

Dosher Hospital Vote Wins Easily

Lopsided Win Shows Support

Smithville Township votes have overwhelmingly approved a four-cent per \$100 valuation tax to improve and expand Dosher Memorial Hospital.

The township vote was 1,866 to 344 — 84 percent in favor — with only Mosquito precinct in opposition. The \$2.5-million improvement program was favored 695 to 27 in Southport I; 577 to 25 in Southport II; and 572 to 133 in Oak Island precinct. The issue lost in Mosquito, 22 to 159.

An easy victory was forecast in Southport, but nothing like the 96 and 95 percentages for precincts I and II, respectively. In Oak Island, the 81-percent approval far exceeded estimates of a two-thirds vote.

The negative vote in Mosquito was expected, too, since most of the residents live closer to the new county hospital than to Dosher.

"I have seen more lopsided victories," said one veteran political observer, "but never when the voters voted to tax themselves."

"Folks in other parts of the county talk about a two-to-one vote being a 'mandate,'" said another observer. "Wonder what they call this?"

What it is, according to Southport Mayor Eugene Tomlinson, is another example to the state that the people of southeastern Brunswick County want a hospital of their own.

"We got a letter from Raleigh last week that said they planned to come here and hold a public hearing to see if there really is public support for a hospital," the mayor said Tuesday. "Our attorney wrote them back and said he would forward the results of the election to them on Wednesday morning."

The figures, he said, show substantial support.



TALKS OF TEMPERATURE, always a popular subject whether its very hot or very cold, will once again have supportive evidence, as the gauge at the downtown Waccamaw Bank office was repaired Tuesday. It was cool — 81 degrees — when the needle was replaced at 11 a.m.

Northwest Is Left Out As Vereen Leads Vote

Commissioner Franky Thomas was the only incumbent office holder in Brunswick County to fail to gain re-nomination in the party primary elections Tuesday.

Pearly Vereen of Waccamaw was the leading vote-getter in the Democratic primary for the five seats on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

Marvin Watson of Smithville finished a strong second while Willie Sloan of Town Creek was third, Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., of Lockwood Folly fourth and William Stanley, Jr., of Shallotte fifth.

However, the nominations of Sloan and Varnam were still up in the air after the vote was tallied. The two incumbent commissioners, who were involved in three - man races for re - election, could be subject to second primary, depending on whether they gained a majority.

William Kopp, Jr., of Town Creek and Ellis Dudley of Smithville had no trouble gaining the Republican nominations for seats on the board.

The biggest surprise came when Thomas, who served as chairman during the almost two years he has been on the board, lost.

Thomas, who did poorly west of the Lockwood Folly River, won his three-man race in Northwest Township. But he could not outpoll Shallotte Township's Stanley for the fifth position.

The decision by county voters in the Democratic primary means that Northwest Townships will be without representation on the county board in December. The Republican party in the county is not offering a candidate in the township for a seat on the board.

Vereen, a Waccamaw farmer who ran unopposed in his township, topped the voting in the race for the Democratic nomination for a seat on the board. He rolled up 2,043 votes.

Watson, making his first bid for public office in the county, polled 1,969 votes to win the nomination from Smithville. He had no trouble beating Harley Evans, who had only 1,264 votes.

Third place in the race went to Sloan, who apparently won renomination from Town Creek. He had 1,774 votes while James Clemmons ended up with 1,128 votes and Jim Mathews 598.

Chairman Varnam ended up in fourth place. He won Lockwood Folly with 1,764 votes while Cletis Clemmons had 1,461 and Andrew Gray 469.

Stanley, a new victor in county politics, won the nomination from

Shallotte when his township finished fifth and he had 1,673 votes. He beat Tommy Lewis, who had 1,047 votes.

Thomas beat both Donald Honeycutt and Julian McKeithan in Northwest, but lost renomination because he was 82 votes behind Stanley. Thomas polled 1,591 votes while Honeycutt had 1,142 and McKeithan 697.

Kopp won the Republican nomination in Town Creek. He scored an 834 to 223 vote victory over Charlie Long.

Dudley also had an easy time defeating D.J. Larsen 626 to 332 for the GOP nomination in Smithville.

Ward Is Winner

Two incumbent Brunswick County officials rolled up easy victories in primary voting on Tuesday.

Thomas (Tommy) Gilbert, making his first bid for public office after being appointed to the post, had an easy time gaining the Democratic nomination for coroner. He rolled over Steve Becky 3,155 to 2,075.

Anthony Caputo defeated Allen Ward in Pender County, but not by enough votes to offset the incumbent's margin in Brunswick County.

Caputo polled 4,326 in the two counties while Ward tallied 5,082. In Pender County the challenger won by 700 votes — 2,229 to 1,529 — in the unofficial count.

Ward, winning 15 of the 20 precincts in the county, defeated Anthony Caputo by a margin of 3,553 to 2,097 in Brunswick County.

Ward ran strong in most areas of the county, especially the western section, but not in Southport. He lost Southport I by 458 to 54, and Southport II by 401 to 74. But he only lost Oak Island by 263 to 202.

He bounced back in the western section of the county and scored impressive victory margins. He won Ash precinct, for example, by 198 to 2.

Doug Boykin of Burgaw won Brunswick County in the Republican primary to oppose Ward in the fall. He defeated Maliston Stanley of Shallotte 554 to 446 in the county.

William (Billy) Gaither edged Robert Robinson in one of the closest races in the county for the battle for the Democratic nomination for register of deeds. He scored a 27-vote victory, 2,401 to 2,374.

Cost-Of-Living Hikes Approved

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

Southport city employees, who did not receive salary raises in the new 1976-77 budget, have been given cost-of-living increases.

The Southport Board of Aldermen, meeting Thursday night, voted unanimously to give all employees a \$480 cost-of-living increase during the budget year, retroactive to July 1. The increase, which will hike the pay of each employee \$40 a month, will cost taxpayers \$18,240.

The action was taken following a long discussion to answer questions raised by Alderman Conley Koontz about where the money to pay the cost - of - living increases.

Koontz, who announced he favored giving the increases before the vote was taken, stated that aldermen were making decisions on the streets and "rubber - stamping them" during public meetings.

He said that one alderman, whom he did not identify, had already told city employees that they would obtain the cost - of - living increase.

"We are obligated in a sense to do it since city employees have already been told they would get it," Koontz declared. "Every member of this board knew this was going to happen."

Alderman Pierce Horne proposed at the July meeting that the city administration "find" the funds to give all employees a salary increase since they did not receive a raise in the 1976-77 budget.

Mayor E.B. Tomlinson, Jr., presiding details of the cost - of - living increase at the meeting Thursday night, said he believed it was better to give each employee an "equal amount rather than a

percentage" increase.

Mayor Tomlinson said the money to provide the increases could come from funds advanced Dosher Memorial Hospital. He said he had "every reason to believe" that the Dosher trustees will pay back money the city has advanced once the hospital referendum is approved on Tuesday.

Horne proposed that the city fill vacancies in the city force with Manpower - paid employees. He said the savings in budgeted positions could be used to pay the increase. "We have one employee in the budget who has

resigned," he explained. "He can be replaced with a Manpower-paid employee."

Koontz questioned whether Horne's proposal would be in violation of the law since, in reality, the Manpower money would be used to pay the increase. He said it was his understanding that Manpower funds must be used to provide jobs to increase employment.

City Attorney Carter Lambeth told the board he would have to check the law about how the \$13,000 - plus the city received in Manpower funds could be spent.

Alderman Harold Davis

made the motion to approve the cost - of - living increase proposed by Mayor Tomlinson, and it was quickly seconded by Horne.

Koontz raised a "point of order" since the motion did not state where the city was going to obtain the funds. He said it was important since the increase would amount to 7.5 cents in the budget.

Davis proposed that 1975-76 carryover budget money, which was placed in the Utility department, be transferred to administration to pay the increase.

Koontz, raising another "point of order", proposed

that the Budget Committee study the matter and make a recommendation. Aldermen Mary McHose and Dorothy Gilbert said the committee ended its service when the 1976-77 budget was adopted.

Koontz said he was not opposed to the increase, especially for low-paid city employees. He said he had worked in the past to see that the low-paid employees received a liveable wage, which he said he was not sure they were obtaining at the present time.

Lambeth said he was sure

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County Schools Open Year Monday Morning

The first day of the Brunswick County school year begins with orientation and registration on Monday, according to School Supt. Ralph C. King.

All county schools will operate on an abbreviated schedule Monday, with primary and elementary schools open from 8:15 a.m. until noon and high schools from 8:30 a.m. until noon. Lunches will not be served in the school cafeterias on Monday.

The regular school schedule begins on Tuesday with primary and elementary schools operating from 8:15 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. and high schools operating from 8:30 a.m. until 3:15 p.m. School cafeterias will begin serving lunches on Tuesday.

Supt. King is encouraging students and parents to put forth a special effort to keep attendance at a high level.

"At the end of the first 20 days of school the Department of Public Instruction makes adjustment in teacher allotments based on average daily attendance. A high rate of attendance usually results in additional teacher allotments.

"If we can keep our attendance high during the first month of school we stand to gain additional teachers which can be utilized to reduce class size and increase class offerings," King said.

"This will be our first year with a total kindergarten program," King noted. "All of us — parents, bus drivers, students and all school personnel — need to put forth a special effort to insure the safety of these and all the youngsters attending our schools. Anyone noting conditions that may threaten the safety of school children should make an immediate report to the appropriate school principal."

Phase I Plans For Complex Are Okayed

Phase I construction plans for the new courthouse complex were given final approval by Brunswick County commissioners on Monday.

The unanimous action was taken after Friday Hodges, John Boudreaux and Lesesne Monteith of LBC&W, engineers and architects on the project, showed commissioners the final plans for Phase I.

Monteith told the board that the firm was preparing

working drawings and contract documents at the present time.

"We have nine people working full - time on the project, it still takes 21 days to hatch an egg no matter how many hens you have," he declared.

Hodges said the firm was still about two weeks behind schedule to hold groundbreaking and contract awarding on the first Monday in November.

The courthouse offices, the

tax collector's office, the tax supervisor's office and the administration offices are all included in Phase I. Plans for the jail were only approved by the state on Friday, Monteith reported.

Monteith told Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., that the firm also was doing design work on the other buildings in case public works funds are received to build the entire complex at one time.

In other business, the board

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