

Architect Selection Not Exactly Routine

The way architectural and engineering firms are selected for public works projects "can either enhance or jeopardize public confidence in government in general and in the persons involved in particular," according to the American Public Works Association (APWA).

The APWA, "recognizing the importance of using sound procedures in the selection process," has established guidelines for retaining consultants to provide architectural and engineering services for local governments to use.

"The selection and retention of consultants to provide architectural and engineering services to public agencies is an important response involving professional public works officials, the chief executive officers and the elected or appointed governing bodies of such agencies," said the Institute for Municipal Engineering's Committee on Consultants.

"The manner in which this is carried out can either enhance or jeopardize public confidence in government, in general, and in the persons involved in particular," the committee explained.

Last week, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners voted 3 to 2 to employ Jerry Lewis Engineers in association with LBC&W to provide architectural and engineering services for the new county

complex, "contingent upon a satisfactory contractual agreement being worked out." It was the only firm to make a public presentation to the commissioners.

The retention guidelines, developed by the committee and approved by the IME executive council, were written to "provide elected and appointed officials with sound procedures for

retaining consultants."

"They were developed with an awareness of the consultants' problems on the one hand and a high degree of sensitivity to the responsibilities of chief executive officers and members of public agency governing bodies on the other," the committee pointed out.

Before engaging the services of an engineer or ar-

chitect, the guidelines recommend that the governing body look to its own professional staff to prepare the scope of work, administer the selection process, negotiate the fee, and, in conjunction with its legal counsel, prepare the formal agreement resulting from the selection process.

"The agency staff should first define, in general terms, the scope of the project and identify the various project components and phases," the guidelines said. "This procedure will enable the staff to make a broad determination of the various consultant specialists required. It is desirable to then prepare detailed project descriptions to guide prospective consultants."

"At this time," the guidelines said, the staff should also determine the degree of anticipated federal or state financial participation in the project.

The guidelines said that the county staff director or a selection advisory committee should recommend engineering or architectural consultants to be retained by the public agency. The recommendations are advisory to the governing body, which is accountable for the project, it was noted.

"Particularly for projects of a controversial nature, it is desirable to have outside citizen involvement at all stages of the project development, including consultant selection," the guidelines said.

The committee, which should have at least three members, should be "made thoroughly familiar with the scope of the project and the requirements to consultants must fulfill."

"The committee should be completely free of either internal or external pressures in order to make an unbiased recommendation," the guidelines recommend.

The APWA said it may be

(Continued on page 2)

Leland Voter Drive Is Set

A voter registration drive will be conducted Saturday in Northwest Township, sponsored by the North Brunswick Action (NBA) group.

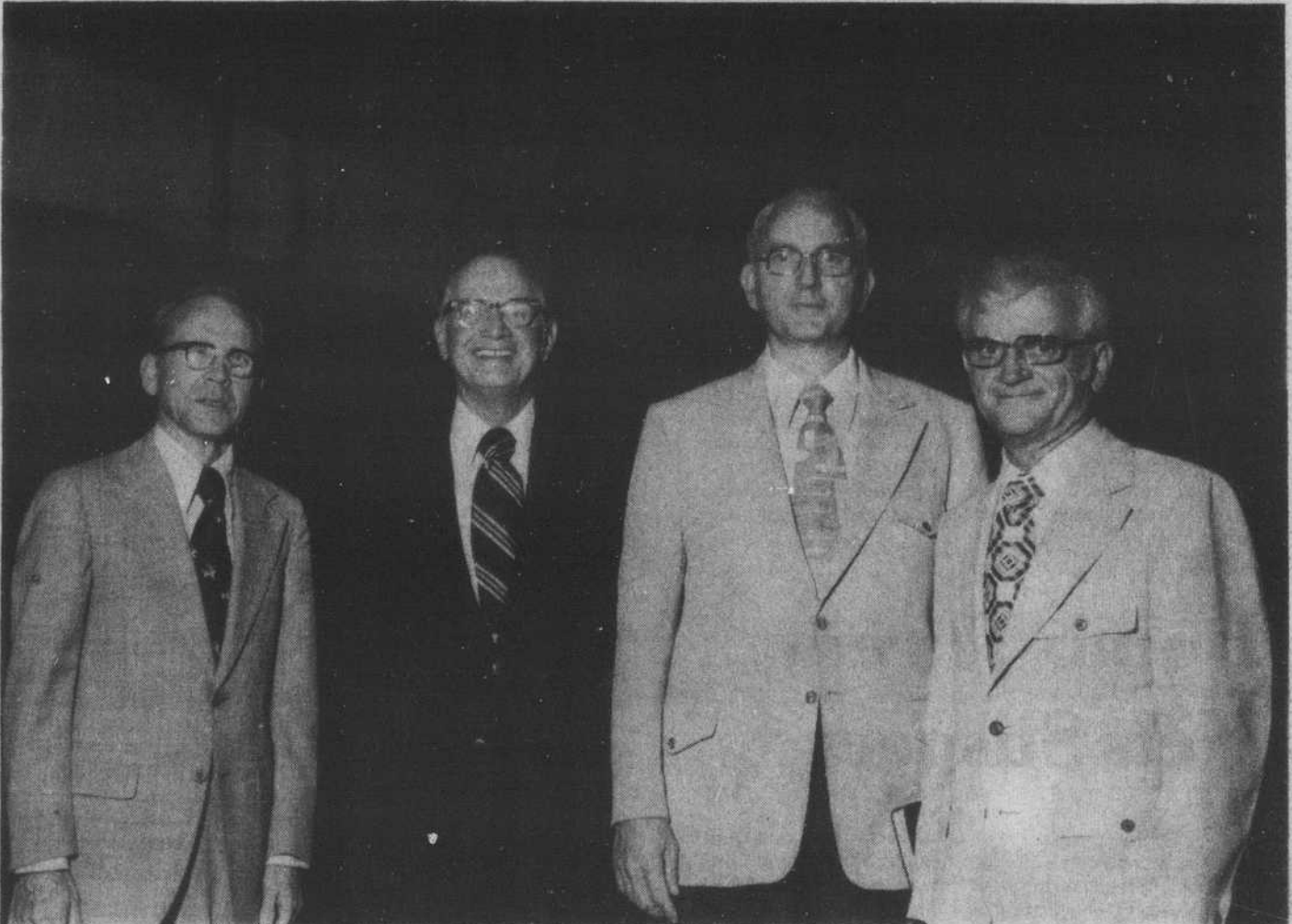
The voter registration will last four hours, from 10 a. m. until 2 p. m. Registrars for Hoods Creek, Woodburn, Belville and Leland precincts will be available, a spokesman noted.

"All non-registered persons who have resided in the county for 30 days are urged to stop by one of the precinct locations," he said.

Registration books will be open at the following locations:

Hoods Creek, at the residence of I.F. Williams; Woodburn, at the residence of Jack Abbott at Abbott's Mobile Home Park on Navassa Road; Leland, at the Volunteer Fire Department; and Belville, at Towel City.

"Please stop by one of these locations to register so you can exercise your right to have a voice in Brunswick County business," the spokesman urged Leland area residents.



CP&L PRESIDENT Shearon Harris was the featured speaker Tuesday night at the Ladies' Night program of United Methodist Men of Trinity Church in Southport. Left to right are the pastor, Rev. Earl Richardson; Harris;

Wilmington District Supt. Rev. James Auman; and Ray Walton, president of United Methodist who served as master of ceremonies Tuesday night.

County Complex Land Dealings Are Complex

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The land that received the overwhelming first-choice endorsement from the Site Selection Committee for the future site of the new Brunswick County complex has changed ownership three times in the last five months, The Pilot has learned.

The 199-acre site, located directly across from the state park, was offered for sale — at an apparently nice profit — by Canal Industries, Inc., of Conway, S.C.

However, records in the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office show that Canal Industries does not own the land. The warranty deed, contained in Book 330, Page 517, shows that the site is owned by Catawba Newsprint

Company of Catawba, S.C.

After much checking, The Pilot was informed by a spokesman for Catawba Newsprint Company — Catawba Timber Company — that the land was "traded" to Canal Industries on August 29. But the land has not been transferred to Canal Industries in a deed in the Register of Deeds office, where the owner is still listed as Catawba Newsprint Company.

According to the deed, Catawba Newsprint purchased the 199 acres from Ruth Galloway and Jeanette Galloway, "individually and as attorneys in fact for J. Richmond Galloway," on May 20 — and one day before two months the July 19 referendum on the question of moving the county seat,

courthouse and office buildings from Southport to a location on US 17 between Supply and Bolivia.

Real estate excise tax stamps on the deed, which are required by law to indicate the selling price, show that the Galloways sold the 199 acres of land to Catawba Newsprint for \$99,500.

Canal Industries has "offered to sell to Brunswick County" the tract of land containing 199 acres for \$750 per acre net. The offer, made by Canal Industries President E. Craig Wall, Jr., in a letter dated Sept. 10, "is firm through Sept. 30, 1975."

If the offer is accepted by the county commissioners, who, according to law, must select the site for the future complex, Canal Industries could make a \$49,750 profit on the land over the deed price paid the Galloways in May. The profit would be \$250 an acre since it was purchased for \$500 an acre and being offered for sale for \$750 an acre.

Sources have told The Pilot that they have been informed that Catawba Newsprint paid the Galloways only \$69,650 for the land, or \$350 an acre, regardless of what the real estate excise tax stamps show on the deed.

If that is true, the sources pointed out, Canal Industries stands to make a profit of \$79,600 on the deal if the county purchases the land for the new complex.

Canal Industries also

stands to profit on other land it owns near the proposed site. Superintendent Robert McHenry of the Brunswick County Mapping Department told The Pilot that Canal Industries owns an additional 567 acres of land in the vicinity of the site it offered to sell the county. The 567 acres included in the 15,974 acres the company owns in the county.

The additional land is expected to increase in value since it will be valuable to businesses that will be established in the area around the new center of county government.

McHenry estimated that the recently completed revaluation completed by Allied Appraisers placed the value of the 199 acres at about \$88,000. He said the front 42 acres back from US 17 has been appraised at \$600 per acre and the 157 acres of woodlands at \$400 an acre.

Steve Mims, assistant district forester with Catawba Timber Company in Rockingham, said Catawba Newsprint purchased the land from the Galloways at the request of Canal Industries.

"You might say that we bought the land to trade to Canal Industries," said Mims when asked why Catawba Newsprint happened to purchase land in Brunswick County and get rid of it three months later.

"They (Canal) made us

(Continued on page 2)

County Hospital Asks For Bids

Brunswick County's application for \$1 million in Hill - Burton funds to construct the new hospital at Supply has been approved.

The announcement was made by County Hospital Authority Chairman Mason Anderson during a press conference in the commissioner's chambers in the Hood Building in Southport Monday morning. Brunswick County commissioners attended the news conference to hear the announcement.

After the press conference, Hospital Authority Executive Director Warren Oliver called The Pilot to report that the bids to construct the new hospital will be let on October 28. The authority began advertising for bids today (September 24).

"So we on the Hospital Authority believe, with the cooperation of the Brunswick County commissioners, the money (to construct the hospital) is now available," Anderson announced at the press conference.

He said he received word Thursday and Friday from U.S. Senator Jesse Helms and Congressman Charlie Rose that the \$1 million grant had been approved by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He said he told County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., about the approval Friday evening.

The Pilot received word from the office of U.S. Senator Robert Morgan late Wednesday af-

ternoon that the grant had been approved. However, word was received too late to be included in last week's edition of The Pilot.

"What I am announcing this morning is that the federal government has made approval of the Brunswick County Hospital Authority's application to build a general hospital at Supply and to carry with that a \$1-million grant which we need in terms of financing," Anderson declared.

He said it would take an estimated 18 to 24 months to construct the \$3.8-million, 60-bed hospital once the bids have been awarded. The state Medical Care Commission establishes the bid date, he explained.

Anderson reported that the \$3.8 million needed to construct the hospital will come from \$2.5 million in general obligation bonds to be sold, the \$1 million Hill - Burton grant and some \$300,000 contributed by the county commissioners.

"Substantially, the money is now available," he pointed out.

If additional funds are needed, Anderson thinks the "last dollars" can be obtained from the Duke Endowment.

"While I cannot state to anyone that we would get Duke Endowment money, I believe we will be able to get some money from that source," he noted.

Anderson said he did not believe it would be "practical" to move the hospital from the Supply site

(Continued on page 2)

New Voters For Yaupon

About 50 new voters have signed up in a registration drive sponsored by a Yaupon Beach citizens group.

Marvin Watson, chairman of Concerned Citizens for the Future of Yaupon Beach, said, "We hope to have over 60 before October 3."

The drive was formed on the platform of having "recreation for the kids, cleaning-up the community, support of the police and fire departments, and the continued orderly growth of Yaupon Beach," stated Watson.

"Future plans include a fish fry and a weiner roast for the kids," noted Watson.

The registration drive will continue through October 3 with a meeting of concerned citizens Wednesday night.

"We hope to get people actively involved in the governmental, decision-making process, as well as being a voice in the community," stated Watson.

Record Sales Tax

An extraordinary, record \$112,947.72 in sales and use taxes was collected in Brunswick County during August.

The total is approximately \$30,000 more than the previous high, according to the N.C. Department of Revenue, which collects the tax for later distribution to the county and municipal governments here. The last few months the totals have been in the high - \$70,000 range.

Thomas Quits Manager Post

Chairman - Interim County Manager Franky Thomas announced this week that he will step down from his full-time paid position with the county on Friday.

"I have taken a lot of abuse, but I have learned a lot about county government and have enjoyed the work," Thomas said.

Thomas, who will continue to serve as chairman of the Board of Commissioners, was appointed interim county manager on a controversial decision in mid-May. He has been drawing a salary of \$19,202 a year.

County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., who assumed his duties Sept. 2 and took the oath of office last week, will be in full charge of administration duties with the county.

Thomas said he had been urged by others to continue his full-time employment with the county. But he said he decided to step down when he completes work on the new water system Friday.

Thomas said he was going to return to operating Coastal Mobile Homes Sales in Leland. He said he planned to change the name of the firm in the future since he is "no longer a mobile home salesman."

Thomas said he closed his sales lot at Sturgeon Creek in Leland after his lease expired. He said he closed the lot because sales were down and land will be needed for the new highway.

He said he had moved almost exclusively into the leasing of mobile home office trailers. "I had rather lease than sell mobile offices because more money can be made in the long run," he pointed out.

Candidates File

There have been few filings for candidacy since the filing period began on September 17.

In Southport, incumbent Mayor Eugene Tomlinson is presently unchallenged. Pierce Horne, Clinton Bellamy and former mayor Dorothy Gilbert are seeking seats on the Board of Aldermen in Ward 1, along with Mary McHose. In Ward 2, James Harold Davis has also filed.

Walter Blackburn was the only announced candidate for the Long Beach town board as of Tuesday, while at Yaupon Beach candidates for commissioner include Louise Corbett, Ted Wood and Doug Aman.

Other candidates to file elsewhere in the county are Tommy Lewis and J.E. Bryan in Calabash for town council positions.