

The SHORE LINE

Published by The Town of Pine Knoll Shores In The Interests Of Its Citizens

Post Office Box 757, Atlantic Beach, N. C. 28512

Volume II Number 11

August, 1981

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COMMISSIONERS DEBATE

LIQUOR-BY-THE-DRINK

At the July 7 meeting of the Board of Commissioners the Commissioners debated the issue of liquor-by-the-drink, especially with respect to the proposal for a referendum to determine public sentiment, or to first approach the ABC Board for the location of an ABC store in the community.

Mayor Cleveland proposed the referendum be conducted on the matter. He pointed out that an amendment to the law recently passed by the legislature removed the proximity limit of an ABC store to a town such as Pine Knoll Shores, which had been a deterrent. Speaking in favor of the referendum, Mayor Cleveland said Pine Knoll Shores residents had voted in favor of liquor-by-the-drink in a county wide referendum; he said the town also has placed restrictive zoning on the motels and permitting them to serve liquor-by-the-drink would improve their revenues, and finally that the possibility of the location of a high quality restaurant in Pine Knoll Shores would be enhanced by approval of liquor-by-the-drink.

However, Commissioner Bill Dixson spoke in favor of seeking the location of an ABC store in PKS first. He said Pine Knoll Shores has considerable potential for supporting an ABC store, more than any other community in the county because of the location of the motels and their dining and recreational facilities in the town. He pointed out that approval of liquor-by-the-drink by itself would benefit only the commercial establishments at the expense of the town providing additional police and rescue services, since the motels would purchase their supplies elsewhere and the town would not share in the revenues from this arrangement. On the other hand, he said, the town would be the beneficiary of revenues from the sale of liquor at an ABC store if located in the town.

Commissioner Jerome also spoke in favor of pursuing an ABC store

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