SCHAACK CRIES FOUL

Board Blasted For Shorthanded Sewer Vote

"Dirty politics. Dirty politics. Dirty politics."

That's how Calabash District 1 Commissioner Keith Hardee described the town board's recent vote to spend \$4.5 million on the purchase of a sewer system that currently serves the Carolina Shores community of District 2.

It was a sentiment echoed in different words Tuesday night by Commissioner Ed Schaack, who was out of town when a special meeting was called to consider whether Calabash should buy the Carolina Blythe Utilities Co.

With Schaack absent, the board's vote at a May 19 meeting was split 3-to-3 on the question until Mayor George Anderson voted to support the purchase.

Although Schaack did not indi-cate how he would have voted on the proposed acquisition Tuesday, he left little doubt about how he felt the matter was handled.

Schaack was also highly critical

of a report given by a three-member committee of Carolina Blythe customers that "unqualifiedly recommends the purchase" and speaks glowingly of company owner Billy

"I am highly upset about the ac-tion the board took while I was absent," Schaack said. "This report is hogwash. It takes the same old figures and massages them to support a foregone conclusion. When I read it, I was surprised that Billy Burnett wasn't beatified by the time I got

In its financial analysis of the proposed purchase, Schaack said the report ignores several important expense variables, including the fact that Carolina Blythe purchases some of its raw water from Brunswick County, which could raise rates at any time. He said the report also fails to include numerous expenses the town would have to incur in order to buy the company.

"The whole report is worthless," Schaack said.

He also insisted that the document town accepting Blythe's asking price ould have been brought before the should have been brought before the town's sewer committee-of which he is a member-for the group's consideration and recommendations before being presented to the com-

"I am seriously upset that you didn't adhere to the established committee procedure," he said. "We might as well get rid of committees if this is how we're going to treat

The comment sparked Hardee to begin his "dirty politics" chant.

Two residents of District 1 also spoke at the meeting to criticize the board's handling of the sewer system purchase proposal.

"I believe it was very unfair for the board of commissioners to vote during a special meeting to consider something as important as the purchase of Carolina Blythe when you knew that all the commissioners would not be in attendance," said Charlotte Rice. "I also object to the for a more reasonable amou

Rice also said she opposed the town "being railroaded" into the purchase of a sewer system "that is

not wanted and will cost us more." Lois Ruth also spoke out about

the way the vote was handled. "At a previous meeting no vote was taken because some of the commissioners were absent, yet you went ahead with this," she said. "I think it was a situation that was taken advantage of. When you vote on something so important, you should vote when all the commissioners are

At Commissioner Jon Sanborn's suggestion, the board voted unanimously to appropriate \$5,000 from the town's enterprise fund for initial legal fees and accounting costs expected during negotiations to purchase Carolina Blythe. Another \$100,000 was set aside in the proposed 1994-95 budget for that pur-

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Leland Woman Sentenced To 18 Years In Murder Plea

A Leland woman accused of slitting her boyfriend's throat with a razor knife last February pleaded no contest to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 18 years in prison Monday.

The slender blonde defendant, Lillie Darlene Dorsey, 34, stood silently and hung her head as Assistant District Attorney Lee Bollinger recounted the events leading to the death of her house mate, 23-year-old Nazario Hernandez

Originally charged with first-degree murder, Dorsey agreed to plead no-contest as part of a plea bargain.

Bollinger told Superior Court Knox Jenkins that the state's evidence would have shown that Dorsey left home early in the evening of Feb. 6 to meet a friend at a Wilmington bar. When Martinez showed up about an hour later, the two got into an argument and were asked to leave.

"Both had been drinking heavily," Bollinger said. A witness told police that Martinez got into a fight with another person outside the bar.

Arriving at the trailer they shared in Leland's Hood Creek Mobile Home Park, Dorsey and Martinez continued their argument in the yard, where it escalated into threats and "some pushing and shoving," Bollinger said. A neighbor who

heard the commotion said he saw Martinez breaking bottles on a car near the trailer.

Finally Dorsey went into the mobile home and left Martinez outside banging on the locked door. After more arguing. Bollinger said Dorsey went into a bedroom and got an orange razor-blade box cutter. She slipped out the back door, walked around to the front of the trailer and approached Martinez from behind.

Dorsey's daughter, who was inside the mobile home, told police that she saw her mother put the knife to the throat of Martinez and slash him, Bollinger told the judge. When the daughter opened the door, the fatally wounded man fell onto the living room floor.

Witnesses later said they saw Dorsey holding a cloth to Martinez's throat, trying to control the bleeding. They said she was extremely upset and claimed she didn't realize what had happened. Martinez died a short

Bollinger called the plea bargain a good arrangement, considering the difficulty the state might have encountered in convincing a jury that the killing was pre-meditated. In 1988, Dorsey was given a two-

year suspended prison sentence after being convicted of two counts of assault with a deadly weapon by run-ning down two people with a speed-





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