

THE STATE PORT PILOT

A Good Newspaper In A Good Community

VOLUME 46 NUMBER 9

18 PAGES TODAY

SOUTHPORT, NORTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER 18, 1974

10 CENTS A COPY

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Well-Prepared 'Speech'

'Surprise' Doshier Meeting Held; City Planning Injunction

By BILL ALLEN
Southport Aldermen, refusing "to roll over and play dead," made plans to intensify efforts to save Doshier Memorial Hospital during their regular monthly meeting Thursday night at City Hall.

Aldermen decided to seek a meeting with state officials in Raleigh this week, to continue the threatened injunction and to adopt a new hospital district petition to be used if needed.

The action was taken after Aldermen Robert Howard and Harold Aldridge reported on a surprise meeting with state and county officials at Wrightsville Beach last Wednesday night.

The two aldermen said they

went to Wrightsville Beach to talk about a meeting, proposed by Chairman William Kopp, Jr., of the Board of Commissioners, with Secretary David Flaharty of the Department of Human Resources.

Instead, Howard and Aldridge said they found themselves attending the Kopp meeting and listening to decisions already made. Chairman Kopp earlier had called for a meeting to work out the hospital situation in the county.

During the meeting, Aldridge and Howard said in a written report submitted to the board, Secretary Flaharty suggested that

Smithville "settle for an emergency room out-patient type clinic as an arm under the Brunswick County Memorial Hospital." (See related story in this edition of the Pilot).

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson reported that he received a letter from Secretary Flaharty last Saturday. He said the secretary wanted to meet him at the Blockade Runner at Wrightsville Beach to receive "input" about the hospital situation in the county.

Mayor Tomlinson, who had to be in California last week, said he asked Aldridge and

(Continued On Page 2)

Flaharty: Cut Doshier Services

State officials want to convert Doshier Memorial Hospital into an "out-patient facility" or an "emergency room out-patient type clinic," it was reported at two meetings held in Brunswick County this week.

County Commission Chairman William Kopp, Jr., and Southport Aldermen Robert Howard and Harold Aldridge reported to their boards about a meeting with Secretary David Flaharty of the Department of Human Resources and other officials.

The meeting, called by Chairman Kopp last month, was held without notice at the Blockade Runner at Wrightsville Beach last Wednesday night. Because of the way the meeting was set up, some people have called it the "Wednesday night ambush."

Aldermen Aldridge and Howard,

who represented Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, told the Southport Board of Aldermen Thursday night that they did not know they were going to the Kopp meeting when they went to the Blockade Runner. They said they understood they were going to make preliminary arrangements with Secretary Flaharty for the meeting Chairman Kopp had proposed.

Aldermen Howard and Aldridge reported to the Southport board that Secretary Flaharty made four opening comments about the hospital situation in Brunswick County. The reported comments follow:

"1. Doshier Memorial Hospital was operating under a temporary license.

"2. The Department of Social Services has been turning its head during the examinations in order to keep Doshier Memorial Hospital open on a

temporary license until the new county hospital could be built.

"3. Secretary Flaharty made it clear that his department could not justify a two-hospital concept in Brunswick County.

"4. The department saw no other choice but to work with the new hospital till completed and in operation and at that time his department would take away the certification of Doshier Memorial Hospital."

The two aldermen reported that Secretary Flaharty said he made the four comments because of the condition of the existing main part of Doshier excluding the new modular units. Secretary Flaharty said that in order for Doshier to meet the minimum standards for a 30-bed unit, approximately \$1 million would have to

(Continued On Page 15)

Petitions Returned

Kopp, Officials Meet Tuesday

A 45 - minute meeting between County Commission Chairman Bill Kopp and Aldermen representatives Gene Tomlinson and Robert Howard was held in Southport Tuesday evening.

Only the three men and a secretary were present.

Purpose of the meeting, Tomlinson stated, was for Kopp to return the 2,500 - signature Doshier Hospital petition to Southport officials. The petition does not fulfill appropriate state requirements, and Kopp said he wanted to return the document without waiting for the next county board meeting.

"We thanked Mr. Kopp," Tomlinson said, "and told the chairman we would keep him informed of any further developments."

The meeting was called by Chairman Kopp. Tomlinson said the aldermen had known the petition would not meet state requirements, but was intended as "a show of strength" of local interest in keeping Doshier Memorial Hospital in operation.

Howard and Tomlinson said that a Thursday morning meeting between Doshier Hospital Retention Committee members and Department of Human Resources Secretary David Flaharty has been called.



LEE ALDRIDGE has been promoted from cashier to Assistant Vice-President, Southport operations, of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company. According to Senior Vice-President Robert Howard, Aldridge will remain branch manager of the Oak Island office.

No Funds For Festival

Wood Gets Yaupon Seat After Petition 'Ignored'

By BILL ALLEN
Heated words were exchanged after a new member of the Yaupon Beach Board of Commissioners was selected during a special meeting Tuesday morning.

The board voted 3-to-1 to select Ted Wood to replace Commissioner Jack Allen, who resigned his seat at the regular meeting last week.

Commissioner Gib Barbee nominated Wood after Ralph Cammack had been turned down. Commissioner Marvin Watson seconded the Wood nomination. Barbee, Watson and W.E. McDougle, who waited a long time before announcing his vote, supported Wood. Commissioner Bill Smalley voted in op-

position. Mayor C.E. Murphy, who cast the deciding ballot against Cammack, first voted for Wood. But he withdrew his vote after McDougle said he was supporting Wood.

"It is with genuine dismay that I observe today that the majority of the Yaupon Beach town council has again seen fit to ignore the signed petition of a huge percentage of the residents of this town," Smalley said in a statement read after the vote. "It is beyond my comprehension that these officials have forgotten that they serve here at the pleasure of the voting citizens."

"To ignore their moral obligations to appoint Ralph

Cammack, the next highest vote getter in the election held less than 11 months ago, can only mean to me that they sit here to serve their own self interests and not the citizens of Yaupon Beach," Smalley continued.

When Murphy called for nominations, Smalley nominated Cammack. He presented the board with petitions signed by 131 persons calling for Cammack's selection to fill Allen's seat.

Smalley pointed out that Cammack was almost elected to the board in the last town election. He said Cammack polled 89 votes while Watson, who won the

(Continued On Page 5)



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES for the Brunswick County Water System were held Monday at the intersection of the old and new river roads near Southport. Doing the honors were, left to right, Commissioners Robert Simmons, James

Smith, J.T. Clemmons, Vardell Hughes and Bill Kopp, and James Johnson, state director of Farmers Home Administration. Initial construction is adjacent to the Pfizer, Inc., plant site.

Commissioners Set Planning Board Hearing

BSL Wants Single Township; Varied Tax Rates Introduced

By BILL ALLEN
The town of Boiling Spring Lakes wants to be placed in one township, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners was informed at its regular meeting Monday in Southport.

Mayor Alfred J. Switzer said in a letter to the board that Boiling Spring Lakes wants to be placed in Town Creek Township and have its own voting precinct. The town board has adopted a resolution calling for the two changes.

Boiling Spring Lakes is currently in both Smithville and Town Creek townships.

Voters must go to either Bolivia or Southport to cast ballots.

Chairman William Kopp, Jr., asked County Attorney Tom Horne and Chairman Lester Babson of the Board of Elections to look into the matters and report back to the board.

The commissioners decided to hold a public hearing to establish a planning board October 3 at 9 a.m.

The board actually voted unanimously to adopt a planning board ordinance after being told by Horne that a public hearing was not

needed.

After the ordinance was adopted and Horne left the room, commissioners started nominating the nine citizens who would serve on the board. Horne rushed back into the room and told the commissioners that a public hearing must be held on the matter. The board recessed the ordinance and set the public hearing.

President Phillip King, III, and John Barbee of the county Board of Realtors urged the board "to speed up" the process of establishing flood insurance in the entire county.

They told commissioners that builders were having a hard time obtaining loan money in flood-prone areas because the county does not have flood insurance.

Chairman Kopp said the board is working to have flood insurance in the county by July 1, 1975. He said the county hopes to submit an application after the first of the year.

Under the law, the chairman pointed out, loans cannot be made to builders in areas

without flood insurance after July 1, 1975.

County Manager Neil Mallory said Brunswick plans to hire a county planner in late October or early November. The 35 ap-

plications for the new positions are being reviewed at the present time.

"The first assignment the planner will have will be to qualify the county for flood

(Continued On Page 3)

Local 'Milestone'

Water System Ground Broken

Members of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners broke ground for the multi-million dollar water system Monday.

Chairman William Kopp, Jr., Vice-Chairman J.T. Clemmons, and Commissioners James W. (Bubba) Smith, Vardell Hughes and Robert Simmons and Farmers Home Administration State Director Jimmy Johnson broke ground at the intersection of SR 1527 and 1528 between Carolina

Power and Light Company's plant and the Pfizer, Inc., plant.

The new water system, which has been in the planning stage for almost three years, will provide treated water for Long Beach, Yaupon Beach, Southport, Pfizer and rural residents living along the line. County officials hope to start pumping water in July of 1975.

County Manager Neil Mallory, who presided over

(Continued On Page 2)