

Authority Has No Interest In Buying CBU Sewer Plant

Not interested, period.

Despite letters to the contrary, the South Brunswick Water & Sewer Authority set the record straight Tuesday night. It has no plans to purchase or interest in purchasing Carolina Blythe's water and sewer system in Calabash.

The regional management entity's board of directors voted unanimously to affirm that position Tuesday, unanimously approving a prepared motion by Betty Williamson.

"Let's put it to bed once and for all," said Chairman George Knott, referring to letters to Calabash residents from their town, its ad hoc sewer committee and Carolina Blythe's president, Bill Burnett. All three have identified the regional authority as the most likely buyer of the system if the Town of Calabash decides against acquiring it at an asking price of \$4.5 million.

(See CAROLINA-BLYTHE, Page 2-A)

Stormwater Management Panel Is Named

BY SUSAN USHER

A citizens' stormwater advisory committee appointed by the South Brunswick Water & Sewer Authority is expected to begin work this month.

Building contractor Annette Odom, a former member of the Sunset Beach Sewer Advisory Committee, will act as chairperson of the seven-member panel. Other members include Don Lowry, Carl Bazemore, Joe Johnson and Sue Weddle of Sunset Beach, David Stansel of Ocean Isle Beach and Joe Lowry of Calabash.

No date has been set for the first meeting, which consulting engineer Joe Tombro of Piedmont Olsen Hensley said would be a "brain-storming session" with the authority's executive committee.

"We're going to look at what stormwater is, where it's coming from now and how it can be managed," he said.

The authority plans to construct a 2-million-gallon-per-day treatment plant, sewer lines to developed areas, and facilities for area golf course facilities to use the treated effluent for irrigation. Construction is expected to cost about \$29 million, with financing and start-up operating expenses expected to bring the total to \$35.6 million.

Both a 201 facilities plan and its environmental assessment for the project call for implementation of the stormwater management ordinance before any portion of the system is activated. That includes the first phase, construction of a sewer collection line to serve the main Calabash

business district and pumping of the sewage to Horry County, S.C., for treatment until the authority's own plant goes on line. The authority will not receive an operating permit for that plant from the state until a comprehensive stormwater management system is in place.

The system will be the authority's main means of offsetting increased population density that could result from the sewer project.

Because such a program would be of "significant benefit" with or without the sewer system, the authority has proposed that the cost of implementing a management program be paid by only those contributing to the problem rather than by all sewer system customers.

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Santa's New Sleigh

Faron Black of Ocean Isle Beach relaxes in his Santa Claus suit after joining 50 other bikers for an 80-mile ride in the second annual Brunswick County Motorcycle Toy Run Saturday. The event raised about \$5,000 for local foster children. The story is on Page 6-D.

'I'll Be Exonerated,' Of Sex Charges, Commissioner Says

BY LYNN CARLSON

An Ocean Isle Beach commissioner accused by two women of improper sexual advances says he is "completely innocent" and expects to be exonerated of five charges brought against him.

Kenneth W. Proctor, a first-term commissioner and local businessman, was charged Friday, Dec. 9, with assault on a female after Winston Fox of Ocean Isle accused him of "rubbing her body in the area of her breasts and also her breast" in late September. The warrant does not state where the offense is alleged to have occurred.

Magistrate Martha Bryant released Proctor on his written promise to appear.

Brenda McCray Christ, whose address was listed as Ocean Air Motel, Shallotte, swore out warrants Dec. 6 accusing Proctor of stalking, second-degree trespass and two instances of assault on a female.

"People who know me, know better," Proctor told the Beacon. "I fully expect to be exonerated of all these charges. When this is over I will be filing civil charges of defamation of character against different people."

Christ's complaints accuse Proctor of "grabbing her and attempting to kiss her" on Nov. 27, then "pulling down his pants and with his body weight pushing her to the bed" and refusing to leave her room at the Ocean Air



PROCTOR

Motel on Dec. 1. The stalking complaint accuses Proctor of following Christ on more than one occasion over a period of time and placing her "in reasonable fear of bodily injury after reasonable warning and request to desist."

Magistrate Elizabeth B. Lewis placed Proctor under \$2,500 unsecured bond on Christ's complaints.

The cases are scheduled to be heard Jan. 9 in Brunswick County District Court.

Proctor, 49, was top vote-getter among commissioner candidates in his November 1993 bid for town office. Since he took office, Proctor has advocated changes in numerous town policies and procedures.

Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Nancy Simpson, who interviewed Christ, said Christ is a regional sales representative for a clothing company. Simpson said Fox is a caterer.

A woman identifying herself as Brenda McCray Christ delivered an unsigned hand-written "press release" to the Beacon on Monday refuting a news report that she screamed during the alleged Dec. 1 incident. A person interviewed at the motel by a Wilmington television station claimed not to have heard Christ scream.

"I did not scream. I got loud with my voice," the press release states.

Christ also stated she "would like to thank the other woman with all my heart for coming forward."

The accusations are being investigated by the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department and the Ocean Isle Beach Police Department.

Ocean Isle Beach Airport: 'If It Isn't Broken, Don't Fix It'

BY SUSAN USHER

A discussion over future needs of the Ocean Isle Beach Airport morning turned into a verbal skirmish over the facility's quasi-public status Tuesday.

After 15 minutes of debate most Ocean Isle Beach town board members concurred with Commissioner Kendall Suh's assessment: "If it isn't broken, don't fix it."

"It's working well like it is," said Suh. "It would cost more for us to staff it to collect revenues. I'm all for keeping government small."

Responding to a state Department of Transportation survey of aviation funding needs over the next five years, the board indicated a need to buy land to protect a landing

approach and to establish a fixed-base operation. With a fixed-base operation, the airport would be staffed on a scheduled basis for refueling and communications.

Commissioner Ken Proctor proposed the mayor appoint a committee to study the need for an airport board, telling Odell Williamson, "I'm not trying to defeat the airport, but to promote better use of it by the public."

Replied Williamson, "If I need your help I'll let you know. I know where you live."

Proctor suggested an airport board could receive grants, explore a possible fixed-base operation, examine additional revenue sources, promote the airport's use by the public and make sure Ocean Isle Police have jurisdiction there.

"It is my understanding," he said, with no response from Williamson or the chief of police, "that if an airplane landed at the airport with an illegal substance, the town police could not do anything about it."

In 1979 Odell and Virginia Williamson gave the airport to the town, which in turn leases it to Williamson's Ocean Isle Aeronautics Association for \$1 per year. It produces no direct revenue for the town, as there is no charge to use the airport. Improvements have been paid mainly with state and county funds and by the Williamsons, except for occasional matching funds from the town for purchase of real property.

In 1993 the town bought the house adjacent

to the runway for use as a natural disaster command post and future fixed-base operation for the airport.

While most commissioners agreed Tuesday that a fixed-base operation would be practical at some future time, they concurred with Williamson that it would not be cost-effective now and that a study committee isn't needed.

Proctor described his committee proposal as "academic" after learning the airport lease to the association does not come up for renewal again until 2009. It was extended by 15 years automatically in June because the required five years' advance notice had not been given earlier to terminate the agreement.

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