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New Elections Board Chosen

The county board of elections was sworn in Monday afternoon — the first Republican-controlled board this century.

L.C. Babson, H.H. Bellamy and John H. Mills, Jr., were appointed to two-year terms to the three-man board. Mills, the new Republican member, replaces A.H. Galney, Jr.

Babson was elected chairman by the three after being sworn in by county Clerk of Court Jack E. Brown.

Election board members are appointed by the governor. One member of the group must come from the minority party.

Beer-Selling Vote Pending

Legislation has been introduced to allow Boiling Spring Lakes residents to vote on off-premise sale of beer.

Rep. Tommy Harrelson, who introduced the bill at the request of the town council, said the measure has already been passed by the House of Representatives.

The bill should be passed by the Senate sometime in the near future, according to Harrelson. The town council would then be able to call for the special election, he said.

Harrelson emphasized he was requested to introduce the legislation by unanimous vote of the town council. "There wouldn't be any beer joints or anything," he said of the proposed off-premise sales.



PLANTING TREES for the observance of Arbor Week are members of the Woodbine Garden Club of Southport. Left to right are Mrs. Paul Sias, Mrs. Joseph Rideout and Mrs. Ward Fuller. The three are planting crepe myrtles on the southwest corner of the old cemetery.

Bond Amount Raised, Vote Date Undecided

The board of education Monday raised a proposed bond issue to \$6 million.

The board also agreed to solicit the views of county commissioners on when to hold the bond referendum. The commissioners hold the power to approve or deny bond issues.

The main question among the education board members is whether to hold the bond issue before, after or during the general election in November.

The \$6 million bond issue would fund part of an \$11.5 million, six-year school improvement project. The project cost was raised \$500,000 Monday by including plans for an administrative complex, last on the list of 14 priorities.

The board also agreed to meet in the South Brunswick High School cafeteria next Thursday at 3 p.m. to receive Southport Primary School bids.

Assistant Supt. John Hicks said he expects to have "ample bidders" for the primary school. However, Hicks said he "didn't know what to say about prices."

The county commissioners about six months ago limited the Southport Primary School project to \$1.4 million.

Architect Jack Croft said bids on the school should be in line with the projected cost. He said the facility plans contain "nothing costly."

"Let's hope we get some real nice bids," said Rabon. At the conclusion of the business session, the board heard a presentation by the Leslie N. Boney architectural firm of Wilmington. Various architects had been invited earlier by the education board to consider hiring a firm for the proposed \$11.5 million project.

3 Drop-Out Of Elections

Three Democratic candidates from Shallotte Township have withdrawn from the May 7 primary and the November general election.

Those pulling out of the race include Mack Ray McLamb, candidate for sheriff; K.T. Bellamy, candidate for state House of Representatives; and William A. Stanley, candidate for county commissioner.

The narrowed representative campaign field leaves Democrats V.A. Creech, Jr. and Allen C. Ward seeking the nomination to oppose incumbent Republican Rep. Tommy Harrelson.

King discussed recent education legislation with the board, approving a bill on school budgets and fiscal control. This bill, he said, would "revamp the whole existing law" on budget-making by the education board.

King called the bill "a real plus." He said the bill would require a uniform budget format. A public hearing on education budgets would be necessary before being submitted to the county commissioners for approval before May 5, he said.

The proposed law, King said, would also limit commissioner budget changes to "lump appropriations." No "line item" changes would be allowed, a practice King said the commissioners now follow. Also, King said, the

law would require the commissioners to fund schools regularly with a "uniformity in installments." The board also discussed plans to visit individual schools next month.

A contract was renewed with auditor Fred A. Turlington, Jr., and company. King said the firm has done the school system audit for ten years.

In other business, the board approved employment of Lisa Fredricks for Southport Middle School.

Funds Have Been Transferred

County Buys Equipment For Landfill, No Site Yet

By BOBBY HILL

Partially disposing with a year-old headache, county commissioners let bids Monday for about \$67,000 for sanitary landfill equipment.

The equipment includes a truck and 100 four-cubic-yard refuse containers.

Commissioner J.T. Clemmons cast the only vote against purchasing the equipment at the special meeting. "I honestly don't think you're ready," he said of the equipment acquisition.

Clemmons has repeatedly opposed the new landfill system. Monday, he said the commissioners should first purchase a landfill site and

construct a shed to protect the equipment. He asked for a delay to get a "package deal" for the new system.

The commissioners directed Sanitary Landfill Director Edwin Clemmons to present plans next Monday for a landfill site and a shed. The bid was awarded to

Simpson Equipment Corporation. The company's bids on three separate items included: (1) \$23,890 for a truck with a front-end loader and a compactor body, (2) \$16,948 for a front-end loader and refuse-collection body, and (3) \$26,500 for the 100 refuse containers.

Prior to awarding the bid, the commissioners received telephone assurance the company would lower their price on the truck and leave off a supercharger. Commissioner John Bray said expert mechanics claim diesel superchargers are apt to develop mechanical troubles when used on dirt roads.

The only other qualified bidder was Roach-Russell, Inc., with prices of \$22,948.88 for a truck, \$17,508 for a loader and body and \$26,750 for the containers.

The commissioners face a July 1 state health department deadline to implement a one-site landfill system. The present five-site system does not meet state requirements that each landfill site be covered at the end of every working day.

Bray asked landfill director Clemmons if the county could obtain a six-month variance on the deadline. Clemmons said he had "no fear" the extension would be granted if the commissioners show "direct intent" to comply with state regulations.

At that point, Commissioner Clemmons repeated a motion he made

Water Supervisor Hired

Yaupon Erosion Tax Is Knocked

John Thompson was hired by the Yaupon Beach town council Friday as water department supervisor.

The council also approved a zoning ordinance for a public hearing. Lawyer Obie Lee of Lumberton should set the date for the hearing this week, councilmen said.

Thompson was awarded the job at \$140 per week, with Edward Lee Pippin the only other applicant. Thompson has served voluntarily in the same capacity since the resignation of Bill Laster last

month.

Councilman Marvin Watson asked Thompson if he is "willing to work with the mayor (Clarence E. Murphy)?" "I'll work with anybody," Thompson replied.

Thompson also said he "would appreciate" being able to go to Murphy to "make a decision," instead of having to contact the entire council.

Thompson recommended that the town buy a truck. He

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Plaque Cites Site Donation

School officials, students and other guests attended ceremonies Friday at South Brunswick High School recognizing the donation of land for construction of the new school by the Reeves Telecom Corporation.

Mrs. May Barbee, member of the Board of Education, unveiled a plaque commemorating the donation of the 55-acre tract of land. The plaque is to be permanently mounted in the entrance corridor of the school.

Board of Education Chairman Wilber E. Rabon, Mrs. Barbee, School Supt. Ralph C. King, South Brunswick High School Principal Mark Owens, and Student Council member Jay Barnes expressed appreciation to Arthur Greene, general manager of the Reeves' Boiling Spring Lakes development, for the land donation.

Greene stated that he was happy to have been able to donate the land on behalf of his corporation, and that he was "immensely proud" to have made it possible that such a fine school could be built in the city of Boiling Spring Lakes.

"I consider the school a great asset to our community as well as to the county as a whole, and I take great pleasure in showing this school to people who are considering making Boiling Spring Lakes their home," Greene said.

County Farmers Enjoy 'Best Year Ever' In 1973

Facing the highest production costs in history, Brunswick County farmers in 1973 produced a record \$15 million gross return, according to a recent statewide survey by the county extension program.

Net profit is expected to be lower this year than in 1973, although the gross returns have grown, according to the report. Cutting into profit, extension surveyors say, is the rising cost of production. Fuel and fertilizer are reported 40 to 70 percent more expensive than a year ago with more price jumps expected.

The gross return in 1973 was estimated at \$10,391,213.

Tobacco, swine and forestry led the field for

farmers and landowners of the county.

Tobacco on 2,618 acres in 1973 yielded 5,404,211 pounds for a gross of \$4,755,705, an average of 88 cents per pound. Yield in 1972 was 4,739,315 from 2,341 acres to gross \$4,058,853, according to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation figures.

The return from soybeans nearly doubled, rising from about \$866,400 in 1972 to \$1,587,300 in 1973. Farmers planted 10,500 acres of soybeans in 1973, compared with 9,500 in 1972. The average return per bushel was estimated at \$5.60 in 1973 and \$3.80 in 1972.

Swine was second only to tobacco as a money-maker in 1973, with a gross return of

\$3.8 million. This was a jump of \$1.1 million over 1972 figures.

Farmers sold an estimated 42,000 market hogs for an average of \$86.30 per head. Hogs in 1972, with 46,000 sold, brought a little over \$50 per head.

Beef cattle and calves grossed \$467,500 to gain about \$100,000 over 1972. Milk grossed \$108,000. Other livestock items added \$24,000 to the 1973 total.

Forest products return increased sharply in 1973 with rising prices. Pulpwood, lumber, Christmas trees and other products grossed \$647,000 from farms and \$1,455,000 from non-farm areas in 1973 for a total of

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UNVEILING A PLAQUE citing the donation of land for South Brunswick High School is Arthur Greene, general manager of the Reeves Telecom Corp. development of Boiling Spring Lakes. Looking on are Board of Education Chairman

Wilbur E. Rabon and Mrs. May Barbee, member of the Board of Education from Smithville Township. The 55-acre tract is located in Boiling Spring Lakes.

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