

By Sheriff Strong

## Leland Jail Is Proposed

Sheriff Herman Strong announced he will propose that a jail be built in the Leland area when he presents his 1975-76 budget.

"We have a great need for a jail in the Leland area," Sheriff Strong said. "When we make an arrest in the Leland area, we have to transport the person about 30 miles to a jail at Southport or Shallotte."

Sheriff Strong said he wants the county to construct a 3,213-square-foot jail that

can be expanded in the Leland area. He said the cost will run about \$200,000 for land, construction and equipment.

He said the proposed jail will have four juvenile cells, four women's cells, three maximum security cells, and a 12-man block. In addition, it will have rooms for the dispatcher, medical services, visitors and an office.

Sheriff Strong said he wanted to have a dispatcher (Continued On Page 12)



OLD BALDY, the famous Bald Head Island lighthouse visible from the Southport waterfront, has been nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by Robert Stipe, state historic preservation officer. It is the oldest standing lighthouse in North Carolina, funded by the General Assembly in 1784 and completed in 1794. It was destroyed between 1812 and 1815. The 110-ft.-high structure was rebuilt in 1817.

## Meeting Was Put On Tape

The State Port Pilot has a tape recording of a Dec. 16 closed session of the Brunswick County commissioners that shows the county board in violation of the Open Meetings law.

The tape, which was recorded when the commissioner unintentionally turned on the recorder a Pilot reporter had turned off, was played Tuesday for four members of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners. Reason for playing the tape, said Pilot News Editor Ed Harper, was the continued insistence by board members that what the newspaper said happened, never did.

Commissioner Rusty Russ of Shallotte was not present when the tape was played.

"We thought it was a dead issue," said Harper, "but when a commissioner came to The Pilot office last week and demanded an apology for accusing the board of violating the Open Meetings law, we felt we should play the tape for the commissioners and set the record straight."

The tape is not to be con-

sidered a threat, Harper said. "As far as we're concerned, the report of the Dec. 16 violation is a first warning everybody deserves. In our successful lawsuit against the former board for violating the Open Meetings law we did not act until there were repeated, flagrant violations. We would not act on this single violation by the new board."

Chairman Franky Thomas, for whom the tape was played Monday, said afterwards, "There was nothing improper about the taping; in fact, we unknowingly taped ourselves. I think I was out of the room when the discussion of the water treatment plant (which The Pilot contends was illegal to discuss under "personnel") took place.

"There have been no threats made about 'using' the tape," said the chairman. "Mr. Harper simply asked that I go back to the board and tell them our meeting was on tape, and asked that anyone on the board claiming that the alleged illegal discussion didn't take place, please stop telling their people that."

## Mayor Will Quit, Too

# Beach Manager Kivett Resigns

Despite a 24-to-something show of hands in the affirmative, the Long Beach Board of Commissioners voted Monday not to resign in force.

But announcement was made by Mayor Ed W. Morgan that he will step down at the next regular meeting, May 1, for reasons of health.

The unusual Monday afternoon activity was caused by another resignation — that of Town Manager Frank Kivett last Thursday night. Kivett had said he would sign no more town checks except payroll, and the Monday meeting was called primarily to name a new finance officer. The tone was set, however, by the motion to resign introduced by Commissioner Nancy Leggett.

Noting that "I did this on my own," Mrs. Leggett said Kivett's Thursday night statement is what prompted her motion. In that statement, Kivett noted cases of commissioners' interference with his job, illegal wire-tapping and threats on the lives of his family. He said that because of developments of recent months, his "professional recovery may be impossible."

Commissioner Ellis Dudley volunteered some "back history" for the board and audience, citing in particular the absence of financial reports to the board since Dec. 18. He said there have

been delays in paying bills which "are a little embarrassing to me." He said he suggested to the mayor that someone — reportedly former acting town manager Ed Liggett — look at the financial reports item by item.

Kivett said this item-by-item check is what spurred his resignation announcement last Thursday. Stating that the item-by-

### \$50,000 Goal

## West Library In Midst Of Fund-Raising Drive

A kick-off dinner was held last Wednesday night to prepare for raising funds for construction of a new facility in Shallotte to house the expanding West Brunswick County Library, a part of the Brunswick County library system.

About 50 concerned citizens attended the Calabash gathering.

The meeting was presided over by John Hughes, Shallotte attorney who is chairman of the Library Advisory Committee. The invocation was given by the Rev. Freeman Gause.

In presenting the needs of

item check was "nothing horrible" and that it happened all the time in big business, Dudley asked Kivett to reconsider signing the checks, and to stay until a suitable replacement could be found. "Let's handle this in a dignified way," Dudley asked.

Mayor Morgan said he "didn't call or retain Mr. Liggett" to check behind Kivett, and that the first time

he saw Liggett since he resigned last spring was at the town hall last Monday. Richard Owens, a member of the law firm sitting in for Town Attorney James R. Prevatte, Jr., who was involved in a meeting of the county board of commissioners, left the room for a telephone call and the meeting stopped. During the pause in the action, Morgan called for a "straw ballot"

asking how many were in favor and how many were against the entire board resigning. There were 24 hands in favor, only a few opposed although Morgan did not finish the count. "There wasn't but 6 or 7," Mrs. Leggett noted, and the total included visiting Yaupon Beach Commissioner Bill Smalley.

"There is just so much quarreling," said Mrs. Inez Shannon, who noted that some of the board members might be re-elected if another election were held. Should the whole board resign, the governor would appoint replacements until the next regular town election.

Spectator Woody Vennel termed the proposed resignations "A motion of quitters."

Morris Ferrell, who said he was speaking as a businessman who hears from folks upstate, said "for your tenure all I've heard (from across the state) is your bickering. There has been nothing but bad news. Let's start all over."

Morgan said he'd resign if the other board members would. Commissioner Russ Morrison asked Ferrell if he wanted his chair. No, Ferrell replied.

Member Virginia Christenbury noted there have been problems before, and a spectator brought a relief of laughter when she the current situation "is not (Continued On Page 7)

# Manager's Post To Be Filled By Chairman Thomas

Chairman Franky Thomas was named interim county manager during the closing minutes of the regular monthly meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday afternoon at the Hood Building in Southport.

Thomas, a newcomer to politics who took office in December, assumed his new full-time position with the county Tuesday. In addition, he will continue to serve as chairman of the board of commissioners.

Thomas, who has business but no government managerial experience, was unanimously selected to serve as interim county manager by his fellow commissioners. He will replace County Manager Neil Mallory, who resigned last Thursday. (See related story in this edition of The Pilot.)

The board voted unanimously to name Mallory to serve as assistant county manager until his resignation becomes effective May 30. He has served as county manager since August, 1973.

Both Thomas and Mallory will receive the same salary — \$18,500 — the money earned by the county manager in Brunswick County. Thomas said he will receive none of the regular allotment given county commissioners.

The board took no action to begin the process of seeking a county manager during the meeting.

Thomas told The Pilot that the board was not going to make a "hasty decision" to find a new manager. "We are going to take our time to find the right person," he stated. County Attorney James R.

Prevatte, Jr., read the law about interim county managers after being requested by Thomas during the meeting. Prevatte said if the board acted, Mallory could be named administrative assistant or assistant county manager.

Mallory asked if his salary would be reduced with the title change. Thomas said he (Mallory) would receive the same salary until his resignation becomes effective.

After the vote, Thomas asked the commissioners if they wanted to name an in- (Continued On Page 7)

## Favorable Report

The controversial Allen Ward bill to move the Brunswick County seat of government to Supply received a favorable report this morning from the Local Government II Committee, according to the Institute of Government.

The bill, which calls for a referendum to decide whether to move the county seat or leave it at Southport, now goes to the floor of the House of Representatives.

# One Township Favored For Lakes Community

Brunswick County commissioners indicated after a Monday night hearing they will take action to place Boiling Spring Lakes entirely in Town Creek Township.

"We hope to have something for you at our next meeting," Chairman Franky Thomas told the 20-member delegation at the hearing.

Chairman Thomas instructed County Attorney James Prevatte to draw up the resolution to present at the next meeting.

All the residents who spoke at the hearing favored placing Boiling Spring Lakes in Town Creek Township except Al Martin.

Martin said he opposed placing the town in Town Creek Township without a vote of the people. He said he believed that the town board recommended the action because four members live in Town Creek Township.

Col. Paul Day, mayor pro-tem, said the board unanimously approved a resolution eight months ago asking that a voting precinct be placed at Boiling Spring Lakes and the town be placed in Town Creek Township. He said he had heard no opposition until Martin spoke at the hearing.

"The fact that four town commissioners live in Town Creek has nothing to do with it," Col. Day declared. "It is not a political issue."

He said the town, which has a projected population of 20,000, would rather be in Town Creek than Smithville Township. Allen Creek divides the town between the two townships at the present time.

"Ira Butler, who represents Smithville on your board, represents one-third of the people in Brunswick County," Col. Day pointed out.

Martin said most of the residents at the hearing were members of the Boiling Spring Lakes Property Owners Association. He said the association represents the

minority because most residents don't want to pay the membership dues to be members.

Chairman Lester Babson said the town needed to make a written request to the Board of Elections to establish a voting precinct. But he said no new precinct could be established while the town is divided between two townships.

Babson said he could not predict what action the board will take on the request since he is just one of three members. But he said it was "feasible" since residents now have to vote at Bolivia or Southport, depending on where they live.

Board of Elections Member Johnny Mills said he believed the board would do what was "best for the people."

Arthur Greene said

residents have been working on the matter for years, but no action had been taken. He said residents wanted to have the town placed in one township.

Melvin Riley said 90 percent of the delegation at the hearing would vote to place the town in another township beside Smithville.

Hal Warner said it made no difference to him what township the town was in.

Ralph Nordquest said he did not know anyone was against placing the town in Town Creek until Martin spoke.

Nelson Starnes said he believed "we should go along with our elected representatives on the town board." Bob Lloyd said he believed the town board represented all the people.

### Effective May 30

# Mallory Quits Manager Post

County Manager Neil Mallory resigned during a special meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Thursday morning.

Chairman Franky Thomas announced at the conclusion of a 43-minute closed executive session that Mallory had submitted his resignation. The resignation is effective May 30.

He also announced that Carole Greene, who has served as clerk to the board, had resigned effective Wednesday, April 9.

Mallory assumed his duties as county manager on August 1, 1973. Mrs. Greene would have served as county clerk three years in August. Both

were first employed under the former Republican board of commissioners.

The special meeting had been called to discuss "personnel." Chairman Thomas said that "no action" had been taken before making the two announcements. Commissioner Steve Varnam, Jr., did not attend the meeting due to "business reasons."

"This is to confirm my announcement to the Board of Commissioners pertaining to my resignation as county manager effective May 30," Mallory said in his letter of resignation to Chairman Thomas. "Please be assured that I have enjoyed my (Continued On Page 12)