

The SHORE LINE

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Noel Yancey - Editor

Mayor Ken Haller was obviously pleased when he opened the August 14 meeting of the PKS Board of Commissioners with the announcement that the John Yancey Motor Hotel had voluntarily dropped its lawsuit against the town. Since the John Yancey had moved to dismiss the suit "with prejudice," this means it cannot be reinstated later.

JOHN YANCEY

DROPS SUIT

AGAINST TOWN

The John Yancey, which owns a vacant ocean front lot on which it hopes to expand, had filed the suit contending that the zoning limitation of eight bedrooms per acre was unreasonably restrictive. Since then, however, the zoning ordinance has been amended to allow 22 rooms per acre.

Warren Davis, Beaufort attorney representing the motel, told the Board of Commissioners at a public hearing in April that the John Yancey hoped to "totally renovate" the 18-year-old motel and operate it under a Quality Inn franchise.

At their August session, the commissioners debated and then sent back to the Planning Board a proposed ordinance which would have banned from the town's residential areas dish-shaped antennas -- such as the one on the Holiday Inn -- for receiving television signals via satellite.

When Commissioner Jack Thompson questioned the proposed ordinance as too restrictive and suggested the possibility of allowing smaller units, he drew this response from Marty Hare a Planning Board Member who had sponsored the ban:

"We don't care what size they are. We don't want them in town."

When Commissioners Emily White and Hoot Gibson agreed with Thompson that the ban would be too restrictive, a motion by Commissioner Fred Libby to enact the ordinance died for lack of a second. Mayor Ken Haller suggested that the proposal be returned to the Planning Board and asked Town Attorney Ken Kirkman to assist in drafting an ordinance that possibly would permit smaller and less conspicuous dish antennas.

Commissioner Thompson told the board that the town could expect delivery on a new mini-pumper fire truck it has ordered within 90 days. At a special meeting on July 10, the board had voted to buy the new truck, a Pierce, from Lee Fire Equipment and Supplies, Inc., of Kinston which had offered the lowest bid that met specifications.

Libby told the board that the Duke University Marine Lab plans to conduct a flow test in the canal during September, and Harry Schlimper cautioned folks who see grape fruit floating in the canal not to be upset. They'll be part of the test.

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