday, commissioners:
 ■ Adopted an ordinance setting a procedure for the town manager to sell or otherwise dispose of surplus property that is valued at less than \$500.

■ Voted to hire temporary help in the public works department for the summer. Ulrich said the expense will be about \$2,000 this fiscal year.

■ Agreed to set up the town recycling center on the east side of the water tank on property leased from Holden Beach Enterprises. Sand fence will be erected around the area.

■ Asked Ulrich to organize an all-day town board retreat during the week of May 15. A public hearing on the 1994-95 budget also has been tentatively planned for June 22.

■ Granted permission for the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association to hold the N.C. Festival By The Sea on the island the weekend of Oct. 28-30.

■ Took no action regarding a complaint from four homeowners about motorists turning around on their property when they get to the guard house at the west end of Ocean Boulevard. During the summer tourist season, Swarts said guards turn away about 150 people per day. About 400 cars were turned away last Fourth of July.

Top Temp Manager Choice Takes Job With Carteret

BY ERIC CARLSON

Brunswick's top choice for a temporary county manager has taken a permanent position elsewhere, forcing local commissioners to begin another round of applications for the post, board Chairman Don Warren said Monday.

But that shouldn't stop the commissioners from coming up with a 1994-95 budget that will hold the line on county taxes, he said.

Greg Page, who was interviewed for the temporary manager's job in a closed meeting of the commissioners last week, has been hired as county manager in Carteret County, Warren said. The Brunswick board had planned to offer him the position at its regular meeting Monday.

Instead, the commissioners met in another closed session to discuss whether or not to hire their second choice. They returned to the open meeting to announce that no action was taken.

Still, Warren said he hopes the board can find a suitable candidate for temporary manager in time for the board's next meeting May 16. He plans to make a second round of inquiries through the N.C. Association of County Commissioners and the Cape Fear Council of Governments.

"It's the nature of that line of work for things to change very suddenly," Warren said. "We could have

a whole new group to consider this time around."

The board is likely to hold a special meeting to interview applicants before the next regular commissioners' meeting, the chairman said.

County Manager Wyman Yelton is recovering from injuries suffered in an Easter Sunday automobile accident. He is not expected to be back at work until late summer at the earliest.

As acting county manager, Warren said he has been meeting with department heads to discuss their budget requests and plans to have a budget message prepared by June 6. He said current budget planning is aimed at establishing a tax rate that will give most citizens the same tax bill they received last year.

That would require a lower tax rate, since overall property tax values were increased in the recent revaluation.

"It's certainly my goal to adopt a budget with an equivalent tax rate," Warren said. "Of course, we haven't seen the school board's budget request yet."

In other business, the board heard numerous public comments for and against the county's proposed noise control ordinance.

Martha Jordan and Elnora Mills from the Andover Road area of Leland returned to complain about

loud music, noisy vehicles and other disturbances they hear "at all hours of the night."

"If you tell them to cut it down, they just tell you where to go," Jordan said.

Preston Dail and Billy Ray Jordan of the Leland area also spoke in favor of the proposed law.

But James Stone, Brock Holmes, Terry Pace, Barry Leonard, Jennie Pridgen, Terry Pate, David Pridgen and others—many of whom own hunting dogs—opposed the noise ordinance.

"Some people have to work for a living. We can't sit around at home all morning," Stone said. "Sometimes when it's hot, I get up at five or six o'clock to cut grass. Don't cut me back to 7 a.m."

The first draft of the proposed ordinance prohibits the operation of construction machinery and chain saws before 7 a.m. The law would make it unlawful to operate lawn mowers outdoors before 6:30 a.m. It also prohibits keeping a dog "which by frequent or habitual howling, yelping, barking or otherwise, causes loud noises and produces seriously annoying disturbance to any person or to the neighborhood."

Commissioners made no comment about the noise ordinance Monday night.

The board also heard from Helen Cashwell of Long Beach, who asked

the commissioners to consider purchasing a building and five commercial lots for \$300,000 and leasing it back the Senior Citizens Organization of Oak Island for use as a senior center.

Cashwell said that in exchange for the use of the building, the group would deed four lots valued at \$44,500 to the county and would agree to refurbish the building and pay for its upkeep, taxes, insurance and utilities.

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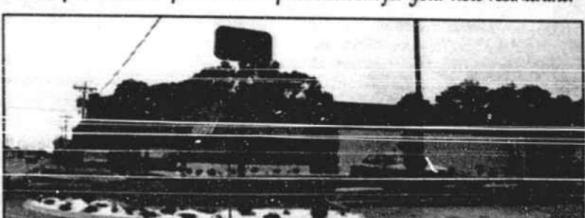
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