

Supervisor To Review Values

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Although re-valuation has been in effect for 18 months, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners finally decided Monday to conduct a countywide review to make sure the new values are equal for all.

The board instructed Tax Supervisor K.T. Bellamy to have his department make the review of the valuations and report back.

The action was taken at the request of Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., who said it was the only way to make sure everyone is being treated equally. The other commissioners approved the request although no vote was taken.

Because of the work involved in the review, Bellamy told the board that property owners will have to continue paying taxes this year based on the present valuation. He said the new values will be reflected in the 1977 tax billing.

"The people are looking to us to do something about this," Chairman Varnam declared. "I am in total agreement with that."

Bellamy told the board that his department would conduct a township-by-township and individual-by-individual review of the revaluation tax values.

"It will be a time-consuming job that will not be done overnight," Bellamy stated. "It will not affect the tax rate and tax base this

year since we don't have the time to review the county in the next seven weeks."

Chairman Varnam said there was no doubt in his mind that Allied Appraisal Company did not do the best job that could be done for the county during the revaluation. "It has caused us many problems," he stated.

Since the rate schedules approved by the old board were not followed, he said woodland and farmland in the county was valued much too highly.

"We need to instruct Bellamy to comply with the schedules and re-assess every parcel of land in the county and re-adjust it ac-

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WILLIAMSON SCHOLARSHIP winners this year are Jay Barnes, son of Mr. and Mrs. James T. Barnes of Southport who spoke on "The Dyslexic Child," and Mary Kellagher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kellagher of Holden Beach whose speech was entitled "Communism in America." Both students

have expressed preferences to attend North Carolina State University. The Williamsons, left and right, have established the annual scholarship to promote oratorical skills among students.

No Progress Yet On Complex Site Survey

No action was taken to hire a surveyor to make a topographical survey at the new courthouse complex site during a meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday.

Commissioners decided to delay action until the next meeting after being informed by County Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., that the surveyors don't want to tell how much they will charge to do the work.

"We need the best deal possible," Commissioner Franky Thomas stated. "This is the wildest thing I have heard of. We should be able to find out prices."

Prevatte told the board he

had written letters to five surveyors doing work in the county. He said he had received two written and two oral responses "and they said it was unethical to submit bids."

The county attorney said he believed the surveyors would attend a board meeting to discuss the project. But he said he did not know if they would discuss prizes.

"They are trying to draw a fine line on this," Prevatte told the board.

In other business, Director Mary Gornto told the board that the county Bicentennial Commission had received a check for \$3,000 from the state to use to pay on the cost

of writing the history of the county.

She requested that the \$3,000 placed in the 1975-76 budget be placed in the budget this year. She said the commission wanted to spend the money to have the book printed.

Mrs. Gornto showed the board the six winners in the senior and junior division of the art contest. She said the pictures will "tour" the county before being placed on display in county buildings.

She reported that 150 students entered the essay contest this year. It is 35 more than entered the contest last

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School Board Drops Office Plan In Favor Of Schools

By ED HARPER
News Editor

The Board of Education "trimmed" its own budget Monday night, deciding to not ask for funds to construct a central administrative office at the county complex site.

Voting unanimously to not ask funding of the project at this time, board members agreed the emphasis should be placed on construction of new school facilities. Left in the budget request is \$1,721,000 to complete funding

of Leland Middle School, and \$1,500,000 towards construction of a 1,200-student, \$3.8-million middle school at Shallotte.

The initial funding of the Shallotte middle school would make possible design development work, allowing bids to be let soon after the balance of the project is funded by the county. The same procedure has been followed for the Leland area project.

Chairman Wilber Earl Rabon opened discussion of the proposed administrative offices by saying, "I'm just about ready to scratch that one." "That's what I'm in favor of," said Member Bill Sue. "We need classrooms more. I'm for taking the money and putting it somewhere else in schools."

Board members noted that central offices had been "way down" the list of priorities established several years ago by the Board and state school officials.

Board Member Franklin Randolph wanted to know why Waccamaw school has been improved before the Shallotte school. ("A blind man can see Shallotte is worse..."), and was told that requirements for state-supported kindergarten dictated that priority. He said he understood. Supt. Ralph King said that all of the old county school buildings are in basically the same condition.

The board did not decide when the administrative office funding should be sought, but Rabon said he didn't "think it is something we should totally ignore or forget about."

In other items in the Capital Outlay section, the Board of Education has budgeted \$558,000 for the school bus maintenance garage-warehouse project. Of the total, \$300,000 is carried over from the current fiscal year, and \$125,000 is proposed to be paid by the county as its part of the garage facility.

The board has requested \$200,000 for architect fees, which includes \$120,000 for design development of the proposed Shallotte middle school.

In a matter related to architect-engineer fees Rabon, who was absent when the

recent action was taken, objected to spending \$7,200 for Ballard, McKim and Sawyer to oversee installation of air-conditioning in six school cafeterias. Asst. Supt. John Hicks told the

chairman that any such projects over \$40,000 require professional services.

The board left in the budget request — following a 3-2 split decision — \$30,000 for a computer to supplement one

already in operation. Supt. King and assistants Hicks and P.R. Hankins maintained the new machine was necessary to make payroll and expense paying more efficient.

Member Sue suggested that the workers go on shifts, or that the superintendent investigate having Waccamaw Bank handle the payroll for a fee (noted in a presentation earlier by Baxter Stirling of the bank system). "I don't know whether we can afford the luxury of another computer," declared Sue, who pointed out the other computer was bought two years ago.

Sue introduced a motion to

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Power Off Sunday

Electric service will be interrupted for approximately three hours from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. this Sunday in Southport and parts of Brunswick County.

The interruption will include the city of Southport and CP&L customers in the area from Southport to Boiling Spring Lakes. The town of Boiling Spring Lakes will not be included, according to F.C. Lennon, Carolina Power & Light Company's Wilmington District Manager.

Howard, Stirling Get Promotions By Bank

Senior Vice - President Robert D. Howard, city executive of the Southport offices of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company, has been promoted into branch administration, according to an announcement from L.R. Bowers, president.

Vice - President A. Baxter Stirling replaces Howard as city executive.

Howard joined Waccamaw in 1967 as a trainee in his native Southport. He has graduated from the Carolina School of Banking at Chapel Hill. He has held numerous offices in local civic organizations and has received awards including being named the Jaycees' Outstanding Young Man of the Year in 1970.

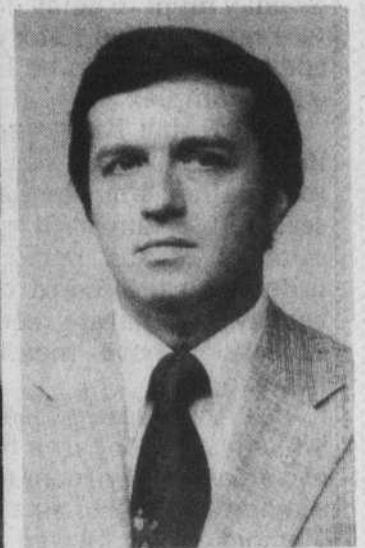
He was among the honored in the 1970 edition of "Outstanding Young Men of America" and was named "Senclander of the Month" in 1974.

Howard has served as city executive of the Southport offices since 1971, and was named senior vice - president in 1974.

He is married to the former



ROBERT HOWARD



BAXTER STIRLING

Rebecca Pickerell and they have three children — Robbie, 13; Budda, 12; and Katherine 5. The Howards will continue to reside in Southport.

Stirling, a native of Dunn, joined Waccamaw in 1969 as a trainee after graduating from Southwood College. He served as city executive of the Beulaville offices before

transferring to Southport last year.

Stirling and his wife Brookie have two children and reside in Southport.

President Bowers also announced the promotion of Vice - President Leo Johnson, Jr., to city executive of the Shallotte offices.

Johnson has served in

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Smithville Towns Seek Help Against Mosquitos

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Smithville Township municipalities put in their requests Monday for county help in the annual summer battle against mosquitoes.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., told the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners that Southport needed about \$5,000 from the county to purchase equipment and pay labor costs.

Mayor Marvin Watson requested that Yaupon Beach be given \$3,000, the cost of a new mosquito spraying machine. He said he was dropping the request he made for \$2,000 at the last meeting.

Commissioners Russell Morrison and William Jones said Long Beach would settle for about \$2,000 in county funds.

Mayor Robert Jones said Caswell Beach would like to have the old mosquito spraying machine county Mosquito Control Director Tink Benton offered to give away free.

Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., said the board would consider the request and act after seeing if the funds were available in the budget. He indicated that the board

would help the four towns. Mayor Tomlinson said the four government heads were attending the meeting to find out what plans the county had to spray the municipalities.

"The county receives all the mosquito control funds; yet the ten municipalities have received no funds, although they have about one-third of the population," Mayor Tomlinson declared.

Mayor Watson said he had made his "pitch" at the last meeting. But he said the board should remember the large number of visitors who go to the beach in the summer months.

Morrison said that Long Beach had to make a budget transfer of \$1,390 to have any funds for spraying this summer. He said the town hopes the old machine will

meet EPA standards. Jones said the town hopes to spray the 150 miles of streets in Long Beach every other day, six days a week to fight mosquitoes.

Morrison said Long Beach would like to have help this and next fiscal year. "We wish the county would consider helping the town because we are the ones putting it (tax money) into the county," he stated.

Varnam said the county does not believe it can do an "adequate job" spraying the towns. He said the county believes the towns can do a better job.

Commissioner W.T. Russ, Jr., said the county could not provide the coverage than a town can.

"We don't expect the county to do it all," Morrison said. "We just want you to help us."

Jones said he believed the biggest costs to the town will involve purchasing the chemicals.

Commissioner Franky Thomas said the state told the county to do all the spraying about two years ago before changing its mind.

"The level of service we

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'Southport-Oak Island'

Directional signs at the new junction of NC 133 with US routes 17-74-76 will read "Southport-Oak Island," following a request from the local Chamber of Commerce.

According to Department of Transportation officials the markings will be prominent — including an overhead sign with the Southport - Oak Island designation for NC 133. The state had already placed an order for signs which only read "Southport," before the Chamber of Commerce request. The signs were re-ordered at a slightly higher cost to the state.

"We are grateful for the Department of Transportation action on this matter," said Chamber president John Barbee. "It will help bring more tourists to our area, and it certainly reflects the cooperative spirit the Chamber is trying to promote in the community."