

Board Of Education 'Recommends' Tract

Bolivia Site Gets Reluctant Nod; Rabon, Sue Don't Vote

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Education voted on a split decision that divided the board down the middle to recommend the Brown - Knox land for the site of the county complex.

The board recommended the Brown - Knox site, which was first presented last week, on a 2-1 vote following a long discussion on what action should be taken during a special meeting Tuesday night.

Members Franklin Randolph and Barbara Yount, who made the motion and the second, supported the Brown-Knox site while Member W.T.

Bowen was in opposition.

Chairman Wilbur Earl Rabon, who presided over the meeting, and Member William Sue did not cast votes on the question that divided the board.

Both Randolph and Mrs. Yount spoke out strongly in favor of the board making a recommendation to the commissioners about the site. Mrs. Yount expressed concern about Rabon and Sue not wanting to make a recommendation. "I want the board to be together for a change," she declared. "I don't want to send a divided recommendation."

Randolph said he could not understand why other members waited until the last

minute before deciding not to make a recommendation.

"I think we should make a recommendation tonight whether the commissioners accept or reject it," Randolph declared. "There is no need in pussy-footing around here now. That is what we are doing. Let us go on and do the job before us. We asked for it and we should accept it and go."

Mrs. Yount said the board held two joint meetings with the commissioners to obtain input about the site. "Now, all of the sudden, we don't want to make a recommendation," she stated. "If we don't make a recommendation, they will think we are crazy."

"If we don't make a

recommendation, we should keep our big mouths shut no matter where they put that site even if they give us the back 10 acres of the woods," Mrs. Yount declared.

Randolph said he could smell politics in the whole thing. "This is what I smell right now," he told board members.

After the meeting, Sue told The Pilot that any one of the four sites being considered for the complex would meet the requirements from a location standpoint. "Therefore, I have a preference, but they are personal preferences and I don't think I should use my position on the board to voice my personal preferences," Sue stated.

during the long discussion preceding the voted, said she wanted to know why the other members had not expressed their opinions earlier.

Rabon said he had not said anything because the commissioners did not ask the board to make a recommendation until late in the second joint meeting held last week.

Mrs. Yount said the recommendation was discussed at the first joint meeting. "Some of the commissioners half-way expected us to have a recommendation that night," she declared. "I think they gathered at the first (joint) meeting that we were going to

make a recommendation."

Sue said it was only decided at the first meeting that the school board would have input on the selections of a site and an architect.

"How can we give input without making a recommendation?" asked Mrs. Yount. "A recommendation is input."

Bowen said that a person, like a board, can always change his mind in order to avoid making a mistake.

After the first substitute died without a second, Mrs. Yount asked Bowen if he was going to make a site recommendation to be considered

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STATE SCHOOL SUPT. Dr. Craig Phillips was the featured speaker Sunday afternoon for the dedication of the new Southport Primary School.



THE NEWLY-ORGANIZED youth chorus of Southport Primary School was the hit of the program Sunday afternoon as the new educational facility was dedicated. A large crowd heard two selections from the children, then an address by State School Supt. Dr. Craig Phillips.

Land Prices Cited

Prices of the four sites under consideration for the new complex were released during a special Brunswick County Board of Education meeting Tuesday night.

Supt. Ralph King told board members he obtained the prices from County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., to help board members make a site recommendation to the commissioners.

Canal Wood, 199 acres, 3234' frontage on US 17, \$149,250.00;

Willets, 100 acres, 1627' frontage on US 17, \$45,000.00;

McKay - McKeithan, 91 acres, 1089' frontage, \$136,500.00 (Negotiable);

Brown and Knox, 156 acres, 1800' frontage, \$187,200.00.

Growth Policy To Be Drawn

Planning Advisory Committees for Smithville, Town Creek and Northwest townships are scheduled to hold "extremely important" meetings during the next two weeks, starting Thursday night at the Courthouse in Southport.

"It will be important for as many citizens and property owners as possible to attend since everyone present will have an equal voice on the future growth policies to be adopted in Brunswick County," said County Planner Johnny Sutton.

The Smithville meeting is set for the Courthouse at 7:30 tomorrow night. The Town Creek public meeting will be held next Tuesday night at Bolivia school, starting at 7:30. The Northwest Township hearing will be held next Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at North Brunswick High School.

"The vote taken at these meetings will be the basis for how much growth, what type of growth and where growth will occur in Brunswick County," the planner said.

Consolidation Talks Open

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Long Beach - Yaupon Beach Consolidation Commission is working to hold the merger referendum in March, it was announced at the first public hearing to obtain citizen input Monday night at the Long Beach Town Hall.

Consolidation Commission Chairman Hannon Templeton announced at the public hearing that it is hoped that Long Beach and Yaupon Beach citizens will have a chance to vote on merger in March when the presidential primary is held in the state.

He said the commission hopes to complete its work to obtain information needed by citizens in order to vote on the consolidation question in late December or early January. One or two more public hearings are expected to be held by the commission. Information obtained by the commission will be published and distributed to the public, he reported.

"We will not voice any opinion for or against (consolidation) or try to convince anyone for or against (consolidation)," Chairman Templeton announced. "Our only function is to gather information and present it to the citizens."

Jack Vogt, a League of Municipalities representative who is working with the commission, told citizens at the public hearing about governing practices of other

municipalities in the state in detail.

Although the hearing was called to obtain citizen participation and input, most residents at the meeting listened and did not express their views. Less than a dozen citizens spoke out or asked questions during the hearing.

At one point, Chairman Templeton had to request citizens, especially ones from Yaupon Beach, to contribute to the discussion. It was an unusual request, an observer noted, since Long Beach and Yaupon citizens are known for being vocal at their town board meetings.

Caswell Beach is not represented on the Consolidation Commission at the

present time, Chairman Templeton told Woody Vennel, Brunswick County's newest town was not established when the commission was named.

Chairman Templeton said he wrote a letter September 24 to Mayor Robert Jones requesting that Caswell Beach send a representative to the October 14 meeting. Mayor Jones has not answered the letter, he said.

He said the League of Municipalities was working with the commission since he knew of only two town mergers in the state in the last 25 years.

Although Monday was the first public hearing, Chairman Templeton said the

Consolidation Commission has been holding two meetings per month to meet the deadline to report back to the Long Beach and Yaupon Beach town boards. Members are doing individual study on consolidation when meetings are not held, he pointed out.

The chairman said no decision had been made about when the first town election would be held if consolidation is approved. The Institute of Government is looking into the matter at the present time.

The most interest at the hearing was expressed about the method used to elect town board members. Vogt said board members can be elected completely at - large, at - large in districts or in their districts only.

He said the overwhelming favorite of smaller municipalities in the state is the at - large system. "It is only when the population reaches 10,000 that districts become even with at - large representation in other municipalities in the state," he reported.

Vogt said districts are used when communities are more diverse. The at - large system is used in municipalities that are more homogenous, he pointed out.

"Board members will take a more townwide view when they are elected at - large rather than from districts," Vogt stated. "It is one of the trade - offs you will have to consider."

He said the at - large system

is less expensive since population, which is constantly changing, and area are considered in the district election system. Although it will cost the town money to change districts to reflect population increases or decreases, it will not be that expensive, Vogt explained.

Several citizens urged that

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City To Acquire River Park 'For The People'

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

After more than 18 years of discussion, the Southport Board of Aldermen acted Thursday night to acquire the Stone family waterfront property at the foot of Howe Street.

The board voted unanimously to sign a lease-purchase agreement with Mr. and Mrs. James M. Harper, Jr., of Southport to obtain the waterfront property located between the Fryling Pan Lightship and the city pier on Bay Street.

City Attorney E.J. Prevatte was instructed to write a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Harper

requesting that they enter into an agreement for the purchase of the Stone property for a city park.

Under the agreement, the city will lease the property from the Harpers, for a yearly fee. Former Alderman Robert Howard, who presented the proposal, said details of the lease - purchase agreement will be worked out with the Harpers.

The land will be zoned "open space recreation" and no permanent structures will be allowed on it.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., said the action Thursday night climaxed 18 years of work by the city to obtain the property. "It will assure that

at least one waterfront lot in Southport will be available to the people," he declared.

The action to acquire the property was taken following a 20 - minute closed session of the board. Howard suggested that the meeting be held in executive session to discuss the acquisition of property and newspaper and television representatives were excluded.

In other business, the board instructed Prevatte to inform the Brunswick County Board of Education attorney (Mason Anderson) that the city was ready to take possession of the old Southport school gym and marineology buildings.

Prevatte told the board that

the property and two buildings revert back to the city when they are no longer used for educational purposes.

Mayor Tomlinson said the city needed the two facilities, which are not being used at the present time. He said the city wants to use the buildings for a recreation center. "We are ready to take possession of that which is ours," he stated.

Prevatte said that his partner, Attorney Richard Owens, has been doing the legal research about county - owned property within the city limits. He said there is no reverter clause covering the

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