

Next Meeting Tuesday

Hearings On Taxes Begin

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

The Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review began hearing from property owners and reviewing recommended changes on property cards during its first meeting this year on Tuesday.

Tax Supervisor K.T. Bellamy urged board members to approve rate schedules for improved tracts, farm land, woodland, waste land and unimproved tracts.

Bellamy said the schedules were approved by the former board, but were never used. "We would not have 99 percent of the problems we have had if the schedules had been followed," he declared.

But the old board adopted the schedule to use for revaluation, Bellamy said, the former commissioners told Allied Appraisal Company that no land in the county was worth less than \$300 an acre. He said two state and one Allied officials were given the \$300 value order. He said the three men remember the order, but never saw it written down.

"It was a verbal deal and the schedules were ignored by Allied," Bellamy declared. "But we have not been able to find any

document where the order was written down."

Bellamy told the board that he did not think the schedule needed to be changed. But he said he believed additions should be made to cover more types of land.

He said the board needed to have a timberland grade schedule, which would include marsh, swamp, bayland, Savannah and good timberland.

He said 99 percent of the problems his department has had involved woodland and waste land. "Practically all the counties from us to the Piedmont have lower rates," he pointed out. "I am speaking primarily of woodland."

The schedule also will include information about the valuation of lands around easements at Sunny Point and power facilities, where use is limited, and the Intracoastal Waterway, where permits are needed.

Bellamy said he would check with state officials and mail his recommendations to commissioners so they can act at the next meeting Tuesday morning.

"We need directions of schedules to know which way to go with it," the tax supervisor stated. "If anyone deviates from the schedule,

he can go to Shallotte to collect unemployment."

Commissioner Franky Thomas said he agreed schedules were needed to make sure valuations are consistent. "We need to make sure that values are equal when they are compared," he stated.

Bellamy presented the board with a large folder containing recommended changes for property in Town Creek Township. Property cards were distributed to commissioners for study.

"The two appraisers in the department were told to write their recommendations on notes attached to each property card," he explained. "They had no authority to make valuation changes on the cards. That is your job."

Bellamy said that he planned to present other recommended changes in all townships for the commissioners to consider during the E&R meetings. Once the commissioners have reviewed all the property cards, the recommendations would be approved in one motion.

Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson said the board needed to act to make property taxes equal for all property owners.

"I will pay more in property taxes than I will earn on sales this year," stated Williamson, who told the board that his taxes have gone up 10 times between 1974 and 1975. "This year has wrecked my nerves."

Williamson said it was his
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PART OF THE WORK force involved in planting grass Saturday at the new little league baseball diamond poses with the handiwork after completing the project before noon. They

are the first to enjoy the comfort of the thick, soft turf which now covers the field, wall to wall.

Rescue Squad Answers Calls

The Southport Rescue Squad answered six calls this week, including three Saturday, Chief Ormond Leggett said.

James L. Bryant of Supply, who was shot in the leg at a Supply nightspot, was transported from Doshier Memorial Hospital to a Wilmington hospital Friday.

Stacy Wade was taken from his Southport home to Doshier hospital Saturday. He was suffering from a sudden illness.

Marjorie Watts of Southport was transported from the Macks store to Doshier hospital Saturday.

The squad took Tom Frink
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Beach Asks Info On Town Water System

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Brunswick County commissioners spent a great deal of time discussing water systems during their regular monthly meeting Monday at the Hood Building in Southport.

County Planner Johnny Sutton and County Public Utilities Director Rodney Tart were asked to represent the board on the planning work for Phase II of the county water system and the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority project in

the county. They will handle the two projects until they reach the "decision making" stages.

The county needs to make decisions about the proposed Long Beach water system, town officials told commissioners.

"We have proceeded as far as we can go," Mayor Harold Crain said. "We can't stress the urgency of this thing enough."

Later in the meeting, after the Long Beach delegation was gone, County Manager Don Flowers Jr. said he would write a report to send to town officials about the matters discussed at the meeting.

The county manager also said the engineer had recommended that Long Beach build its own water tank.

Flowers told the Long Beach officials that the major problem is running county water to the town. He said Pierson-Whitman, engineers on both the town and county water system projects, was considering three alternatives that range in price from between \$230,000 and \$240,000 and \$500,000 to \$700,000.

He said he was not

"hopeful" that the price will be \$230,000 to \$240,000 because he said he did not believe the causeway could be used to run the line to Oak Island.

When the system was originally planned, Flowers said, it was anticipated that the county would run the line across the Oak Island bridge. But "a mistake was made" and the state rejected the proposal.

Commissioner Franky Thomas pointed out that the Long Beach system was originally placed in Phase I. But he said it had to be placed in Phase II because of cost over-runs in Phase I construction costs.

Mayor Crain said Long Beach needed answers by May 1 in order to advertise the proposed \$2.9-million water system referendum.

Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., said the board will work with Long Beach on the matter 100 percent as it has done in the past.

He said the board was considering giving Long Beach the property, which has been purchased by the county, if the town will pay for construction of the water tank.

Mayor Crain said he

wanted to know if the county would pay for the water tank if Long Beach would do the foundation work. He said he understood the tank would cost \$350,000 to \$400,000 although he said he didn't know if the price included the foundation work.

"We want to lay out a skeleton line across Long Beach in our first phase," the mayor stated. "But we need a certain number of laterals to obtain the needed number of customers."

Long Beach Commissioner Russell Morrison said the town did not expect the county to live up to the agreement to install laterals in the town. "But we can install more laterals if the county pays for the tank," he stated.

Flowers said Pierson-Whitman reported that the county could sell water to Long Beach for 30 cents per 1,000 gallons. "The county system is not designed to be a profit-making operation," he added.

Long Beach Commissioners William Jones and Carroll Adams and Town Manager John Berry also represented the town at the

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Steps Taken On Bond Vote

The Long Beach Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to hold a \$2.9-million referendum for the first phase of the town water system during a special meeting Thursday night.

Board members expressed hope that they can have the complete package ready by May 1 in order to advertise the referendum.

However, the board has "proceeded as far as it can go" without information concerning the county's obligation, Mayor Harold Crain said. (See related story in this edition of The Pilot.)

The \$2.9-million referendum, if approved by the voters, will be a one water tank Phase I system. The proposed water line layout in the town is still under consideration by Pierson-Whitman, the engineers on the project.

James Wilson and Bill Piver of Pierson-Whitman said priority will be based on the total number of houses on the streets that tap on the water system.

The two engineers outlined several types of referendums the town could hold to begin Phase I of the water system. Piver said the town could hold a \$2,187,675 referendum which would provide one tank and a second one at a later date. The minimum bill for 8,000 gallons of water per month would be \$8.82.

A \$3-million referendum would provide two water tanks. But the minimum rate would be \$10.18, which would not be looked on with favor by FHA, Piver said.

A \$3-million referendum with only one tank would reduce the minimum rate to \$8.90, the engineer said.

Piver told Commissioner William Jones that the town could expect a water tank to last 10 to 15 years.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to issue a dance permit The Four Winds. Billie Russell pointed out that she had obtained all the other required permits.

All members were present for the special meeting. County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., and County Planner Johnny Sutton attended the meeting as guests.

Air-Conditioned Cafeterias Seen By School Year

By ED HARPER
News Editor

All Brunswick County school cafeterias should be air-conditioned by next fall, based on action taken Monday night by the Board of Education.

Cost of the project has been estimated at \$74,300, plus an architect fee of \$7,200. Board of Education Member Franklin Randolph noted that county commissioners have "verbally committed" themselves to funding the work.

The project approved Monday night during the regular meeting of the Board of Education does not include Leland school, which members anticipate using only one more year until the planned Leland Middle School is occupied. Rather than install permanent air-conditioning, the board proposed to use window units at that school cafeteria.

Robert Sawyer of Ballard, McKim and Sawyer ar-

chitectural firm of Wilmington noted in his report that "we have estimated the general construction work involved without complete knowledge of conditions at each school, but the figures should be safe...unless a need for structural modifications or renovations not related to the air-conditioning develops."

Noting that the Board of Education wishes to have the work designed and under contract by June 1, Sawyer stated "this is a very fast schedule but we believe it's possible if the design work is authorized immediately so that field work can be started this week."

Sawyer said in his report "we (Ballard, McKim and Sawyer) propose to use H.L. Buffalo as engineers for the mechanical, electrical design and they have advised us that they are able to proceed immediately."

Sawyer suggested that the six projects be done under one contract, for which ap-

proval from the Division of School Planning is necessary.

According to Sawyer's presentation, the work proposed is as described in the October 10, 1975 report prepared by a representative of the Division of School Planning. Following are the requirements and costs noted by Sawyer at each of the six schools:

Bolivia, 1,400 square feet, 150 occupants, 7-ton air-conditioning unit at \$1,200 per ton plus \$500 electrical, \$3,000 general construction for a total of \$11,900;

Lincoln Primary, 1,575 sq. ft., 140 occupants, 7.5-ton unit, \$3,000 general construction for a total of \$12,500;

Shallotte, 2,000 sq. ft., 140 occupants, 9-ton unit, \$3,600 general construction for a total of \$14,900;

Southport Middle, 1,350 sq. ft., 140 occupants, 6-ton unit, \$3,000 general construction for a total of \$10,700;

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Complex Space Needs Is Subject Of Meeting

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Brunswick County commissioners will hold a special meeting Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the Hood Building to discuss office needs for the new governmental complex.

County Planner Johnny Sutton told commissioners during their regular meeting Monday that the special session needs to be held to review the office space survey his department has been conducting.

Sutton said the LBC&W, the engineering and architectural firm working on the complex, needs the survey information to complete the master plan.

"The longer we wait on this thing, the longer we will hold up the master plan," he explained.

He said the special meeting will resolve problems concerning the amount of space requested and recommended for some departments in the survey.

Sutton said the draft report of the survey has been delivered to commissioners and department heads in county government. But copies of the draft report were not given to the public at the meeting.

In other action concerning the complex, the board voted unanimously to have Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., write a letter saying that the

county intends to purchase Bolivia water if it meets certain conditions.

"This is to inform you of Brunswick County's intent to purchase water from the Bolivia system if water of adequate volume, pressure, and quality are provided at the complex site by the Town of Bolivia," the letter said.

Sutton told the board that LBC&W officials don't recommend that the Bolivia water system be used unless the county had "direct control" over the water.

Sutton pointed out that the water would not be purchased if the town could not provide "adequate volume, pressure

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