



"REVOLUTION!" GENERAL Manager Robert Britton (right) presents to Waccamaw Bank and Trust Co. City Executive Baxter Sterling a certificate of appreciation for help rendered by the bank, a corporate member of the outdoor musical drama production. "Revolution!" opens a seven-week run at Franklin Square Park in Southport on June 29.

## 'Surgery' Trims Shallotte School From Budget

By ED HARPER  
News Editor

The Board of Education rearranged its budget to match the allotted funds Tuesday night, and the major casualties were nine teacher positions and the planned Shallotte middle school.

But the board left in the budget what it hopes is sufficient funding for the new Leland Middle School, which is near-ready for bids. Last week, county commissioners made reductions in the proposed school budget that totalled \$2,330,572, including \$281,558 in current expenses and \$2,049,014 in capital outlay.

There was a consensus of opinion among members that a school bond issue will be required to meet the educational needs of the county.

"Where does it leave us?" Chairman Wilbur Earl Rabon and Barbara Yount asked after being told of the revised budget. With \$3,080,000 for the Leland school and \$425,000 for the new bus maintenance garage, they were told.

"It still sticks in my craw about the county complex," said the chairman, referring to the reduction in the number of teacher positions and the elimination of funds to start work on the Shallotte school. "It just doesn't seem fair to me."

Board members were told of the addition to the budget

— after discussion with county officials — of \$20,000 for site preparation at the proposed county complex site. Also, the school board will be expected to provide water and sewer at the complex site and water at the Leland school site at an additional \$40,000 cost.

King said the revised

budget "represents major surgery" on the former document. School supplies also were cut, meaning that fees probably will be continued.

King said a continuation of the present "trend" of cutting the school budget could affect accreditation of county schools in the future.

Every local employee will receive a pay raise identical to raises given to state-paid personnel. This reportedly amounts to six percent for many employees and as high as 14 percent for the lower-paid positions.

Rabon said new schools in the county "will never be built like this," citing the elimination of funds for Shallotte school. Member Bill Sue suggested the board "go to the commissioners and say 'let's have a bond issue.'" Members Yount and Franklin Randolph agreed.

Asst. Supt. John Hicks noted that costs have risen 30 percent since a long-range school improvement plan was adopted a few years ago. He estimated that under the current situation it would be at least six years before the Shallotte facility is started.

In the long run, Sue stated, it would save taxpayers money to approve a bond issue.

In other business before the board Tuesday night, a request to postpone the opening of Bolivia school one week this fall was tabled for further consideration. Member Yount, who had presented the request to the board on behalf of area residents, said hot weather is the primary reason for the suggestion. With school opening in August and closing in June, she said, "They're getting the heat both ways."

Member W.T. Bowen said folks in his (Waccamaw) area "would go along with that pretty strong, too." The need for children to help in farming also was cited as a reason for the request.

The board gave a unanimous "statement of intent" to sign contracts for air conditioning six school cafeterias. All will be air conditioned under the contract except the high schools, Southport Elementary and the Leland school, the latter

(Continued on page 2)

## New Principal For Southport

The County Board of Education voted unanimously Tuesday night to hire Joseph Butler as principal of Southport Middle School. Butler, who has served as assistant principal at Shallotte Middle School since 1973, succeeds Jessie A. Francis, who will retire at the end of the month.

The board decision followed a five-minute discussion.

The new principal is a 1966 graduate of Fayetteville State University with a degree in elementary education. He earned his master's degree in administration in 1974 from North Carolina A & T State University. Following his graduation from Fayetteville State, he taught sixth, seventh and eighth grades at Phillips High School in Battleboro, before coming to Shallotte in 1968.

He taught sixth grade at Union from 1968 to 1972, according to his resume, before coming to the Shallotte school.

He is a member of the North Carolina Association of Educators, the National Educators Association, and the Principal's Division of NCAE.

He served as 1973-75 president of NCAE District 13 after being vice-president in 1971-72. The previous year he was president of the Brunswick County unit. In 1969-70 he was vice-president of the county organization, and in 1968-69 he served as vice-president of the N.C. Teachers Association, according to the resume.

He is current president of the county chapter of the North Carolina Symphony after serving as vice-president from 1973 to 1975, and has served the county Beautification Committee and the county Heart Association.

## Beach To Vote Water Referendum June 29

By EMILY HIGHTOWER  
Staff Writer

On June 29, Long Beach citizens will vote to decide whether the town may sell \$2.9 million of bonds to be used to finance expansion of the town's water system.

Long Beach now has a small water system supplied by four wells which serves beach-front dwellings. The system has 550 customers. Most Long Beach residences, however, get their water from shallow private wells.

If Long Beach voters authorize the bond sale, \$2.9 million of General Obligation bonds will be sold and the revenue generated used to finance the water system expansion.

If the proposed water

This is the background and factual information concerning the Town of Long Beach proposed water system. Next week, staff writer Emily Hightower will report on the feeling of the voters — pro and con — about the issue to be decided June 29.

system is built, when completed, city water would be supplied to most houses in Long Beach. The system would be constructed in stages, with most populous areas receiving water lines first.

Long Beach would purchase water wholesale from the Brunswick County water system, which could provide a potential flow of 1,500 gallons per minute to the

town and a 300,000-gallon reserve.

Revenue produced by the water system, and not tax dollars, would be used to retire the bond debt, Town Manager John J. Berry said. The bonds would be paid off over 40 years.

Since the bonds are the General Obligation type, Berry said, tax money would have to be available to retire the bonds in case water

system revenues prove insufficient.

According to the engineering report prepared by Pierson & Whitman, Inc., of Raleigh, consulting engineers for the system, the predicted demand population for Long Beach will reach nearly 30,000 people by the year 2000.

The report states that the proposed Long Beach system would be adequate to that time, when the average daily season demand for water is estimated to be 500,000 gallons per day. The system's primary water main would be a 12-inch line and most of the other mains would be 6-inch lines, Berry said.

In contrast, Berry said, Long Beach's present customers are supplied their water by a 4-inch main.

Trunk lines for the proposed water system will parallel Beach Drive, Ocean Drive, East Oak Drive, East Holly Drive, Yacht Drive, Middleton Avenue, 33rd St. E., 40th St. E., 56th St. E., 62nd St. E., and 79th St. E.

Initial stage lateral lines, to be constructed early in the project, would be built along 63rd through 78th Sts.

Two 300,000-gallon storage facilities would be required upon completion of the total system. During initial stages of the project, however, only one 300,000-gallon elevated storage tank would be needed. It would be located in the vicinity of the corner of 56th St. and East Ocean Highway.

Maximum pressure in the system would be 60 pounds per square inch, and minimum static pressure would 50 pounds per square inch at the low water mark in the tank.

How much would town water cost the consumer? If

(Continued on page 2)

## Changes Are Suggested For Police Department

Recommendations for changes in the Southport Police Department were approved unanimously by the Board of Aldermen during a special meeting Monday night.

But no action was taken following a one-hour, 34-minute executive session to discuss "personnel" in the department. Chief George McCracken was present.

Only one other matter of business was conducted by the aldermen — a decision to complete payment for the Jelks property, located between Howe and Lord streets at the west end of Leonard, which has been

used for the placement of utilities. Payment approved Monday night was \$8,307.75.

All members of the board were present — although Mary McHose still was "under the weather" — to discuss the police department report, submitted by a committee that included Pierce Horne, chairman; Mrs. McHose, James Harold Davis and C.D. Koontz.

Following are the recommendations concerning equipment:

1. The patrol vehicle assigned to the chief be placed on patrol with other vehicles and thus removed from his personal use.

(purpose: to equalize the mileage on police vehicles.) Chief McCracken states that his vehicle is driven approximately 2,500 miles per year which would hardly justify maintenance of one vehicle for his personal use.

2. All patrol vehicles be equipped with first aid equipment and Class A-B-C five-pound fire extinguishers and suitable flares for accidents.

3. The two older vehicles be disposed of by public auction.

4. Fingerprint kit be purchased for the Police Department.

5. Complete vehicle (Continued on page 2)

## Chamber Full-Time

The Southport - Oak Island Chamber of Commerce office, located on the Beach Road, will be open longer hours during the summer months.

An Employment Security Commission program will fund the salary of Josann Brennick, who will work with secretary Patti Lewis to keep the office open. Hours Monday through Friday will be 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and on Sunday, 12 noon until 5 o'clock.

Telephone number for the Chamber office is 457-6964.

The Chamber directors have urged all area businesses that have inquiries for tourist information to refer them to the Chamber office. Also, upstate visitors are reminded that the office has available information on attractions of the area.

## Downtown Post Office Site Still Considered

A report that the U.S. Postal Service is still considering a downtown site for its new office highlighted a relatively uneventful, Thursday night session of the Southport Board of Aldermen.

Mayor Eugene B. Tomlinson, Jr., said he had talked with a representative of the Atlanta postal service office, who reported that planners were working with the old Southport school site in mind. Negotiations reportedly are underway for the Robinson property on Atlantic Avenue, which would give the post office full-block frontage on Nash Street — only a few hundred feet from the present location.

"I can appreciate their position," Tomlinson said of the postal service planning

for the long-term needs of the community.

More than half of the meeting was held in a closed session designated for "personnel." Blackie Webb, whose job was eliminated in a recent shuffling among city departments, attended the 40-minute session.

The meeting ended soon after the closed hearing, as Alderman Bill Furpless had to leave because of business. This left the board without the quorum necessary to conduct official business; Mary McHose reportedly was ill, while Harold Davis also was absent because of business.

In other matters before the Board of Aldermen, "Revolution!" General Manager Robert Britton presented the city with a

certificate of appreciation for help rendered to the production.

Britton cited the "youthful, enthusiastic and professional response (by the production) to that dream" which was the American Revolution. Mayor Tomlinson said the city was "equally as proud as you are" of the community effort that has gone into the making of "Revolution!", which will open a seven-week run here on June 29.

The mayor reported on a trip last Wednesday to Raleigh made by himself and City Attorney Carter Lambeth. The brief review concerned "opinions" from the office of the Attorney General concerning whether the township can vote to support and expand Doshier Memorial Hospital.

The decision reportedly rests with the State Board of Elections which, Lambeth noted, earlier had approved the form of the ballot for the planned August referendum.

Joe Walton of the Recreation Commission addressed the board concerning the program in general and the salary of Director Gary Walker in particular. His extra hours of work were noted, but Alderman Conley Koontz pointed out nobody got a raise this year.

Tomlinson said of the director's position that "the city is getting an awful lot of service for a very little bit of money." Supplemental funds — but not taxes — could be used to pay for the overtime,

(Continued on page 2)