

Pets of the Week



MARU JO SELLERS PHOTO

Sally and Sam are playful 9 week old long-haired Tabby kittens available now for adoption.



Macy is a nine week old Calico kitten. She is ready for fun and very sweet. Macy can provide a lot of family entertainment.



Natalie is a gray and beige kitten that is among the adorable felines currently available for adoption at the shelter.



Joey is a young female yellow Lab mix whose coat almost looks white. She is good-natured and has that famous Lab lean.

The Tri-County Animal Shelter and Adoption Center is on Icaria Road in Tyner and can be reached at 221-8514.

CRIMEWATCH

EDENTON POLICE DEPARTMENT ARRESTS

■ July 5 - Sylvester Sharpe, 72, of Tarboro, was charged with one misdemeanor count of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.
 ■ July 4 - Anura Yasmien Wilkins-Copeland, 17, of West Peterson Street, was

issued a citation for driving without a license and failure to stop at the scene of an accident.

■ July 1 - Demonte Andrews, 29, of Williamston, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of failure to comply.

■ June 30 - Jayquan Darell Perry, 24, of Wildcat

Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of driving while license revoked and one misdemeanor count of failure to appear.

INCIDENTS

■ July 7 - Obtaining money by false pretense on Kimberly Drive.

■ July 5 - Larceny on North Broad Street.

■ July 4 - Larceny from a motor vehicle on East Eden Street.

■ July 3 - Obtaining property by false pretense at the Garden Buffet on Virginia Road.

■ July 2 - Hit and run on West Church Street.

■ July 2 - Vandalism on North Oakum Street.

CHOWAN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ARRESTS

■ Jeffrey Thomas Bass, age unknown, of Chambers Ferry Road, was arrested on one misdemeanor count of assault with a deadly weapon, one misdemeanor count of sexual battery, one misdemeanor count

of false imprisonment, one misdemeanor count of communicating threats and one misdemeanor count of interfering with emergency communications. He was placed under an automatic 48-hour domestic violence hold in the Chowan County Jail.

INCIDENTS

■ None reported.

PERMIT

Continued from 1A

done a lot of legwork in trying to find an expert to assist in the review of the CUP application. She said that Elizabeth Bryant, the county's planning director, had contacted five companies in the search.

Wind energy is a very specialized area and the search has focused on finding a firm with expertise in that area, she said.

County Manager Kevin Howard pointed out that the county was not required to advertise this contract since it is a service.

Howard also acknowledged the challenge of find-

ing a neutral consultant given that most firms involved in wind energy are either building wind projects or opposing them. The county has received proposals from a firm that historically has built windmills and another firm that historically has provided expert testimony against wind energy, Howard said.

Responding to a question about whether a solicitation for proposals had been posted on the county website, Arizaga-Womble said that on a project such as this firms aren't looking at the county website. In this kind of case it's necessary for county staff to reach out to firms, she said.

She told the board that Bryant had consulted with

the Southeast Wind Coalition and other resources in seeking firms to reach out to.

Kehayes said not only is it difficult to find a firm that's truly neutral, but it's even hard to find a genuinely objective recommendation of firms to look at.

For instance, Kehayes said, the chairman of the board for the Southeast Wind Coalition is the lead counsel for Apex.

Kehayes said he believes it is important to have independent experts on different aspects of the permit to provide guidance in evaluating the application.

Noting that the section of the application dealing with sound is very technical, Kehayes said he would love to have an acoustical expert look at that section and give independent information on it.

Arizaga-Womble said there is a limit to what the expert review of the application can get into.

In terms of sound, for instance, if an expert were retained by the county to review the application that expert could determine whether the sound study included in the application actually says what it purports to say.

She emphasized that the burden of proof in a CUP process is on the applicant. It is not the county's role to prove or disprove anything regarding any item in the ordinance, she said.

The county doesn't go out and get its own evidence, she said.

"The burden of convincing the board that these requirements in the ordinance have been met is on the applicant," she said.

The question before the board will be whether the application meets the requirements of the ordinance, she said.

Winborne asked if sound and shadow flicker - two of the issues that arise in regard to wind energy projects - wouldn't be looked at by various state or federal agencies.

But Howard said he was not sure sound, flicker or property values would be included in the environmental agencies' review.

Mitchener said one question he and many others have concerns the effect the project would have on property values.

Howard said he was not ready to recommend a firm because both the companies the staff has received proposals from have a history on one side of the issue or the other.

Arizaga-Womble said that based on her latest conversation with Bryant it was her understanding that HDR was Bryant's recommendation.

"We have looked at this extensively," Howard said, adding staff has tried to stay in the middle of the road.

Howard told the board it could interview the firms if it wished to.

He reiterated that neither firm should assess "right or wrong" when looking at the application, because that's not part of the staff review.

Staff review is focused on the completeness of the application, Howard said.

Winborne questioned the usefulness of interviewing the firms.

"I can't see what interviewing them would do," Winborne said.

VOTE

Continued from 1A

from the vote and discussion because his family farm is included in the proposed project area. On the advice of County Attorney Lauren Arizaga-Womble, Smith has been recused from all discussion and voting related to the Timbermill Wind Project.

The second complication was that the board's vice-chairman, Keith Nixon - who rarely misses a meeting - was absent. That meant the gavel was passed to Clerk Susanne Stallings when Smith left his seat as the discussion started.

The third factor was that Commissioner Ellis Lawrence arrived late to the meeting and sat in the audience during the discussion until Commissioner Emmett Winborne

asked him to come forward and participate in the vote.

Lawrence effectively became the tie-breaking vote, since Commissioner Alex Kehayes and Commissioner John Mitchener both favored interviewing the two firms that had submitted proposals to the county - HDR and Energy Ventures Analysis - before selecting one to review Apex's permit application. Winborne and Commissioner Greg Bonner, meanwhile, favored moving forward with HDR.

As Lawrence took his seat he explained that he had intended to sit out the vote since he had arrived mid-discussion.

Arizaga-Womble asked Lawrence about how much of the discussion he had heard. Lawrence said he had been there long enough to hear Winborne's proposal and also the alternate proposal by Ke-

hayes. After confirming that Lawrence understood what the board was voting on, Arizaga-Womble indicated to Lawrence that it would be appropriate for him to vote on the motion.

Following the vote the board went into a recess, during which some members of the public sharply criticized the board's decision not to interview the two firms and questioned whether it had been appropriate for Lawrence to vote since he had not participated in the entire discussion of the matter.

Lawrence approached county staff and informed them he believed that he should withdraw his vote.

When the recess ended, Lawrence announced his intention to withdraw his vote. Arizaga-Womble told him that in order for his vote to be withdrawn the board would

have to vote unanimously to do that.

Lawrence made a motion to withdraw his vote but later withdrew that motion.

After discussing with Arizaga-Womble the possibility of making a motion to rescind the previous action of the board - a possibility she explained was open to him since he had voted in favor of the motion on the original vote - Lawrence made a motion to rescind the board's vote to contract with HDR for the permit review.

After significant discussion with the attorney that focused on the responsibility commissioners have to vote on matters before the board, Lawrence withdrew his second motion as well.

So the original vote stood.

Attempts by the Chowan Herald to reach Lawrence for comment were unsuccessful.

BOARD

Continued from 1A

According to his company's web site, Hanna has experience in areas of insurance,

shareholder disputes, business contracts, employment and personal injury. He graduated from Wake Forest University's School of Law in 1991.

When the issue comes to the county commission level,

it will be in the form of a Quasi-Judicial proceeding. That means it will be handled more like a court case in which evidence is presented.

Supporters of the wind project point to the economic benefits. It would generate revenue to property owners leasing land for the project. It would also generate tax revenue to the county. Apex officials have estimated Timbermill would produce about \$250,000 a year in taxes to Perquimans County and a like

amount to Chowan County.

In a Letter to the Editor in today's issue of The Perquimans Weekly, Tommy Stokely argues money shouldn't be the issue. "If this continues, the promise of money for the county will now supersede any will of the people who live in the affected communities," he wrote. "Democracy is being trampled under the feet of 'procedure' and the freedom that was in our voice is muffled by the 'progress' crammed down our throats."

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