

## Tax Money Involved In Courthouse Move

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

"A new centralized courthouse complex can be built without any tax money being spent."

The promise, made time after time prior to last summer's referendum to relocate the Brunswick County courthouse, was proved to be false by the new 1976-77 budget.

The new budget, adopted June 24, contains \$2,213,440 in a Capital Reserve fund to use for Phase I construction of the complex site outside Bolivia. The funds are equivalent to 16.11 cents in tax rate.

If the amount had been distributed in the budget the tax rate in Brunswick County would

be 25.89 cents next year rather than the present increased rate of 42 cents.

Some of the funds could have been used for needed improvements, such as new school construction, for example, and the rest could have been used to reduce the 42-cent tax rate.

Commissioners themselves removed \$92,560 from the Capital Reserve fund to use to finish funding the Leland school. The transfer held the tax rate to 42 cents, which was up from 38.5 cents last year.

However, the matter is largely academic now since Brunswick County residents, apparently believing the promises, voted more than 2 to 1 last July to relocate the courthouse complex to a

central spot between Bolivia and Supply. The approved referendum contained deadlines to accomplish the move.

"But it still does not change the fact that Brunswick County people will be paying higher taxes to move the courthouse," one observer pointed out. "It is certainly not being done with no tax money being spent, as we were promised."

The observer also questioned Phase I construction projects and the large amount of the project to be done in Phase I. Phase I covers about 35 percent of the entire project.

"Once Phase I is finished, Brunswick County will have three new jails and three new high

schools," he explained. "But the rest of the school buildings will continue to go downhill while we build the new jail."

Commissioner Ira Butler, Jr., made several requests before the new budget was adopted that the board delay for one year spending the projected \$188,000 for the new administration building. He said delaying the construction one year would allow the county to lower the tax rate to 40.5 cents.

Butler pointed out that his request was not designed to delay the entire project. The courthouse facilities, the tax collector's office and the tax supervisor's office would still be built in Phase I, he noted.

## City Workers May Receive Pay Increase

By BILL ALLEN  
Staff Writer

City officials were instructed by the Southport Board of Aldermen on Thursday night to see if funds could be "found" to pay city employees more money this year.

"We can come up with the money if we want to do it," said Alderman Pierce Horne, who made the original request that all employees be given a three- to five-percent increase. "It is that simple."

Alderman Harold Davis, agreeing with Horne, said it would cost the city about \$25,000 to give employees a five-percent increase. He said the city could spend \$20,500 if it wanted to give each employee a \$500 bonus rather than a percentage raise.

No city employee was given a raise in the 1976-77 budget. However, Recreation Director Gary Walker was given a \$500 bonus since he

does not receive overtime pay.

Public Works Director Tom Roberts told the board that there was "uneasiness" in his department because employees knew Walker had received extra money in the budget while other employees did not receive raises.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., said Walker was given a bonus because he is the only city employee who is not paid overtime. Robert said he would explain the situation to his employees.

In other business, the board voted unanimously to make a \$5,000 loan to "Revolution!" upon the condition that the outdoor musical drama stay in Southport in the future.

Robert Britton, business manager, explained the financial situation facing "Revolution!" in making the request for the \$5,000 donation.

He said that it will cost a little more than \$59,000 to produce "Revolution!" this

summer. He said \$15,000 to \$20,000 was needed to complete financing of the drama this summer.

Britton said "Revolution!" has been "snake-bitten" by the weather during the Fourth of July holiday period because several performances had to be cancelled because of the rain.

Britton said "Revolution!" had spent \$30,430.37 before the drama opened. It had been estimated that over \$50,000 would be spent before it opened.

He reported that the payroll was running about \$2,000 a week, with the average salary being \$50 a week. He said the salaries range from \$20 a week to \$70 a week. "The payroll is higher than anticipated because we did not obtain all the volunteers we needed," he explained.

Britton told the board that Brunswick County recently made a \$5,000 donation and Kenneth Sprunt a \$15,000 loan to the drama. The Sprunt loan will not have to be repaid unless money is made this year. In addition, Sprunt made a \$1,000 donation.

He said "Revolution!" expects to take in at least \$5,000 this season from ticket sales. Since 500 tickets can be sold, he said it was "possible" to make \$1,500 at the gate for one performance. But he said officials expected to take in only \$500 to \$600 each night.

Britton said he has already made his feelings known that "Revolution!" should remain in Southport rather than moving to the Brunswick Town area in the future because of the support it had received here.

He said no one expected the outdoor drama to make a profit the first year. He said the state, which donated \$1,000 this year, is expected to provide more funds next year since the first season is over.

Britton told Alderman Conley Konntz that statistics show that a community receives three to four times the price of a ticket from visitors who attend outdoor dramas.

The board voted unanimously to allow the U.S. Weather Service to put a tide station on the city pier. However, the station can be no higher than the hand rail on the pier.

Thomas Orlovski of the National Oceanic and

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CUB SCOUT TROOP 227, Den 10 of the Supply - Varnamtown area was busy on Tuesday cleaning the grounds at Ocean Trail Convalescent Center and earning Bicentennial badges. Members of the troop are (left to right) Daniel Varnam, Billy

Smith, Shawn Gore, Scott Powers, Mark Todd, Wayne Beck, David Lancaster and Gary Gore (kneeling). The youngsters cleaned the yards so the residents of Ocean Trail could sit under the shade trees, a spokesman noted.

## Board Favors Hospital Vote

The board of directors for the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce has approved a resolution calling for the continued operation and expansion of Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Citing the hospital as an incentive for citizens to vacation and live here and for industry to locate in the area, the board urged passage of an August 17 bond issue that would pay for the renovation of the facility.

Following is the resolution drawn by the chamber:

"Whereas, the Southport-Oak Island area is popular as a resort and retirement community and citizens who vacation and live here have come to rely on convenient medical facilities; and

"Whereas, much of the prosperity of Brunswick County and especially the Southport-Oak Island area can be attributed to the Carolina Power and Light Company and Pfizer plants which would not have located here if it had been for convenient medical facilities; and

"Whereas, it is the desire of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce to continue to attract vacationers, residents and businesses that will increase the prosperity of the county and the community; and

"Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce feels that such development of the recreational, residential and industrial communities will be greatly restricted if convenient medical facilities are not maintained;

Now therefore, the Board of Directors of the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce approves a resolution calling for the continued services of, and improvements to, Doshier Memorial Hospital; and urges support of the bond referendum to support Doshier Memorial Hospital that will be decided August 17."

## Director Presents Dog Death Report

By EMILY HIGHTOWER  
Staff Writer

Reports of killing of dogs at a county landfill have been investigated, Yaupon Beach commissioners were told Monday night.

County Dog Control Director Ed Clemmons appeared before the commissioners to respond to a letter they wrote him and to report generally on the operation of the dog pound.

The board of commissioners wrote Clemmons May 18 to inquire whether dogs were being killed at the landfill.

"There were dogs slain," Clemmons said Monday. But he said the dogs had been released to the wardens by a Yaupon Beach resident in the presence of a local law officer.

When a dog is released, dog control officers may put it up for adoption or may dispose of it if it is maimed or diseased.

The resident later returned to claim her dog, Clemmons said. When she was told it had been destroyed, she adopted another dog from the pound.

Clemmons told the board that his investigation had been thorough. "I did not attempt to cover-up anything," he said.

During a June 7 report to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on the same issue, Clemmons said, "I can assure you that it (killing dogs at a landfill) will

not be repeated." He also said the employees responsible had been reprimanded.

Clemmons said Monday night the objectives of the county dog control program are to strengthen application of the state rabies control law and to protect humans, livestock and wildlife from uncontrolled dogs and from canine diseases.

During the five months the dog pound has been open, Clemmons said, employees have handled more than 900 cases of unwanted dogs. Less

than one percent of this number were dogs that had to be picked-up and were not signed over by their owners, he said.

The pound has also dealt with 30 to 35 dog bite cases, he reported.

The commissioners passed a gun ordinance which makes it illegal to discharge shotguns, rifles, pistols or explosive devices within the town limits.

Excepted are police or law enforcement officers or

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## Hospital Committee

A steering committee to promote passage of an August 17 referendum in support of a Smithville Township hospital was named during a Tuesday night meeting at Long Beach.

Members include Rosetta Short and Otto Maehl of Long Beach, Howard Pinkerton and Jackie Herring of Yaupon Beach, William Beasley and Jan Eaton of Caswell Beach and Margaret Connaughton and Cora Davis of Southport. Ex officio members include mayors Harold Crain of Long Beach, Robert Jones of Caswell Beach and Eugene Tomlinson of Southport, and mayor pro-tem Louise Corbett of Yaupon Beach.

The steering committee will be responsible for advertising, telephone and house-to-house campaigns, etc., in preparation for the bond vote.

Mayor Crain presided at the meeting, attended by approximately 30 persons.

## Voting Deadline

Deadline for registering to vote in the August 17 primary elections and the Smithville Township hospital referendum is Monday, July 19.

Information about voting requirements and places of registration is available from the Board of Elections office in Bolivia. The Southport - Oak Island Chamber of Commerce office (457-6964) may be contacted about how to register in the Oak Island and Southport I and II precincts.

## 'Revolution!' Special

Next Tuesday and Wednesday will be "two for one" nights at "Revolution!"

To express their appreciation to Brunswick County citizens who have worked for and with "Revolution!" the producers have authorized next week's special.

Anyone who clips the coupon published on page 6 in The State Port Pilot and buys one reserved seat will get another seat free.

Only one coupon may be redeemed per family.

Box office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.