

Brown-Knox Land Okay, Owner Says

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

There is nothing wrong with the land at the Brown - Knox site which has recently been selected as the home of the Brunswick County courthouse complex, one of the owners told The Pilot Tuesday.

"I sure think it is as good as any other property in the area," said C.W. Knox of Bolivia. "It is good land."

The Pilot contacted Knox after it was charged at a meeting in Shallotte Monday night that the Brown - Knox site "is a wet piece of property." (See related story in this edition of The Pilot.)

Knox and his sister, Mrs. Lucy Gunter of Atlanta, Ga., own 69.99 acres of the 156 - acre Brown - Knox property, which is located about one mile south of Bolivia on

the northwest side of US 17. The Pilot was unable to contact Roosevelt Brown for comment about the other acres in the Brown tract.

Knox's statement is backed up with information The Pilot obtained from the Brunswick County Tax Supervisor's department.

Supervisor Robert McHenry of the Mapping department reported that the 1975 valuation of the Brown - Knox site, which contains about 156 acres, is about \$91,140. The figure shows that the land is valued at about \$584.23 per acre on the county tax books.

On the other hand, the Canal Wood site, containing 199 acres, is valued at about \$88,000, or only \$442.21 per acre, on the county tax books, McHenry reported.

During the meeting in Shallotte

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Hospital Bid Total Below Expectations

Highly - competitive bidding Tuesday for construction of the planned Brunswick County Memorial Hospital resulted in bid totals lower than expected.

Low bids from the 30 contractors totalled approximately \$2.9 million. A representative of the State Division of Facility Services who was present at the bid opening in Shallotte estimated the total cost of building and equipping the 60 - bed facility at \$3.6 million. Estimates had ranged as high as \$3.8 million.

The hospital plan also calls for construction of a four - doctor office complex at a cost of \$250,000. Hospital Authority Chairman Mason Anderson indicated Tuesday that Duke Endowment funds will be sought to pay for the doctors' offices.

The Facility Services

spokesman said the cost - per - foot figures to be about \$58, lower than the \$61 or \$62 that was anticipated.

The Hospital Authority has 45 days to let contracts on the construction.

D.R. Allen and Son, Inc., of Fayetteville was apparent low bidder for the general contract, \$1,587,000, with an additional \$158,400 for the office complex.

Bolton Electric of Raleigh was apparent low bidder on the electrical work, \$373,436, plus \$23,450 for the office complex.

J.J. Barnes, Inc., of Fayetteville was apparent low bidder on the plumbing work, \$496,338, plus \$37,000 for the office complex.

Lorch Plumbing and Heating of Albemarle was apparent low bidder on the mechanical work with a bid of \$505,675, plus \$29,725 for the office complex.

On Shallotte 'Hot Seat' Thomas, Butler Asked To Change Minds About Site

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Chairman Franky Thomas and Commissioner Ira Butler, Jr., found themselves on "the hot seats" when they were questioned about their votes to re-locate the county seat outside Bolivia during a meeting in Shallotte Monday night.

A large number of residents, mostly from the western part of the county, jammed into the Courthouse

in Shallotte to ask the two commissioners why they voted for the Brown-Knox rather than the Canal Wood site for the new complex.

Numerous citizens stood up during the meeting and asked the two commissioners to "re-consider" their votes in order to select a site that will honor the "Vote Yes" committee slogan - to "Let's Meet Half-Way."

Chairman Thomas said he was willing to consider the

"honest opinion" expressed at the meeting. "If I made a mistake, I am man enough to stand in front of everyone and tell you I made a mistake," he declared. "I have never made a decision that I did not first consider my God, the people of Brunswick County and my family."

The "Vote Yes" committee, the organization that headed the campaign to re-locate the county seat this summer, called the meeting

after the commissioners voted 3-to-2 last Monday to select the Brown-Knox site outside Bolivia for the new location.

"Vote Yes" Chairman James Bellamy, who sat in the judge's chair in the courtroom, presided over the meeting. Members of the "Vote Yes" committee and Commissioners Steve Varnam, Jr., and W.T. Russ, Jr., sat at the front of a table facing the residents. Com-

missioner Willie Sloan was absent since he had to attend a class offered by Southeastern Community College in the county.

Bellamy and others expressed concern during the meeting that the board selected the Brown-Knox land without having a soil survey made to determine the best use of the land.

"No attempt was made to see what was there (on the Brown-Knox site) or what they would find," Bellamy declared. "They were ready to spend your money and my money without knowing anything about it."

Bellamy, who has been active in the Soil Conservation Service on the state level and served as North Carolina president, said the site should not have been selected without a soil test being made.

He said the county soil scientist went to the Brown-Knox site last Thursday to make the tests, but was asked to leave. "We could not get the soil survey, which would stand on its own," he stated.

Bellamy said the soil test was most important since people he has talked with about the site have told him it is "a wet piece of land."

James Clemmons, who said he had farmed adjoining land, said it was "pretty wet property. I don't feel we should pay more money for worst land," he stated.

Bellamy said he had talked to Clyde Galloway, who owns an adjoining property, about the site. He reported that Galloway said the complex could not be built for a "reasonable amount of money" because of the "wet land."

Bellamy said Galloway told him the present pasture and timber on the property is the

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A BICENTENNIAL EXCLUSIVE special money exhibit is now on display at the downtown office of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company, and will be through Nov. 7. Examining part of the

exhibit are bank employee Mary Russ (left) and customer Sharon Chappell. The display is courtesy of Capitol National Bank.

Dosher District Gets Support

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners delayed until Monday making a decision to permit Smithville Township to work to establish a separate hospital district.

Southport Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., made the request for a separate hospital district during a special board meeting Tuesday night called to discuss the Doshier Hospital situation. Hospital trustees, Southport aldermen, doctors and interested citizens attended the meeting.

Commissioner Ira Butler, Jr., made a motion that the board endorse the separate hospital district, but it died

without a second.

Commissioners Steve Varnam, Jr., and W.T. Russ, Jr., urged that action be delayed until Monday. Both commissioners said they were not opposed to the district, but wanted more time to consider it.

"We will advise the clerk (Judy Holden) to put it on the agenda for our meeting Monday," Chairman Franky Thomas said.

County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., suggested that County Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., make a trip to Raleigh to discuss the matter with the Attorney General's office from a legal standpoint. Mayor Tomlinson requested that the attorney for the city (Carter Lam-

berth) be allowed to accompany Prevatte.

Russ said he believed that the two attorneys should go separately since it involved the attorney-client relationship because of the recent litigation. Chairman Thomas said he agreed.

Mayor Tomlinson asked the commissioners to endorse and to support "wholeheartedly" the request to establish a hospital district in Smithville Township. "We want your unanimous approval immediately," he stated.

If the district is approved, the mayor said a two-cent tax increase per \$100 valuation will raise the needed funds to make the required improvements at Doshier

hospital.

Once commissioners approve the request, the final decision will be made by the North Carolina Medical Care Commission after at least three public hearings are held, Lambeth told the board. "Smithville tax dollars will then support the hospital," he explained.

Prevatte pointed out that, under law, the state commission, not the county commissioners, will make the final decision about whether Smithville can have its own hospital district.

Lambeth told Varnam that a vote of the people in Smithville will not be required under law to establish the hospital district. But he said it could be required if another

provision of the law is followed.

Lambeth told Chairman Thomas that, in his opinion, Brunswick County already has a two-hospital concept despite what the Department of Human Resources has said. He pointed out that Doshier has a board of trustees and Brunswick Memorial has a hospital authority.

Mayor Tomlinson said the towns in Smithville Township support a separate hospital district.

"I see no reason why you can't recommend a hospital district," Lambeth told the commissioners. "The board is in a good position to compromise (the consent order in the hospital lawsuit) by putting the problem in the hands of the Medical Care Commission."

Chairman Thomas said he has been trying to find a solution to the hospital issue since taking office. "It looks like every time we take action, someone wants to sue us," he stated. "Is there any way we can settle this thing to the satisfaction of everyone? There must be a common solution."

Mayor Tomlinson said he believed that Raleigh would approve the hospital district if it has the support of the board. "We are not playing games," he declared. "We want you to stand shoulder to shoulder with us on this matter."

The mayor told Russ that he might want com-

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Chosen Firm Cannot Make Contract Offer

The architectural - engineering firm that received a hasty, 3-2 nod last month to design the new county complex announced this week it would be "unable to present an acceptable contract" for review by the county commissioners.

In a letter addressed to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, LBC&W Senior Vice - President John A. Bordeaux said he was "greatly disappointed" that his firm "in association with Jerry Lewis Engineers" would be unable to present a contract proposal.

"We at LBC&W do remain very much interested in serving as your A-E (architect - engineer) and are confident that we have all of the talent and resources to provide unparalleled quality services to you."

Bordeaux pledged his firm's "dedication and priority" to the county complex project if LBC&W is "considered favorably to continue as a member of your team."

Lewis, who maintains an office in Southport, could not be con-

tacted Tuesday after The Pilot learned of the letter from LBC&W.

The Board of Commissioners voted on a split decision September 15 to hire Lewis and LBC&W, "contingent upon a satisfactory contractual agreement being worked out" between the A-E firm and the county. Commissioners Willie Sloan, W.T. Russ, Jr., and Steve Varnam, Jr., voted to employ the firm, while Commissioners Ira Butler, Jr. and Franky Thomas voted in opposition.

Thomas and Butler objected strongly at the time that other architectural - engineering firms should be considered for the job of designing the proposed county complex.

No contract terms have been brought before the board of commissioners, but at the Sept. 15 meeting representatives of the firm quoted a "ball park" figure of 6.5 percent. It was pointed out during that period that the current school architect is doing work for 5 percent of project cost.

Municipal Elections Are Tuesday

Voters in all Brunswick County towns except Caswell Beach will go to the polls Tuesday to elect new town officials.

Polls open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m. Polling places in this area are: Long Beach, town hall; Yaupon Beach, town hall; Boiling Spring Lakes, town hall; Southport I, fire station; and Southport II, library.

There will be no election at Caswell Beach since that town was incorporated this summer and elections were held in September.

According to reports from the town halls, Long Beach has 769 registered voters eligible for next Tuesday's election, while Yaupon Beach has 369. Unofficial reports place the Southport total "around 1,700."

Following is the list of candidates for office in

the various Brunswick County municipalities:

SOUTHPORT - Mayor Eugene Tomlinson is unopposed for re - election as mayor. Former mayor Dorothy Gilbert, Clinton Bellamy, and incumbents Mary McHose and W.P. Horne have filed for three seats in Ward I. In Ward II, incumbent J. Harold Davis, Helen Skipper, William G. Faulk and William P. Furfless have filed for the two vacant seats.

LONG BEACH - Harold S. Crain and Warren Calloway have filed for mayor. Walter Blackburn, W.L. Jones, Jerry Wood, Pauline Morgan, Carroll Adams, Don Smith and John Gladfelter have filed for the two vacant seats for town commissioner.

YAUPON BEACH - Jack Vermillion, Doug

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