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NOW OPEN FOR CLAMMING is the eastern side of the Cape Fear River near Southport, and much of the credit goes to Corncake Inlet, reopened last fall by storm action. Corncake, here shown from the river side of the inlet, allows ocean water to flow into marshes and creeks

behind Bald Head Island, creating a flushing action that keeps the salt water marshes fresh. Also contributing to the cleaner water, fisheries spokesmen say, is the reduction of pollution flowing from Wilmington area plants.

No Tax Rate Hike Projected

Council Plans Study Of Proposed Beach Budget

The Long Beach Town Council heard Town Manager Frank M. Kivett present a \$604,511 budget proposal with no tax increase for 1974 - 75 during a special meeting Friday.

The total budget includes an 87.5-cent-per-\$100 tax rate at 100 percent valuation, which is exactly the same as the current year, Manager Kivett stated. Last year, the tax rate was \$1.75 per \$100 based on 50 percent valuation.

The commissioners will

study the proposed budget until June 20, when a hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. to discuss it.

In presenting the budget, Kivett said "several matters of significance are included that represent a new concern for the citizens of Long Beach. These items reflect 'people concerns' in the fields of recreation, public service, public safety and responsive government."

"Much consideration has been given to the needs of the town government and the

condition of town equipment," he noted.

Kivett said the budget provides for "a reasonable increase" in salaries for all town employees since "a fair and liveable wage is essential if the morale and interest as public servants is to be maintained."

He reported that the proposed budget also shows a "renewed interest in the field of training for employees and educational opportunities for both the employees and the commissioners."

In drawing up the proposed budget, the town manager told commissioners that he gave consideration to town facilities and provided funds in the budget to enlarge the Town Hall, to have a two cell lock-up at the police station and two new and enclosed stalls at the town garage.

Since he said he found town vehicles in "poor condition," Manager Kivett included funds to purchase two cars, a pick-up truck for the street department, and the first of three annual installments toward the purchase of a new motor grader.

Funds in the budget are proposed for a fence around the baseball field, park benches, picnic tables and bleachers for the field because of the "considerable progress" the city has made in the field of recreation in a very short time.

The manager included funds in the proposed budget to pave about 2.5 miles of streets, \$20,000 for a new well for the water system, a new detective in the police department and equipment for better communications within town offices.

The proposed budget includes funds to meet all current obligations, such as payments for the fire and garbage trucks and recent land purchases. Funds also are provided to repair and modernize the city-owned boat landings.

Kivett suggested that the board consider funding other matters that are not included in the budget this year.

"One item the commissioners should consider financing 'through the \$20,000 in the general fund contingency is for a full-time employee to serve as fire chief," he pointed out. "Perhaps the commissioners would like to consider

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Proposed 70 Cents At Full Valuation

Yaupon Reportedly Cuts Budget, Rate Unchanged

By BILL ALLEN

The reading of the proposed 1974 - 75 budget and the approval of the controversial condominium project highlighted a spirited meeting of the Yaupon Beach town board Monday night.

Commissioner Bill Smalley, the town budget officer, presented the \$45,225 budget to the town board. It reportedly will keep the tax rate at 70 cents per \$100 valuation based on 100 percent assessment.

Last year, Yaupon Beach operated on a \$31,899.73 budget with a tax rate of \$1.50 based on 50 percent assessment.

The major reason for the decreased budget, Smalley said, is that last year the town had \$6,440 in unpaid taxes. This year, he noted, the town only has a little over \$700 in

unpaid taxes.

"If we can operate on this budget this year, the reassessment property due in 1975 will aid this community and enable us next year to give more consideration to the fire and police departments," Smalley said in presenting the budget.

Under the proposed budget, the police department will receive \$12,455 and the fire department \$1,500.

"If we adopted the budget of \$24,849.85 from the police department and \$5,075 from the fire department, we would add \$31,270 to our total budget," the commissioner

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Nye Wins Election

Senatorial Candidate Edd Nye won in Brunswick County on Tuesday, edging challenger Frank Grady 361 to 225, and gaining victory over Grady in both Columbus and Bladen counties.

The two Bladen County candidates were vying for the Senate seat held by retiring Arthur Williamson. Nye had a sizeable lead over Grady in the May 7 primary, establishing a large margin in Brunswick County.

Water System, Hospital In Total

County \$15 Million Budget Reflects 2-Cent Rate Drop

By BILL ALLEN

While other local governments are having to raise taxes because of inflation, Brunswick County apparently can adopt its largest budget in history — over \$15 million — and still reduce last year's rate.

County Manager Neil Mallory, budget officer for the county, made the announcement at the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Monday.

Mallory proposed that the county adopt a \$15,274,682.10 budget for the 1974 - 75 fiscal year. "It is the largest amount of expenditures ever proposed for Brunswick County within a single operating year," he declared.

In order to generate funds to balance the budget, Mallory proposed that the county set the tax rate at 70 cents per \$100 valuation. The tax rate for the current fiscal year is \$1.42 based on 50 percent assessment.

"The recommended tax rate is a reduction in the current tax rate of two cents," the county manager stated. "Although expenditures are proposed to be increased, all requested expenditures can be satisfactorily met and at the same time reduce the burden on our taxpayers."

Although the board took no action on the proposed 1974 - 75 budget, commissioners seemed pleased that the county could meet its financial obligations in this period of rising inflation and cut the tax rate at the same time.

"We will have plenty of time to review and discuss the budget with department heads before we take final action on it," Chairman

William Kopp, Jr., announced. "We will see what the final outcome is when we get through sticking our finger into it."

"I have been reading about the proposed budgets of other counties and places and this is the first one I have seen that reduced the tax rate," the chairman stated. "During

this time when inflation is eating into everything, this budget can be met with a two-cent reduction in the tax rate.

Chairman Kopp and Commissioners Vardell Hughes and Robert Simmons all commended Mallory, Mrs. Regina McKeithan, assistant auditor, Mrs. Carol Greene,

clerk, department heads and staff members for the work they put into the budget.

The board voted unanimously to hold meetings at 2 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday afternoons to discuss the budget with department heads. The commissioners will hold a series of meetings between June 13 and June 25 to review the budget. A public hearing on the budget will be held June 26 at 10 a.m.

Although the proposed expenditures in the 1974 - 75 budget are larger than last year, Mallory said the amount of ad valorem taxes required constitute only 27 percent of the total revenue needed to balance it.

Other revenue needed to balance the proposed expenditures and the percentage of the total revenue required include grants, 17 percent; bonds, 16 percent; Farmers Home Administration loan, 13 percent; project reserve, nine per-

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Injunction Suit Progresses

Further action is expected Friday in the Open Meetings lawsuit brought by Southport and Shallotte newspapers against the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

Judge E. Maurice Braswell heard from plaintiff and defense attorneys on Monday and issued a tentative ruling that there were no issues of fact in the case — nothing that would necessitate a trial by jury. He announced he will review numerous pages of testimony submitted in the case, with an announcement due Friday.

The action that seeks to enjoin the commissioners from holding secret meetings was commenced last July 25.

Kopp Tells Commissioners

Hospital Letter Read; "No Time" To Answer

No action has been taken yet on Southport Mayor Eugene Tomlinson's letter about hospital services in the county, members of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners were told at their regular meeting on

Monday. In answer to a question from Vice-Chairman J.T. Clemmons, Chairman William Kopp, Jr., said he had not had time to reply to a letter from Mayor Tomlinson about the Doshier Memorial Hospital board of trustees' voting to phase out acute care service upon the opening of the new Brunswick County hospital.

Kopp said he wanted to make copies of Mayor Tomlinson's letter to send to each commissioner.

"I want to prepare an answer to the letter and let each commissioner see it before sending it to Mayor Tomlinson," the chairman said. "I want our board

members to contribute to the letter if they desire."

"From reading the letter in the local newspapers, I gather it is not clear in the good mayor's mind who owns or controls Doshier hospital," Clemmons said. "We should dig back in our minutes to see if this board had not voted to close the acute care section."

"I know he (Mayor Tomlinson) understands business better than I do, but it is a tremendous job just to operate one hospital in a county," the vice-chairman stated. "I hope in the answer to the good mayor that we bring out the tremendous hardship on people in this area to maintain Doshier

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Cites Business Pressure

Harrelson Out Of House Race

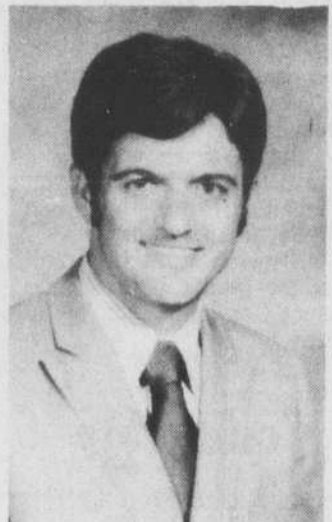
Rep. Thomas J. Harrelson has requested the Brunswick County Board of Elections to withdraw his name as a Republican candidate for reelection to the North Carolina House of Representatives.

The two-term state legislator stated that increased business pressures forced him to withdraw his candidacy. He is in the grocery business in South-

port. "I reached a decision about ten days ago that it would be impossible for me to mount an aggressive, person-to-person campaign lasting at least three months and then to serve an additional six months next year in Raleigh while at the same time devoting enough time to my business interests," he said Monday.

"In my two terms I have attempted to represent the needs of the average citizens of our district — the farmers, fishermen, school teachers and small businessmen. Meanwhile in devoting this amount of time to my legislative work, I have had to suffer great personal and financial sacrifice and over this four-year period it has taken its toll."

Harrelson said, "I certainly appreciate the opportunity the people have given me for the past four years to serve



them, because despite the financial and personal sacrifice, I have enjoyed this opportunity. This has been a very difficult decision to make but I believe that the people of Pender and Brunswick counties will be better served if they elect a representative who will be able to devote the time that I have devoted over the past four years — time which I will not have available during the coming two years," the representative said.

Harrelson would have opposed Allen Ward in the November general election. No decision of who will replace Harrelson on the ballot has been made.

Wants 4 More

Sheriff: 'Cars Reduce Crime'

The decision to put more Sheriff's department cars on the road is helping to reduce the crime rate in Brunswick County, Sheriff Harold Willetts stated this week.

Sheriff Willetts released figures that reportedly show crime had decreased 40 percent since the controversial cars were put on the roads more than three months ago.

"I think the cars are serving as a deterrent to crime," Willetts said. "When people see the cars, they know the Sheriff's department is in the area. Would-be criminals see the cars and know the area is being watched."

According to the statistics, the number of breaking, entering and larceny crimes totaled only 34 between

March 15, when the cars hit the roads, and May 15, the last reporting period. Other crimes, such as larceny, domestic troubles, traffic, assaults, drugs, etc., numbered 354 during the same period for a total of 388.

"Before the cars were put on the road, crime in Brunswick County was increasing at a rate of 19 percent," he pointed out. "Now crime is going down after the cars have been on the road. That tells me something about how the cars are helping to reduce crime here."

He pointed out that breaking, entering and larceny crimes totaled 76 cases between January 15 and March 15, the three months before the cars were operating. Other crime

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