

# The SHORE LINE

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## CAROLINA WATER SERVICE PROPOSES A RATE INCREASE

Prior to the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Ed Baldwin a representative of the Carolina Water Company notified the Commissioners that the Company would seek a rate increase of \$4.48 per month on the average water bill. The reasons given for the increase according to Mr. Baldwin, were due to increases in operating and capital expenditures caused by stringent federal and state environmental and drinking water regulations which require extensive testing programs and reduced waste water discharge limits. Mr. Baldwin also cited inflation increases of 10% over the last two years. This figure was promptly challenged by Commissioners Hasulak and Musgrave as not based on any governmental statistics. Upon questioning from the Board Mr. Baldwin admitted that the increase will amount to 19% for most residents and also admitted that Pine Knoll Shore residents pay the highest rate for water usage in the area. Commissioner Hasulak commented that the town might consider purchase of the system to prevent the ever increasing rate changes.

The first area informational meeting on this proposed increase will be on March 26 at 7 p.m. in Beaufort. If you have any questions concerning the rate increase call 704-525-7900. The Board of Commissioners would also wish to hear resident's comments on the subject.

The second guest speaker elicited much less contentious discussion. Susan Griffiths from the CREE, Carteret Residents for Excellence in Education, advocates of elimination of the Non-Partisan or appointed Board of Education. The group is seeking interest and support for a referendum vote to change the method of choosing the Board of Education members from appointed to elected. Ms. Griffiths stated that most counties in the State elect board members which reduces the politicization of the process.