



TAX NOTICES containing the new valuations will be received by Brunswick County residents late this week. Tax Supervisor staff members

Rose McKeithan, Judy Hewett and Jo Mansfield, left to right, work to finish the notices before they are mailed.

Abstracts Sent This Week

Property Valuations Up As Tax Notices Mailed

By BILL ALLEN
Brunswick County residents who have questions about the tax notices they will receive this week will be able to obtain answers during informal hearings which will be conducted during the next 30 days.

Allied Appraisal Company, Inc., the firm that did the appraisal work, and Brunswick County tax officials will participate in the informal hearings. The hearings will be conducted by Allied officials.

The hearings, which will start Monday, will be held Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. until April 2 at the Allied office on Howe Street in Southport.

"Interviews will be on a first come, first serve basis,"

said Brunswick County Supervisor Monty Blackmon of Allied. "However, developers and large property owners, whose interviews may last several hours, are asked to call for an appointment. This method will enable us to serve more people more efficiently and eliminate some of the waiting in line."

Tax notices containing the new valuations were to be placed in the mail to Brunswick County residents Wednesday by the Tax Supervisor's office personnel. It will be one of the last acts performed by Tax Supervisor Charles Mills, who has resigned effective March 3.

Blackmon said the informal hearings are being held to correct mechanical

and mapping errors and to discuss market values. "But the only thing that Allied can change is mechanical errors," he pointed out. "Any other appraisal change must be made by the Board of Equalization and Review, which will meet in April."

Blackmon said Allied can recommend to the board that changes be made if the property is valued too high. "If we see concrete evidence that the land has been appraised too high, we can recheck it and make recommendation," he pointed out.

But Blackmon said the primary purpose of the informal hearings is to locate and correct mechanical errors. "We have used over 44,000 property record cards here in Brunswick County

and some of those cards may have a dozen or more calculations," he pointed out. "With this many calculations, there are bound to be errors we have not caught."

Another purpose of the informal hearings is to correct any errors in the mapping program. "If our acreage differs from the acreage a resident actually owns, we ask him to bring all available plats and deeds to the hearings so that we may correct the differences," he explained.

Blackmon said the informal hearings also will provide property owners with the opportunity to compare the value of the property with other comparable property within the county. "The hearings also will provide the people of Brunswick County with the opportunity to see the work Allied has done," he added.

Blackmon said the only subject about the tax notices that will not be discussed is taxes. "Allied has absolutely nothing to do with assessing taxes," he declared. "We were hired for one purpose and that was to appraise all real property at fair market value."

Brunswick County commissioners have indicated that the tax rate for 1975-76 will be reduced because of the expected higher valuations. They have said they believe the county can raise the needed tax money with a lower rate because of the higher valuation, but the new tax rate will not be set until this summer.

Blackmon said Allied has tried to establish valuations that are "realistic and right at 100-percent market value. The important thing is that

Tax Supervisor Named To Start Work Monday

Lengthy closed sessions of the board of commissioners on Monday resulted in the employment of a new Brunswick County tax supervisor, but also revealed the resignation of clerk to the board Carol Greene.

K.T. Bellamy was named acting tax supervisor until such time he can be certified by the state. He replaces Charles Mills, who earlier this month announced his resignation effective Monday, March 3. (see separate story, this edition of The Pilot.)

No reason was given at the meeting for the resignation of Mrs. Greene, which is to become effective March 21.

In other business during the special meeting, Personnel Director Steve Hughes announced that an additional \$15,000 in the Manpower job program had been received by the county. The board agreed with Hughes' recommendation that the county hire a carpenter, an inventory clerk and laborers for the remaining four-month employment period.

The program allows for a maximum \$4.80-per-hour wage but the county will subsidize the carpenter's salary \$1.20. But for lower-paid workers, Board Chairman Franky Thomas noted, "We're competing with unemployment." He commented that 90 percent of the work force is employed, supporting the other 10 percent.

In other business, County Manager Neil Mallory announced a proposed Tuesday, March 4 joint meeting with the New Hanover County commissioner to discuss "a regional approach to spending community development funds." One possible use would be the creation of a two-county housing authority. Commissioners were less than enthusiastic about the suggestion.

In response to an earlier resolution by the board calling on CP&L to encourage the employment of local labor in constructing its planned cooling towers, company representatives "assured" the chairman sub-contractors would be requested "to use local people as much as possible" in the \$60-to \$70-million project.

The board noted a \$250 to \$300 increase in insurance cost for a downtown Southport building to be used as

office space for County Planner Johnny Sutton and others. The cost-increase is due to the conversion of insurance from residential to business use.

Commissioner Steve Varnam presented to the board a Certificate of Official Recognition received by the county last Friday from the Bicentennial organization.

Commissioner Willie Sloan suggested a possible use of Manpower grant funds in building a dog pound for the county. Also, information concerning a 2,800-foot access road to a county water supply well site will be forwarded to W.A. Roach and O'Neil Caison, who reportedly are

interested in preparing the road for use.

Archie Martin, county Extension chairman, reported briefly to the board about a state-financed, two-man team that would operate in the county to locate and treat for fire ants. Preliminary discussion indicated the two workers would have access to road rights-of-way and county-or state-owned property; Martin later determined that the workers could go on private property with the owner's permission.

The cost to the county would be for transportation while the two men

(Continued on Page 2)

Long Beach Purchase

Land Deal Is Under Study

The State Bureau of Investigation has been asked to look into the controversial purchase of land at Long Beach last November to see if the law has been violated.

A copy of the letter, sent to SBI Director Charles Dunn, was made available to The Pilot.

"Certain land transactions involving officials from the old county board of commissioners of Brunswick County and the mayor and one commissioner of the Town of Long Beach may be in violation of G.S. 14-234," the letter said.

"These transactions have appeared to discredit the town and perhaps the other members of the town council," the letter continued. "Perhaps an examination of the circumstances from your office (Dunn's) could clarify whether any laws have been violated and would clear any implied wrong doing on the part of the board and the Town of Long Beach."

After pointing out some information about the land purchase, the letter said that Dunn should "see why there is some implication of wrongdoing on the part of the town and the town council. It also seems that others may be unjustly criticized for something in which they took no part."

The letter told Dunn that the transaction took place in November, 1974 before the current county board of commissioners took office in December. It said that Mayor E.W. Morgan and Commissioner C. Russell Morrison of Long Beach "were the municipal officials involved."

"The firm of Pierson and Whitman, Engineers, may be (involved) also," the letter stated.

The letter tells Dunn that the county purchased a tract of land in Long Beach which is to be used for an elevated water tank to eventually provide water to be pur-

chased by the town. Two lots were involved and the sale price was \$14,000. "All local realtors say this is in excess of more than double the value," the letter pointed out.

The problem, the letter said, is that the mayor (Morgan) also a realtor, was "contacted because of his position as mayor and the property was listed by his

(Continued On Page 2)

Dosher Appraisal Asked

County Board Names RDC Board Members

The appointment of members to the Resources Development Commission and action on hospitals highlighted a special meeting of the Brunswick County board of commissioners last Wednesday night.

Benny Ludlum of Lockwood Folly and David Broadway of Northwest were appointed to replace Luke Appling of Smithville and William A. Babson of Town Creek on the Commission. J.A. Francis of Smithville, who has served on the commission since it was established, was re-appointed.

Babson and Appling will serve on the Resources Development Commission until 12 p.m. on March 3. The commission will hold its regular monthly meeting the night of March 3.

Appling voted with the majority to fire Commission Executive Director Jackie Stephenson at the meeting earlier this month. Babson and Francis voted to keep Stephenson.

The board voted

May Open March 7

The new Oak Island high-level bridge may open to traffic late next week, according to district engineer Ted Funderburk of the Department of Transportation.

Funderburk said the bridge could open next Friday, March 7. The opening will depend on weather conditions.

"The approaches to the bridge need to be paved before it can be opened," he pointed out. "We also need to do some paving on the bridge itself. If the weather stays good, we could do the paving and open the bridge to traffic next Friday."

He said construction work will continue to finish the work after the bridge opens to traffic.

Construction work on the 4,250-foot bridge has been underway for about two years. The new facility will replace a drawbridge that was destroyed when a barge crashed into it.

unanimously to have a professional appraiser establish the value of the Dosher Memorial Hospital building and site if the Southport Board of Aldermen agrees. The price will be used "at the time of disposal or whatever happens to the actual structure."

Chairman Franky Thomas, who made the motion, said both the board of commissioners and the Southport board of aldermen should select one representative each to pick the professional appraiser.

Once the price is established, either the city or the county would be able to purchase the hospital and property for 50 percent of the appraised value.

If both the city and county want to make the purchase, it would be sold to the highest bidder. If neither want to make the purchase, it would be sold with the selling price divided equally between the city and the county.

The county board will send the aldermen a letter requesting city participation

in the "joint venture."

The board voted unanimously to authorize County Attorney James Prevatte to proceed with action needed to deed the land the county purchased at Supply for the proposed new hospital to the Brunswick County Hospital Authority.

In answer to a question asked by Commissioner Willie Sloan, Commissioner W.T. Russ, Jr., told the board that the Hospital Authority had to own the land in order to apply for grant funds.

"The hospital is going to be for the county's use anyhow," said Commissioner Steve Varnam, Jr. "If it (deeding the land to the authority) is not done, the county will have to make out the application for grant funds. The one that makes the application must hold legal title to the land."

Varnam said the board needed to act on the matter at once since the application had to be "on the desk" in Raleigh the first week in March. He said the ap-

(Continued On Page 2)

Long Beach Vote Friday

Yaupon OK's Resolution For Oak Island Merger

The Yaupon board of commissioners approved a resolution calling on the General Assembly to allow a vote on the question of the consolidating Yaupon Beach and Long Beach during a brief special meeting Wednesday night.

"Now therefore, be it resolved by the board of commissioners that the members of the North Carolina legislature duly elected from the district encompassing this municipality be requested to introduce and expend their best efforts in the enactment of legislation providing for a

referendum to be conducted in Yaupon Beach and Long Beach on the question of the consolidation of such municipalities into a single municipality," said the resolution.

The resolution, introduced by Commissioner Marvin Watson and seconded by Commissioner Ted Wood, was approved on a 4-to-1 vote. Commissioner Bill Smalley voted in the opposition.

"I voted no on the resolution of a referendum vote to merge Yaupon Beach and Long Beach because at this time there is no written plan for the consolidation of

the two towns," Smalley told The Pilot after the vote. "I agree the people should be allowed to vote on the dissolution of their town — whether or not they want to turn it over to Long Beach — but they should be fully informed of all the consequences of a merger."

Mayor E.W. Morgan has called a special meeting of the Long Beach board of commissioners Friday night at 7:30 p.m. to discuss and act on the merger question.

The Yaupon Beach board acted on the question in about 35 minutes during the special meeting Wednesday night called at the request of Watson and Wood. About 25 to 30 resident attended the meeting.

"I think the people should be given the right to vote on this issue," Mayor C.E. Murphy stated. "That is as simple as it can be put."

The resolution approved by the board pointed out that Yaupon Beach and Long Beach "lie within the same township, are adjacent to each other and have similar problems relative to growth, expansion and administration."

Copies of the resolution are being sent to Rep. Allen Ward

(Continued on Page 2)

Tax Funds Allotted

Brunswick County will receive \$61,133.96 from collection of the one-percent sales and use tax during January, the state Department of Revenue announced this week.

Also, distribution of final quarter, 1974 collections were announced with the local share divided as follows: Brunswick County \$166,296; Boiling Spring Lakes \$617; Bolivia \$46; Holden Beach \$1,577; Long Beach \$8,465; Ocean Isle Beach \$1,031; Shallotte \$1,855;

Southport received \$3,562; Sunset Beach \$776; and Yaupon Beach \$1,558. Newly-incorporated towns of Calabash and Shady Forest are not yet eligible to participate in the distribution of funds.