

Was there anything different this time around? Well, yes. For one thing, Pine Knoll Shores, Brandywine and Atlantic Beach have jointly hired Ted Brown, a Raleigh attorney who specializes in utility rate increase proceedings. Mr. Brown sat in on this hearing, called the testifiers who had signed up to speak, but did not question them.

There was also an attorney, Robert Brady, representing a group of customers in Carteret County.

Questions came from the company's attorney and from the three Utility Commission members who were conducting the hearing.

We heard the same complaints about the multiple increases the company has had. From Brandywine there were complaints about the quality of the water. It was evident, however, that all customers felt that the local staff of the company were very helpful and gave good service. The question on everybody's mind was the management of the corporation by its officers in Northport, Illinois. They have not provided financial statements with specific information about the structure of the corporation, salaries of the officers etc. For those who feel that profitable areas are required to support non-profitable areas no statements breaking down figures for specific areas are provided.

The company will make its presentation in Raleigh March 20th. They were not open to questions at this hearing. The purpose here was to allow local customers to state their objections. It all seems a little disjointed, somehow. But we must sit back and let the wheels of bureaucracy make their turns.

Will this case be different?

M.C.K.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION REPORT

Due to the Holidays, family commitments, and lack of quorum, March 7th was the first time this year the committee has met.

For December-March the inspection report is as follows:

New Houses	- 3
C.O's	- 6
Home Additions	- 18
Tree Removal	- 3

PRIDE IN PROPERTY MONTH.....With the warm, beautiful weather upon us, we have designated the month of April as a time to "Clean Up and Spruce Up." The various storms have left their reminders in the form of fallen trees, limbs, leaves, and litter. As long as this debris is bundled into 4 foot lengths, it will be picked up on regular trash day. If items are too big or heavy, wait until the Town announces a day when those items will be picked up. [See Town Board report]. If fences or retaining walls were damaged, we encourage their repair, along with replacing old, or damaged mail boxes.

Another good way to "Spruce Up" would be to shield, either through shrubs or fencing, outdoor pumps, stored recreational vehicles, etc.

As you can see, our thoughts are continually focused towards creating a prouder and prettier community. We ask those owners who rent their properties to PLEASE encourage their lessees to do all they can to maintain a "Proud" piece of property.

We're going to get together with representatives of the Garden Club to discuss the possibility of selecting "the prettiest property of the month" and [perhaps] placing a plaque on the property for that month....More on that next month....

MARGE TURNEY