



BRUNSWICK COUNTY OFFICIALS are trying to persuade state and federal agencies not to destroy the causeway beside the new Oak Island bridge. The county says the causeway is needed as an emergency exit in case something should happen to the new bridge.

County Asks That Causeway Remain

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Brunswick County is petitioning federal and state officials to "save" the old Oak Island causeway from destruction, County Planner Johnny Sutton announced this week.

Letters and supporting data requesting that the causeway be left in its present state have been sent to the Fifth District office of the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Natural and Economic Resources. The two agencies are expected to make their decision in the next few weeks.

"We are trying to emphasize the importance of the causeway to the safety and health of the citizens of Oak Island for generations to

come," Sutton stated. Sutton said the county, supported by other agencies in the county, is opposed to the removal of the causeway for a number of reasons.

He pointed out that the new bridge is the only exit from Oak Island. "In time of an emergency, the causeway could be modified as alternate exit route," the county planner explained.

Sutton said that

"something happening to the new bridge is a real possibility" since the Department of Transportation has said it can't be used to run a water line to Oak Island. DOT has told county officials that the new bridge "was not designed to support the suspension of the eight-inch water line."

"If the new high-rise bridge is knocked out, there would be no other access to

Oak Island," Sutton explained. "If the causeway is left, a floating drawbridge could provide temporary access during repairs to the new bridge."

Robert Moul, environmental planner in the Brunswick County Planning Department, conducted a study that shows the marshland would be better served by leaving the causeway in place.

Sutton said the causeway is needed to maintain public utility service, including the water line, in addition to providing the emergency exit.

General Manager Robert G. Hubbard of Brunswick Electric Membership and district Engineer R.W. Isley, Jr., of Southern Bell have written letters supporting

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Beach To Vote June 29 On Planned Water System

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

No opposition was expressed to holding a \$2.9-million referendum to finance the Long Beach water system during a public hearing at Town Hall last Wednesday night.

"Now it is up to you people (voters)," said Mayor Harold Crain after the Long Beach board unanimously approved two legal resolutions to hold the referendum on June 29.

James Wilson, who along with William Piver represented Pierson-Whitman, engineers on the project, said Phase I customers should be receiving city water within 16 to 18 months after the referendum is approved by voters.

Although questions were asked at the public hearing, no one expressed opposition. "We need this water system — we need it badly," declared Commissioner Russell Morrison. "If we don't get it this time, I don't know when we will get it."

"I would be appalled if this community votes down this water system," Mayor Crain stated. "It would be a disaster. We are trying to get a water system that is desperately needed. Our present water system broke down during the Easter holiday."

Voters will be asked in the June 29 referendum to approve allowing the town to issue water bonds not exceeding \$2.9 million to construct a water distribution system, including treatment facilities, pumping stations, and water mains and lines.

Mayor Crain and Commissioner Ellis Dudley expressed concern because requirements demand that the legal notices about the bond issue say that "taxes shall be levied in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of and the interests on said bonds."

Both men said no tax money will be needed to support the water system, because it will be self-supporting from customer revenue. "It is inconceivable to me that revenue from the system would not pay the principal and interests," Mayor Crain declared.

Mayor Crain announced that the county has agreed to give the town the site of the water tank, which has already been purchased, free of charge. "The county does not have the money to build the water tank for us," he added.

If the town receives more help from the county, Mayor Crain said the price Long Beach purchases water — 30 cents per 1,000 gallons — would increase. He said the county will have to justify an increase in the water rate to the town.

Piver outlined plans to construct the phased water system, which has a total projected cost of \$2,620,378. He said it was designed to Maximize the number of customers to receive revenue to complete construction of the system.

Phase I will cover from the Yaupon Beach - Long Beach city limits to 40th Street; Phase II, 40th Street to 25th Street, Phase III, 25th Street to Middleton Street and Phase IV, Middleton to the West Yacht Drive point.

Phase I, which includes trunk lines, laterals, ocean-front tank, lines and meters,

will cost \$1,838,514. Phase II, trunk lines and meters, \$307,848; Phase III, trunk lines and meters, \$152,105 and Phase IV, priority laterals, \$4,321,911.

Piver predicted that Phase III will be in service in three to five years.

The engineer said a decision was made against completing a skelton system to The Point at first in order to install more laterals to obtain more customers.

Piver broke down the \$2.6-million projected cost to include construction, \$2,239,640; legal and administration, \$25,000; engineering, \$146,600; interest, \$150,000; and contingency, \$59,138. In addition, engineering will run five percent and inspections, 1.5 percent.

He said door-to-door surveys in Long Beach show that the water system will have 1,878 customers. The water bill will be \$8.92.

Piver said it has been made mandatory that residents tap on the system and pay a one-time assessment fee of \$1 per linear or running foot on the front of all lots.

The tap-on fee will be only

\$25 when the line goes past a house during construction. It will increase to \$150 after construction. The town will run the line to the property line for the fee.

The assessment will be charged only one time. Customers will have ten years to pay it.

Since the system will depend on customers paying their bills, Piver said the town should charge a high disconnection, reconnection fee to encourage summer cottage users to remain on the system.

He said the system could not allow summer residents to disconnect during the winter months. "Financially, your system could not afford to let it happen," the engineer stated.

Piver said the town board had dropped plans to have a second water tank at this time because of the additional costs. But he said the town will take bids on the second tank in case a low

GOP's Seek County Board

The first four Republican candidates for the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners entered the race this week. Executive Secretary Linda Babson of the Board of Elections reported Monday.

Ellis Dudley of Smithville Township, Jack W. Hewett of Lockwood Folly township, Wayne Long of Waccamaw Township and Charlie Long of Town Creek Township all filed for seats on the board.

Robert J. Robinson of Holden Beach became the first Democrat to file for the Register of Deeds.

Dudley is presently serving as mayor pro-tem on the Long Beach Board of Commissioners. Wayne Long and Charlie Long are former deputies in the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Hewett is president of the union at Federal Paper Company at Riegelwood.

Robinson, who is self-employed in the restaurant business, is a vice-chairman of the Democratic party in the county.

price is received.

He said a study showed that the second tank will not be needed for 10 to 15 years when the town has more development. It will be needed for pressure and

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Southport Land-Use Plan Receives Okay

By ED HARPER
News Editor

Only one minor change was made in the City of Southport land-use plan during a public hearing last Wednesday night.

The document will be formally approved tomorrow night at the regular Board of Aldermen meeting, slated for City Hall at 7:30. No other changes — except for editing by a Coastal Resources Commission representative — will be made before the plan is submitted May 21 to the CRC.

According to Mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson, Jr., no one examined the land-use plan during the month it was available at City Hall. Thursday night during the one-hour, ten-minute public hearing only two citizens offered comment — Bob Haggard, who asked clarification of several points, and Bobby Thorsen, who said the plan "would prevent me from doing with my property as I see fit."

Several members of the town Planning Board, who were waiting for their own meeting to start, endorsed the land-use plan.

Community Planner Tom Cassell said the land-use document was a "plan for meeting and correcting problems" during the next ten years. While Cassell explained points of the plan to Haggard, the mayor was

answering Thorsen.

"Nowhere does it imply that the government is going to take anyone's land," said Tomlinson in response to the charge government was taking property by "police power."

"You're not taking it," Thorsen agreed with the mayor. "You're assuming control. I will not stand corrected."

"Rent-A-Jaycee"

"Rent-A-Jaycee Week" will be observed next Monday through Saturday in the Southport area, according to Jaycee President Bill Coring.

Hours will be from 5 until 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday. Cost of the Jaycee labor will be \$2.00 and up per hour, depending on the skill and sweat involved. Reservations can be made by calling 457-9586.

Chamber Meeting

A general membership meeting of the Southport - Oak Island Chamber of Commerce will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Fireside Restaurant, Long Beach.

John Barbee, president of the Chamber, said a business session will follow the Dutch dinner. A Long Beach Lions Club meeting will be held earlier in the evening, Barbee noted, but businessmen who are members of both organizations should be able to join in the discussion of Chamber business.

County with control exercised by the board of trustees in accordance with the charter and a Superior Court order.

"This board of trustees has authorized the architect to proceed with plans for providing new and renovated facilities at the present location of Doshier, in line with existing hospital's license for operation," Mayor Tomlinson explained.

The fees of the architect, the mayor continued, will be paid either from bonds authorized in the referendum upon its approval or by pledges from friends of Doshier should the referendum fail. "The referendum calls for a four-cent per \$100 valuation tax levy in Smith-

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Commissioner Will Not Run

W.T. (Rusty) Russ, Jr., county commissioner from Shallotte Township announced this morning that he would not seek re-election.

He was the leading vote-getter among candidates for county commissioner in the 1974 election.

Russ cited obligation to his family and other duties as his reason for not running for office again. He offered his thanks for support given him and pledged to work to the best of his ability during the balance of his term.

boat harbor. "Carolina bays" west of the primary school also were identified.

Haggard asked, who would issue permits under the law?

In Phase II of the Coastal Management Act, Cassell stated, the city would issue permits. For areas of environmental concern, the Coastal Resources Commission would be the agency involved.

Who polices the law, and what are the penalties for non-compliance? Haggard asked.

Cassell said the Coastal Resources Commission would "police" the law, but said he was unsure what procedure would be followed. There are 20 counties and 30 cities involved in the Coastal Area Management Act, he pointed out.

Concerning variances, Haggard was told that the city must submit to the Coastal Resources Commission a plan for granting variances. He said he hoped a duplication of permit-letting could be avoided, and Coastal pointed out this was one reason behind creation of the CRC.

City Attorney Carter Lambeth asked if there are areas which now are eligible for permits but would not be under the Coastal Area Management rules. Cassell said the Commission is considering a 75-foot section

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