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Supply Office To Close

Sheriff's System Under One Roof

Brunswick County commissioners gave second - thought approval to a centralized communications center for the sheriff's department Friday night after Sheriff Herman Strong said he would close the Supply office and operate from Southport anyway.

"Are you going to dominate or let the sheriff run his department?" Strong asked the commissioners after a motion to centralize the communications equipment died for lack of a second. Though no additional information was apparent, commissioner Rusty Russ later seconded the motion of Ira Butler. The vote was unanimous.

The first public acknowledgement that commissioners intend to move the county seat to the Supply area came during the Friday night meeting, called primarily to get cost figures on Strong's proposal to put the communications system under one roof.

The meeting, scheduled to be held in the commissioners' room at the Hood Building in Southport, was moved to the courthouse to accommodate the approximately 40 persons present.

Strong, noting that Motorola representative Rich Edwards quoted a price tag of \$1,400 to move the com-

munications equipment from the CID (old jail) building for less than \$2,000.

In support of his proposal to centralize communications equipment used by the department, Strong cited the previous use of eight telephone lines and a monthly phone bill as high as \$1,500. He asked the commissioners for two lines Friday night at an estimated cost of \$350 a month. "That puts me in business here," he noted.

Strong pointed out that the Supply office could answer only calls made on Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp. lines. Leland area calls have come to Southport, then to Supply by radio, then to sheriff's department vehicles. The problem has been compounded, he said, because "warrants and civil papers are locked up downstairs (in the courthouse)."

Strong said papers (warrants, etc.) had been "sat on and lost" by the previous sheriff's department administration.

The new sheriff, elected Nov. 5 along with the five commissioners, said the Supply office is costing \$28,000 annually to simply dispatch calls. "What you have is repetition," he declared.

Board Chairman Franky Thomas asked how much savings would be realized by moving the system to Southport, and Strong cited the possible elimination of three dispatcher positions. "That's \$18,000 right there," the sheriff stated.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Willie Sloan, Strong said all county communications systems, including fire and rescue, could be accommodated by the Southport communications facility. "Sure," the sheriff said. "I can dispatch every car in the county from downstairs. All it is, is getting it together."

When a system is not together, the sheriff continued, "Nobody understands what's going on." He said the county should have certified, capable personnel and not jailers operating the radios. There has been "no efficiency, just turmoil," Strong told the commissioners.

Steve Varnam asked the size of the room available at the CID building in Southport. "As big as the one you've got

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New Dispatch Starts Friday

The Brunswick County Sheriff's Department will begin dispatching radio calls from the CID building in Southport Friday afternoon starting at 4 o'clock, Sheriff Herman Strong reported.

Sheriff Strong said the Supply office will close Friday after dispatching starts at the CID building.

The radio units now located in the county jail building in Southport will be moved to the CID building Friday in order to provide countywide coverage, he said.

All the radio units in the Supply office except the PIN machine will be moved to the CID building Monday. The PIN machine will be moved to the building next week by state officials.

Sheriff Herman Strong said that employees of Coastal Electronics in Wilmington will move all the radio units for the department.

Residents in the lower end of the county can phone 754-4374 toll - free to reach the Sheriff's Department. Leland residents can continue to reach the department by calling 763-7401 toll - free.



BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHRINE Club members were installed last Wednesday night at ceremonies at the club building, located on the Midway Road near Bolivia. Seated, left to right, are John Bray, treasurer; Albert Parker, first vice-president; R.G. "Bill" Jackson, president; Hubert Brittain, second vice-

president; and Herb Nichols, secretary. Standing, left to right, are Merrell Hanes, greeter; Oscar Cleaton, ambassador; C.P. "Pete" Jessup, ambassador; Walter Sheltenburg, assistant treasurer; Clarence Hamilton, ambassador; Bill Leggett, assistant secretary; and Hugh Hutchins, greeter.

City Opposes Attempts To Cut Doshier Service

- Hospital
- Water, Sewer
- Electric Rates

By BILL ALLEN - The Southport Board of Aldermen took action on the hospital question and the water, sewer and storm drainage project during the regular monthly meeting Thursday night at City Hall.

The board voted unanimously to adopt a short resolution opposing General Assembly action to "convert" Doshier Memorial Hospital into a "trauma center" as recommended by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

Copies of the resolution will

be sent by registered mail to Rep. Allen Ward, Sen. Ed Nye, House Speaker Jimmy Green and former legislator Arthur Williamson, who will be Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt's liaison man in the General Assembly.

The board also made plans to present the Smithville side of the question to the General Assembly when a public hearing is held on the matter in Raleigh.

Alderman Robert Howard called on the board to adopt the brief resolution opposing General Assembly action

aimed at reducing Doshier to a trauma center.

"We need to tell our representatives how we feel about the future of Doshier hospital," Howard declared. "They should not be able to say they have not heard from us."

Howard told the board he did not believe the General Assembly could turn Doshier into a trauma center on the recommendation of the Board of Commissioners since "the people of Smithville Township own nearly 60 percent of the hospital."

He pointed out that the city and the county each own 50 percent of the hospital under the charter. He said that each of the six townships should own an equal share of the county's 50 - percent interest.

"This gives the people of Smithville Township a 60 - percent interest in the hospital," he declared. "This is important since some people in the county seem

more interested in geographical location than population center."

The meeting had to be recessed at one point to allow Mayor Pro - Tem Harold Aldridge, presiding in the absence of Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., who was reportedly out - of - town on business, to make a statement on the hospital question for a Wilmington television station.

City Attorney E.J. Prevatte briefed the mayor pro - tem on the points he should stress in the television appearance. After returning to the meeting room, Mayor Pro - Tem Aldridge announced that his remarks would be shown on the television station twice the next day.

The board voted unanimously to charge residents for sewer taps in order to complete financial

arrangements for the \$1 - million - plus water, sewer and storm drainage project.

Bud Davis of Henry Von Oesen, consulting engineers on the project, said extra money was needed because no agency would provide funds for sewer taps.

He said the city could obtain the money either by reducing the interest and contingency funds or charging for sewer taps. He recommended the second course of action.

Davis said the contractor had agreed to make the taps for \$150 for the average house while the project is underway. The city, he noted, charges an average of \$200 for a tap.

Davis said about 334 houses in Southport could tap onto the line. However, he said he believed that no more than 30

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Nuclear Plant Fueling Starts

Work started Tuesday to insert uranium fuel rod bundles into the Unit 2 nuclear reactor vessel at the Brunswick nuclear plant outside Southport.

Plant Manager E.G. Hollowell said that employees will work 24 - hour - a - day for the next ten days to two weeks to place the bundles into the vessel of Unit 2.

Each of the fuel bundles contains 49 zinc-alloy tubes filled with enriched uranium dioxide pellets, which are about one - half - inch long and slightly less than one - half inch thick.

Each pellet will be stacked one on top of the other in the tubes, which are 144 inches long.

The seven - tubes - square bundles are being placed in

the reactor vessel which was filled with water.

Workers spent last week and Monday moving the 560 fuel bundles from various storage areas to the site for the fuel loading operations.

Hollowell reported that the fuel process is being monitored by trained personnel with Atomic Energy Commission ratings. The operation also is being monitored by automatic systems within the plant.

Carolina Power and Light Company officials announced that Unit 2 at the Brunswick plant will be activated this spring. It has been licensed for operation by the AEC.

Unit 1 is more than 70 - percent complete, company officials said. Unit loading operations are expected to start this summer.

County To Get \$93,861 In Federal Hiring Plan

Brunswick County will receive a total of \$93,861 to spend during the next five months to hire unemployed residents to work in public service jobs, County Personnel Director Steve Hughes announced this week.

Brunswick County's grant from the Emergency Manpower Act is divided into two equal shares of \$46,930.50 each to hire residents to work in county government and in state positions located in the county. The county expects to receive another grant before June.

Hughes said he was informed that Brunswick County would receive the \$93,861 by Program Coor-

dinator Robert Whitley of the State Manpower Council during a meeting in Raleigh on Friday.

Hughes said he was in the process of obtaining input from county department heads regarding job needs at the present time. The information will be presented at a Region "O" meeting in Wilmington today (Wednesday).

Region "O" Executive Director Beverly Paul has called the meeting in Wilmington to award grants under the new Emergency Job Program. Jurisdiction representatives from counties, cities, etc., in the region will present a list of

job needs and the salary requirements.

"A representative of the North Carolina Manpower Council will be in attendance Wednesday," Paul said. "He will sign grant award contracts so that the jurisdictions in the region may begin hiring immediately."

Paul said the jurisdiction representatives will need to act rapidly since "the present economic situation makes it imperative that we provide jobs during January."

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4 Of 6 Townships

Tax Appraisal Process Slow

Allied Appraisal turned over to the county tax information on the fourth of the six townships in Brunswick on Thursday - almost six weeks later than promised. County officials said the Shallotte Township tax information was promised to be delivered to the Finance - Computer Office in early December.

The information finally arrived Thursday - five weeks and four - and - one - half days later than expected. It is expected to take county workers two to three weeks to key - punch the information for use on the computer.

County officials said Allied promised to turn over the Smithville township listing Monday. Smithville is the

Superior Court

A criminal term of Superior Court will be held in Southport next week with Judge Edwin Preston presiding.

Almost 100 cases are scheduled to be tried during the four - day session, which will start Monday.

The Grand Jury will be in session Monday. A total of 20 cases are scheduled to be presented to the Grand Jury.

largest township in the county and contains one - third to one - half of the total parcels in Brunswick.

The last township - Lockwood Folly - is expected to be turned over to the county in late January or early February.

Allied officials told county commissioners Dec. 2 that they could not complete the job by the Dec. 1 deadline because more parcels than expected had been found in the county.

Company representatives said at the time that Shallotte would be finished in early December, Smithville the first of January and Lockwood Folly in mid - January. Allied is being paid more than \$369,000 to re - evaluate property for tax purposes in Brunswick County. The work is required by law to be done every eight years.

Under the contract, the company is subject to be fined \$100 every day the work is late in December and \$300 a day every day the work is late after January. But the board has not imposed a penalty on the company yet.

Because the company is late finishing the work, Brunswick County residents have not had to list taxes yet this year.

Students Object

Board Closes Appeals Door

The Brunswick County Board of Education held two nights of closed hearings this week to hear appeals from students suspended from North Brunswick High School earlier this year.

The board voted unanimously to hold closed hearings despite opposition expressed by Attorney James J. Wall of Wilmington, who represented the students.

Wall told the board that he and the students believed that the hearings should be open to both the public and the press. "We did not request closed hearings," he declared. "In fact, the students requested that the hearings be open to the public."

Wall said the students believed that the hearings should be open to the public since "school matters involve all of the people of Brunswick County."

School Board Attorney Mason Anderson said the

board could hold closed hearings under the Open Meetings Law since discipline matters were being discussed. He said, however, that the law did not require the board to hold closed hearings.

After hearing from the two attorneys, the board voted unanimously to hold the appeal hearings behind closed doors. The board spent about ten hours in executive session Monday and Tuesday nights hearing the appeals.

The six students, who had their appeals heard by the board during the two nights, were suspended for the rest of the year from North Brunswick in October following a "disturbance" at the school. Each of the six students was given an individual hearing.

Wall requested that the appeal hearings be held in order to "allow the students back in school where they belong."