



RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS of service to Southport are Johnson Cumbee (left) and Walter Aldredge (right), who recently retired from their city positions. Cumbee, superintendent of public works, retired after 22 years' service while

Aldridge has just finished 24 years' service as finance officer. Presenting the two men with letters of appreciation are City Manager Alvin Kornegay and Mayor Eugene Tomlinson.

Township Will Vote On Doshier Funding

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approved calling for a Smithville hospital tax district referendum on a split decision during the regular meeting Monday.

The board approved the resolution to allow residents of Smithville Township to vote on the question of taxing themselves to support Doshier Memorial Hospital with Commissioner W.T. Russ, Jr., in opposition.

Russ said he wanted the record to show that he was "against this thing because of taxation. I am totally opposed to it."

Vice-Chairman Willie Sloan, presiding in the absence of Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., announced that he was voting in favor of calling the hospital referendum.

Sloan and Commissioner Franky Thomas said they believed that the residents of Smithville Township should be given the chance to vote on establishing the tax district.

Shallotte Attorney John Hughes, who said he was representing 40 to 50 Oak Island residents, told the board that "acceptance of the petition would be in error."

Southport Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., and City Attorney Carter Lambeth presented the petitions, which they said were signed by 806 Smithville residents.

Former Southport Alderman Robert Howard, who spoke in favor of the petitions, said they were signed by 92 residents of Long Beach, 45 residents of Yaupon Beach and 11 residents of Caswell Beach.

Smithville residents will vote on the hospital district referendum during the regular state and county primary elections August 17. If approved, property owners will be taxed as much as four cents per \$100 valuation to support Doshier hospital.

The tax to be levied, beginning in the year 1976-77, would be used for the "establishment maintenance and improvement of a public hospital to be located in Southport at the site of the present Doshier Memorial."

It will be owned by and serve Smithville Township. The tax rate will not exceed four cents per \$100 valuation for a period of time no longer than 25 years. The maximum amount of money proposed to be spent for purchasing, building and improving the hospital will be \$2.1 million, with \$84,000 to be expended annually for maintenance

and operation.

Hughes told the board that it was up to the North Carolina Medical Care Commission, not the county commissioners, to approve the petitions calling for the referendum.

"Here, where we have no township governments as such and where we are seeking to create a district comprised of a township," the wrong law is being followed, Hughes said. "My position is that the petitions

are in error."

"That is not true," stated Lambeth, who said he had talked to the Attorney General and reviewed the law. "They said the commissioners are the officers to act. I know that is a fact. They are the only governing body for the county which is composed of the townships."

After Lambeth and Hughes engaged in a "lawyer's argument," Thomas suggested that the two attorneys and County Attorney

James Prevatte, Jr., discuss the matter in another room and report back.

"This could go on for days," Thomas said about the legal debate. "It looks like a legal matter and that is why we have our attorney sitting at the end of the table."

Russ said the question raised by Hughes should be given "serious consideration" since he had been contacted by Oak Island

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Brown-Knox Results Are Due On Monday

The results of the soil analysis tests conducted at the Brown - Knox site will be made public next week.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a special meeting Monday afternoon at 5 p.m. to hear a report on the soil analysis made by LBC&W, architects and engineers on the courthouse - office building complex project.

After calling LBC&W officials at the request of the board during the regular meeting Monday, County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., said the report will be ready next week. Vice - Chairman Willie Sloan, presiding over the meeting, immediately called the special meeting next Monday afternoon.

The board has voted 3-2 to locate the courthouse complex at the Brown - Knox site outside Bolivia despite opposition from citizens in the western section of the county. They want the complex on the Canal Wood property.

Willie Ward of Ash, a member of the "Vote Yes" committee, urged the board to reconsider the decision to have the soil analysis made only at the Brown - Knox site. He said tests also should be made on the

Canal Wood land.

"I don't see any reason we should not," Ward said when asked why by Vice - Chairman Sloan.

Ward said he wanted his request on record - "in the minutes."

Commissioner W.T. Russ, Jr., who voted against the Brown - Knox site, said he concurred with the request made by Ward.

Later in the meeting, Russ asked if the board were going to act on the request made by Ward. Commissioners Franky Thomas and Ira Butler, Jr., said the board has already voted to make the tests on the Canal Wood site if Brown - Knox cannot be used.

County Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., announced that the Brown - Knox site contains 163.5 acres of land, according to survey maps. The Brown land has 93.12 acres, one of the Knox pieces 33.39 acres and the other Knox piece 36.64.

County Manager Flowers told the board that grant money can be found "here and there" for the complex. He said County Public Service Director Jerry Harrison will be working to obtain grant funds for the project.

Post Office Probably To Remain Downtown

Officials of the U.S. Postal Service were in Southport on Monday to meet with city officials and a group of interested citizens regarding location of a new post office building and agreed to recommend the location of the old Southport High School on Nash Street as the site for a new local headquarters for postal service.

Wally Nelms of Charlotte, department real estate officer, and William Julian, post office problems analyst, represented the department and heard a report from the site committee which had been working on the problem of having several proposals to make and sites to offer the post office officials when they agreed to come here for another look at the local situation.

The site committee recommended that consideration be given to leaving the post office in its present location, subject to agreement by the owners to acquire sufficient adjoining property to alleviate some of the parking problems and to make alterations and to provide expansion of existing building if necessary.

The second proposal was for the acquisition of the school site now owned by the Brunswick County Board of Education, from which a letter of agreement had been received stipulating that this property would be sold for this purpose at its fair market value, to be determined by independent appraisal.

When the two post office representatives expressed keen interest in this proposal, a third offering on Moore Street was withdrawn in order to avoid any conflict in thinking. However, a tentative offer of a location at the northeast corner of Dry and Nash streets was briefly outlined by W.R. Thorsen, who explained he would attempt to put together a site comprised of several parcels if this should be needed.

Following the presentation, which was made in the board room at City Hall with a large number of interested citizens in attendance, members of the site committee, the post office department representatives and some others made an on-site inspection of the school property, completed some measurements and as the

group broke up Nelms said: "It does not lie within our authority to make a final determination on this site, but I think it is a good one and I shall make a recommendation to the Site Acquisition Authority that negotiations be implemented as soon as possible to purchase this property for the location of a new post office."

He said post office officials will get in touch right away with officials of the Brunswick County Board of Education.

Following announcement in October, 1975 that the Post Office Service had selected a site near the city limits of Southport as the location of a new office, merchants and businessmen from the downtown section met with city officials to protest moving the post office from its central location.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., was present and explained that the Board of Aldermen had given its approval to the site near the city limits when it was represented to them that this was the only available site which met the criteria set out by the site

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Larger Share Of Tax Borne By Individuals

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Brunswick County individual taxpayers are being forced to shoulder a larger share of the tax burden this year than in previous years, county commissioners were told at their regular meeting Monday.

County Finance Director Regina McKeithan told the board that revenue collec-

tions in the county are down 13 percent because larger corporations are being charged less taxes this year.

She said that corporations in the county are being charged less taxes this year because of the reduced rate due to revaluation. Corporations were helped by the lower tax rate because they are revaluated by the state each year at the current

market value.

Mrs. McKeithan cited the fact that Carolina Power & Light Company and Dupont - the two largest taxpayers in the county - are paying \$839,124.20 less in taxes this year than in previous years due to the reduced rates.

CP&L is being charged \$785,833.68 less in taxes this year than last year. The company paid \$2,491,196.75

last year, but only \$1,705,363.07 this year.

DuPont is paying \$53,290.52 less in county taxes this year. The corporation was charged \$819,923.16 last year and only \$766,632.64 this year.

Mrs. McKeithan told the board that no department was over-spending its budget at the present time. In fact, she said, department spending ran nine percent less than "normal" during the first six months of the fiscal year.

"The nine-percent figure was arrived at by dividing each department's budget into 12 equal parts covering the fiscal year," she pointed

Mrs. McKeithan told the board that the bounty has \$5,368,260.31 in banks, including \$4,274,428.17 in savings accounts drawing interest.

In addition, she said the county has \$1,032,386.26 in revenue sharing funds in the bank. The total includes \$846,999.99 in certificates of deposit.

Mrs. McKeithan said that the purchase order system and the time clock system have contributed to the county's "good" financial

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Town Dog Control Decision Expected

A decision about what kind of dog control ordinance the City of Southport will have is expected to be made at the Thursday night meeting of the Board of Aldermen.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., told aldermen at a public hearing on the ordinance last month that they should be prepared to make a decision "one way or the other" on the subject at the January meeting.

Mayor Tomlinson also announced that he favored the proposed ordinance. "If the vote is 3-3, you know how the mayor's going to vote," he declared at the public hearing.

Aldermen Pierce Horne and Conley Koontz expressed opposition to the proposed ordinance at the public hearing. Alderman William Furpless told The Pilot this week that he opposed the proposed ordinance after reading it.

About 20 residents attended the public hearing last month. They expressed opinions favoring and opposing the proposed ordinance.

The ordinance was drafted by Former City Attorney E.J. Prevatte at the request of the board. Prevatte said the ordinance provides for the control of dogs "in a broad manner."

The proposed ordinance follows:

PROPOSED ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE REWRITING

ARTICLE III OF THE SOUTH-PORT TOWN CODE PERTAINING TO DOGS.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SOUTHPORT: That Article 3 of the Southport Town Code, Sections 11.52, 11.53, 11.54, 11.55, 11.56, 11.58 and 11.60, and subsections thereof, and as amended, are hereby repealed; and in lieu thereof, the following is enacted:

ARTICLE III
Dogs - Generally

The following definitions shall be incorporated in this Dog Ordinance and shall be referred to for purposes of interpretation herein:

At Large: The words "at large" shall mean off the premises of the owner, when neither under control of the owner, nor some other person accompanying the dog by means of a leash, nor within a private vehicle, without consent of the operator thereof.

Dog: The word "dog" shall mean any dog, male or female, over the age of four (4) months.

Vicious Dog: Any dog which has bitten one or more persons, or has shown a propensity to attack humans or other animals, and such propensity is known, or should or ought to reasonably be known to the owner.

Barking or Noisy Dog: Any dog which barks or makes other noises loud enough and long enough to disturb persons off the premises of the owner.

Owner: The word "owner" shall mean any person owning, keeping or harboring a dog, and for the purposes thereof, the head of the household shall be deemed to be the owner in respect to any dog or dogs owned, kept or harbored by any person residing in such household and kept on the premises.

Pound: The word "pound" shall mean the place provided and/or operated by the Town of Southport for the restraint, care and disposition of animals, and the Brunswick County Pound if used as herein set forth.

Section 11. License and Registration Required:
All dogs kept, harbored or

maintained by their owners in the Town of Southport shall be licensed and registered if over four (4) months of age and shall have evidence showing vaccination by a licensed veterinarian, or legally authorized rabies inoculator. Dog licenses shall be issued by the Town Clerk upon payment of the license tax of \$2.00. The owner shall at the time application is made for such license and upon printed forms, provided for such purpose, put his name and address, and the name, breed, color

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Chamber Effort Has Support Of Mayors

Four Southport-Oak Island mayors have proclaimed next Wednesday as "Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce Day" and have endorsed the organization's membership drive.

Mayors Hal Crain of Long Beach, Marvin Watson of Yaupon Beach, Robert Jones of Caswell Beach and Eugene Tomlinson of Southport have signed the joint resolution that "fully endorse(s) the principle of a Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce."

"Be it further resolved," the joint statement read, "that we declare Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1976 as the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of

Commerce Day and do endorse the membership drive to begin on said day for the establishment and maintenance of a Chamber of Commerce to serve our communities."

John Barbee, president of the recently-formed organization until an election by members can be held, said Tuesday that the membership drive will start with a Dutch breakfast from 7:30 until 8:30 at the Fireside Restaurant, Long Beach. Teams of volunteers will be calling on merchants throughout the day, and the effort will end with a Dutch dinner, starting at 6:30, at Herman's

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