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County Feelings Sought On Two-Hospital System

Tomlinson Sees "Dire Need" Of Shalotte Facility; Southport, Also

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners should not seek additional funds for the proposed Brunswick County hospital "at the expense of trying to close Doshier Memorial Hospital," Southport Mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson, Jr., said Tuesday.

"The time is far past when the official parties involved in this controversy should forget any and all divisional aspects and meet together as men of good faith to move on with an action that will provide the best medical services for the most people — such services to include the ancillary facilities that hospital users will require, Mayor Tomlinson said in a letter to Commission

Chairman William A. Kopp. "Short of such a positive result meeting, any unilateral effort made to close Doshier or to obtain additional funds for the new hospital by phasing out services at Doshier will result in our taking such measures as may be necessary, including court action, to halt such effort," Mayor Tomlinson declared.

Mayor Tomlinson told Chairman Kopp that he was writing the letter because four of the county's appointees to the Doshier hospital board voted to phase out acute care service upon completion and opening of the new Brunswick County hospital. He also expressed concern about the matter in a

letter to Trustee Chairman W.B. McDougle.

In addition, he said he was concerned because a local newspaper reported that commissioners were informed at a recent meeting that grant funds in the amount of some \$1,000,000 additional required for the new hospital construction could be obtained contingent upon closing Doshier.

"This avenue of approach (closing Doshier to obtain funds for the new hospital) is not keeping good faith with those interests, corporate and individual, that have located and are locating in the southeastern part of the county," he said in the letter. "In fact, some of these who have added so tremendously

to the county-wide tax base would not have located in Brunswick County at all had there not been services available such as are rendered now at Doshier hospital in Southport."

The mayor said he and the Board of Aldermen realize the need for acute care medical services in the Shalotte area.

"We totally support this concept within the funds authorized in the recent bond election (\$2,500,000) and the recognized continuance of acute medical care services at Doshier in Southport," he stated. "We believe serious consideration should be given to scaling down the new hospital size to stay within what the voters approved rather than seeking additional funds at the expense of trying to close Doshier."

Mayor Tomlinson said the Southport Board of Aldermen is interested in what is best for everyone in Brunswick County.

"We are not narrow minded in this matter," he noted. "One larger hospital located in a central point in a county the size of Brunswick is no more practical that was a single consolidated high school concept that was proposed by some interests a few years back — such concept now proven to have been entirely wrong."

In the other matter, Mayor Tomlinson told Chairman Kopp that the Doshier trustees acted improperly when they voted to phase out acute care services upon the opening of the new hospital.

"To be specific," Mayor Tomlinson wrote Chairman Kopp, "the charter empowers the Board of Trustees to establish, operate and maintain Doshier hospital (owned by the city and

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DRAWING ATTENTION to the Southport waterfront last Wednesday through Friday was the Greek tanker Marianna V, which lost steering and ran aground between Southport and Fort Caswell. Here, the small boat checks the depth of water at high tide, reportedly six feet. The

marker on the ship's bow registers 13 feet, meaning that 7 feet of the Marianna V hull was in the sandy river bottom. An aerial photo of the vessel in on page 2; this photo is by Geof Nesossis.

Doshier Gets \$10,000

Million-Dollar Budget Sought For Southport

The Southport Board of Aldermen tentatively adopted the city's first million-dollar budget, which calls for about a 14-percent increase in the tax rate, at a special meeting Thursday night.

After much discussion, the board voted unanimously to approve the \$1,029,629.27 budget for 1974-75. Last year, Southport operated on a \$728,149.56 budget.

The board set the tax rate at \$1.00 per \$100 at 100-percent valuation. The rate last year was \$1.75 per \$100 at 50-percent valuation.

The difference in the rates will mean that the average taxpayer will pay about 14 percent more in taxes than he did last year, a city official said. This year the city expects to collect \$95,000 in taxes while the figure last year was about \$78,750.

In addition to increasing tax income, the board will swell the electric rate 11

percent due to the fact power costs to the city went up 11.4 percent in January. The board also will increase the electric service charge from \$3 to \$5 and no longer furnished meter pans.

The board discussed increasing the sewer rate to equal the water rate, but rejected the proposal.

Revenues for the 1974-75

budget will include \$362,543.74, general government; \$32,000, Powell Bill; \$534,548, electric bills; and \$100,537.53, water and sewer bills.

General government expenditures, which will total \$362,543.74, will include administration, \$88,071.94; police, \$97,767.86; fire

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Coastal Management Board

Lewis And Kopp, Others Selected For Nomination

By BILL ALLEN

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners nominated four residents to serve on the State Coastal Resources Commission and heard that the company making the \$100,000 error on the water tank bid had accepted the contract during a special meeting Tuesday night.

Bill Tripp of Shalotte, County Commission Chairman William Kopp, Mason Anderson of Shalotte and Jerry Lewis of Yaupon Beach were nominated by the commissioners to serve on the commission. After all nominations have been

received from the coastal areas in the state, the Governor's office in Raleigh will select the members of the commission.

Incidentally, Lewis, a former county manager and an engineer, has also been nominated by the town boards of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach to serve on the commission.

Before nominating the four men in public session, the board held a closed executive meeting to consider names to be nominated to the commission. It was the third and longest closed door session the board has held to consider the matter.

Chairman Kopp, claiming that nominating candidates to serve on the commission was a "personnel" matter, covered by law, said the board should meet in executive session. The board unanimously voted to eject the public and the press and discuss the business of nominating members to the commission in private.

The board met behind closed doors from about 9:08 p.m. until 10:20 p.m. to discuss names to be nominated. After the doors were open to the public and the press again, the board quickly voted unanimously to

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For Bald Head Development

Federal Agency Approves Permit For Island Marina

After revising and amending the initial request, Carolina Cape Fear Corporation has been granted a permit to construct a marina at Bald Head Island "in the public interest," Co. Albert C. Costanzo, district engineer with Corps of Engineers, announced this week.

"If the marina access canal is viewed in the context of Carolina Cape Fear Corporation's total plan of development, it is my conclusion that granting a permit would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment since, by complying with the conditions imposed by interested federal and state agencies, the developer (Carolina Cape Fear) went to extraordinary lengths to insure that the development will not have an adverse impact on the quality of the environment," Col. Costanzo said in granting the application.

During the study of the application, several federal agencies approved the marina, subject to conditions Carolina Cape Fear had to satisfy in order to minimize or eliminate any adverse environmental consequences arising as a result of the development plans.

"Carolina Cape Fear has agreed to satisfy all of these

conditions," he pointed out. The Corps of Engineers determined that Carolina Cape Fear has given proper consideration to the various public resources in the area of work, that the granting of the permit does not constitute a major federal action and that the resulting work will

not have a significant effect on the quality of human environment before granting the permit.

"Each factor was carefully considered and, to the extent of the jurisdiction of the district engineer under the permit program, revisions of

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To Transportation Board

Road Requests Are Presented

Brunswick County officials returned home Thursday "optimistic" after presenting highway plans at a Department of Transportation public hearing in Raleigh, County Commission Chairman William Kopp has reported.

Chairman Kopp, Commissioner Vardell Hughes and County Manager Neil Mallory presented plans to upgrade two highways in Brunswick County at the hearing held to discuss the Seven-Year Highway Construction program in the state.

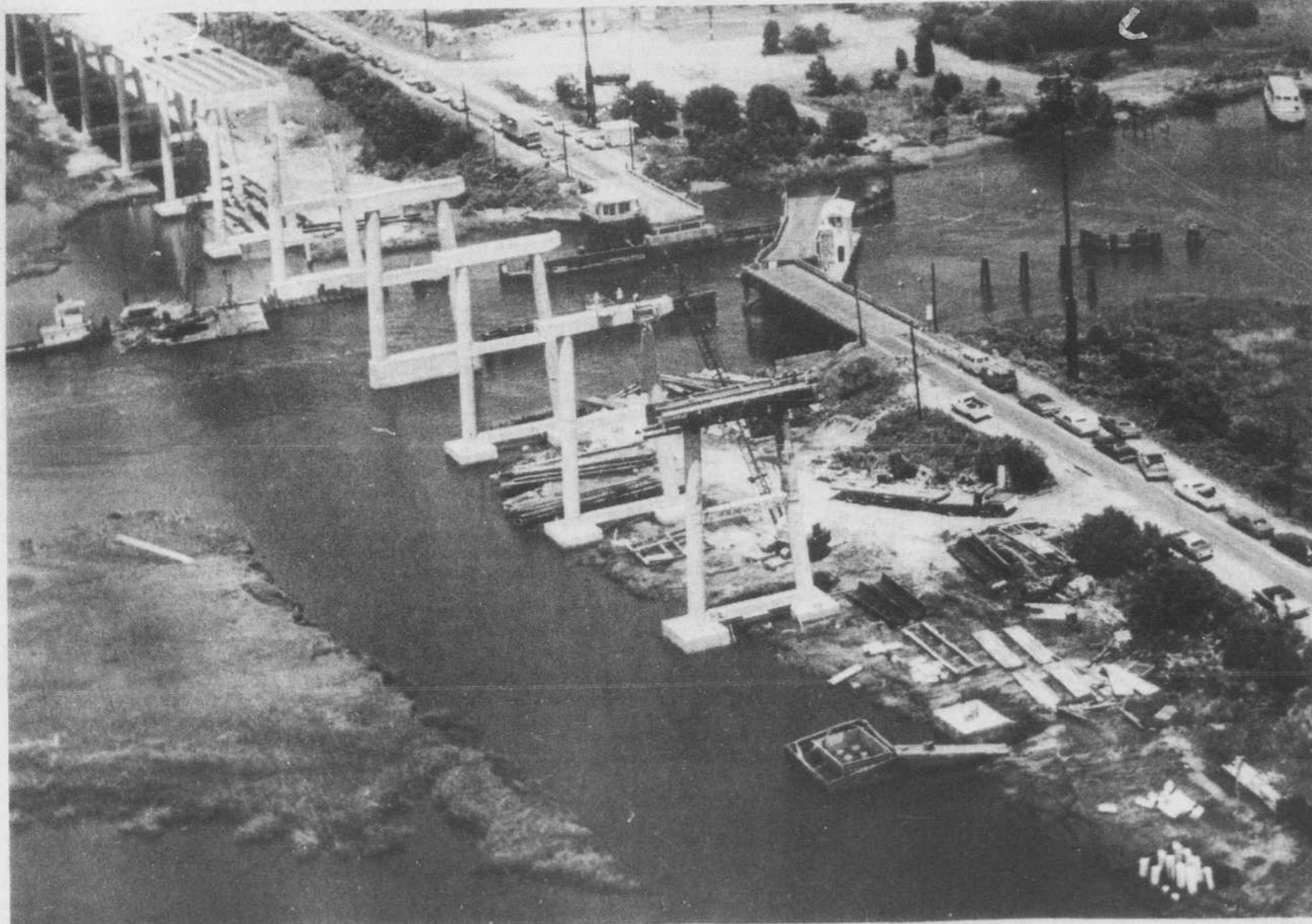
The county officials

recommended that US 17 be made a four-lane highway throughout Brunswick County and Highway 133 be modernized from Orton Plantation to the intersection of Highways 17 and 74-76.

"While Brunswick County is most appreciative of the road projects presently planned for our county, we would like the Board of Transportation to give serious consideration to our request for additional improvements to the primary system within Brunswick County," the statement said.

"Our first request pertains

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BEST EVIDENCE yet that the Oak Island Bridge is doing well is this aerial photograph taken Friday with pilot Jim Smith. The pontoon-style swingbridge is closing after letting an Intracoastal Waterway vessel pass, as long lines of cars

wait on both sides of the canal. In the upper left is the elevated roadway north of the crossing, while in the lower right are bases for future supports for the high-rise span. The new bridge will not have to open for waterway traffic.