

County Commissioners Answer:

Dosher Hospital Project 'Reasonable, Logical, Just'

By ED HARPER
News Editor

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has asked the court to dismiss the lawsuit that charges the board acted unconstitutionally in calling for the August 17 Dosher hospital referendum.

The motion is based on the argument that plaintiffs "do not constitute a sufficient class as required by Rule 23 (a)" of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

The commissioners in their answer also noted that Dosher hospital is "the only existing and presently operational acute care hospital facility available to and serving all the people of Brunswick County at this time, that there is no assurance that the Brunswick County Hospital Authority will ever be capable of staffing or operating its rural facility to the same high degree as presently existing in the metropolitan area of Smithville Township, and that the Smithville Township Hospital District created for the purpose of operating and renovating a metropolitan acute care hospital facility is

"... there is no assurance that the Brunswick County Hospital Authority will ever be capable of staffing or operating its rural facility to the same high degree as presently existing in the metropolitan area of Smithville Township..."

Hospital Lawsuit Answer

a reasonable, logical, just and necessary function."

The answer, filed Monday afternoon, said that "plaintiffs in reality only represent a very small minority of the taxpayers and freeholders of Smithville Township, as evidenced by the results of the August 17, 1976, election on the question

of a tax levy and issuance of bonds for the creation of the Smithville Township Hospital.

"At said election 84 percent of the voting electorate cast their ballots in favor of the proposition by the following vote — 1,866 for said resolution, 344 against said resolution," the answer

noted.

The motion contains the same argument for dismissal as is contained in a proposed answer to be used by the City of Southport, the Smithville Township Board of Trustees for Dosher, and individuals if they are allowed to intervene on behalf of the county. (See front page article in last

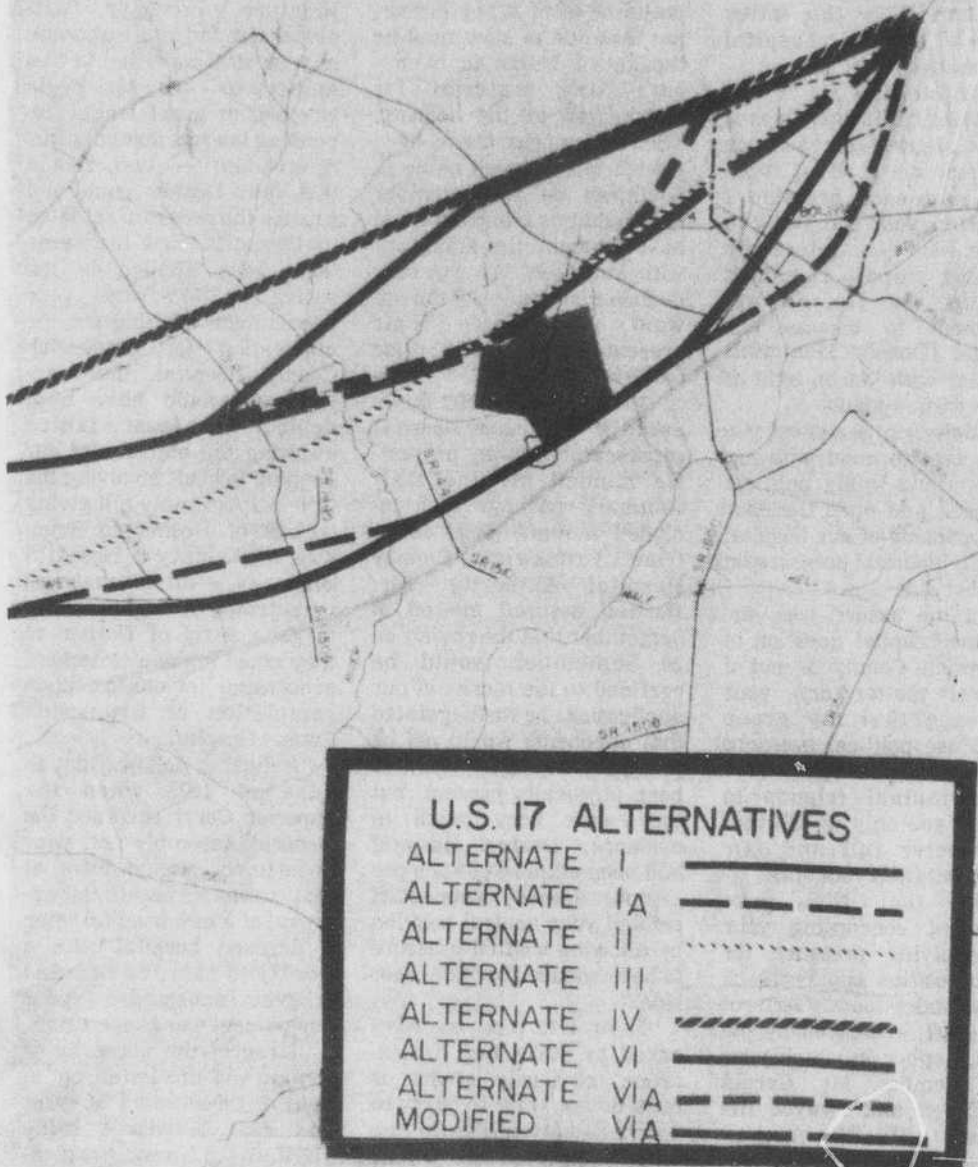
week's Pilot). A hearing on whether the parties will be allowed to intervene is scheduled this week before Superior Court Judge Henry McKinnon.

In the county answer to the lawsuit, the defendant county commissioners said the plaintiffs "cannot and do not speak for the vast majority of the taxpayers and freeholders of Smithville Township." Accordingly, the argument continued, "plaintiffs do not constitute a class which insures adequate representation of the great majority of said taxpayers and freeholders."

The commissioners asked for a summary judgment in their favor "inasmuch as the pleadings show that there is no genuine issue as to material facts."

The answer rebutted the

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ROUTES THAT U.S. 17 might take in the Bolivia-Supply area was the subject of a hearing Thursday night at the Hood Building in Southport. The state Department of Transportation has favored Alternate IV, the northernmost route, while the county after hearing from area residents has recommended Alternate VI, the route that leaves the Alternate IV route north of the shaded area (the county courthouse site) and veers southward to avoid farmlands and a creek area.

0.4-Acre Tract Could Cost Taxpayers \$25,000

By KENNY HEWETT
and BILL ALLEN
Staff Writers

Brunswick County has taken a giant step towards paying a price not exceeding \$25,000 for land valued on the tax books at \$400. The Pilot learned this week.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners is apparently willing to pay the high price in order to obtain 0.4 acres of land for the water tank site at Holden Beach.

The board has already paid \$2,500 to enter into a six-month option agreement to purchase the land for the price not exceeding \$25,000.

But according to information provided by Brunswick County Tax Supervisor K.T. Bellamy, the 0.4 acres of land, located near the Holden Beach causeway, is listed on the tax books for only \$400.

The value was established by Allied Appraisal Company, which was not known

for setting low property values, at the time of the 1975 revaluation and never changed, according to the property card produced by Bellamy.

Bellamy said the Robinson land was valued at \$1,000 an acre by Allied. Since the county proposes to buy 0.4 acres, the value of the property on the county tax books would be \$400.

Commissioners voted unanimously at a special meeting Thursday night to

spend \$2,500 to enter the option. The action was taken after the board held a closed executive session to discuss land acquisition. (See related article in this edition of The Pilot.)

After the Thursday night vote, the county entered into an option agreement with Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Robinson of Holden Beach, the owners of the property, the next day.

Under the terms of the option, which is in effect from Monday, October 4, until April 1, 1977, the total price of the land will not exceed \$25,000 — less the \$2,500 paid at the execution of the option agreement — if the county decides to buy.

County Manager Don Flowers, Jr., said he believed that a mistake had been made somewhere along the line.

"It would appear that Allied either made a mistake in land valuation or perhaps the tax supervisor (Bellamy) looked at the wrong lot," he stated.

Bellamy said he believed he looked at the right property card. "That is the right piece of land as far as I know," he stated.

According to reports from the closed session, Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., who is from Varnamtown, presented the land matter to the board. He said he believed the \$2,500 was a fair option price, it was reported.

The 0.4 acres, proposed to be the site of the Holden Beach water tank, is located across Highway 130 from Robinson's restaurant, the "Ebb Tide." Robinson's house is near the site.

Robinson, who is known to

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Coleman Is Named To County Extension Post

R. Milton Coleman has been named County Agricultural Extension chairman in Brunswick County.

Coleman, who has been a member of the county staff since 1966, was unanimously elected chairman during a meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on Monday.

Dr. W.G. Andrews, chairman of the Southeastern Extension district, said that Coleman was recommended for the post by Dr. George Hyatt, Jr., director of the N.C. Agricultural Extension Service and associate dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

"I think I am speaking for

the board when I say you could not have made a finer selection," Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., told Dr. Andrews. "We are looking forward to his continued service to the county as extension chairman."

Other commissioners said they agreed with Chairman Varnam. "You have said it all," added Commission W.T. Russ, Jr.

Coleman, who assumes his new duties immediately, succeeds Archie Martin, who retired at the end of June. Agent Mary Russ has held the interim position.

Dr. Andrews said that Dr. Hyatt told him "Coleman has a good record as an extension agent, is well trained for his new role and we feel he will

make a good extension chairman."

Coleman who has worked with 4-H clubs and the livestock program in the county, was named North Carolina's young farm agent of the year in 1974 for youth work.

Coleman, 34, a native of Columbus County, has been the agriculture extension agent in Brunswick County in charge of 4-H work since February, 1966.

"Hopefully, I have found a home here in Brunswick County," Coleman declared.

A native of the Tabor City section of Columbus County, Coleman graduated from Cerro Gordo High School in 1960. He was involved in 4-H work for 11 years while at-



MILTON COLEMAN

tending public schools.

He attended Campbell College for two years and graduated from North Carolina State University in Raleigh in 1965 with a degree in animal science. He has done graduate work in subject matters dealing with

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Jones Brothers Named In Seafood Theft Case

Yaupon Beach Assistant Police Chief L.D. Jones and his brother Jarvis Jones, owner of Jones Restaurant at Long Beach, have been indicted by a New Hanover County Grand Jury on charges of receiving stolen goods.

Six other people were named in the indictments, which were based on evidence presented by the State Bureau of Investigation following a three-month investigation.

The Jones brothers are charged in the true bills of indictment with receiving stolen seafood allegedly taken from Holmes Poultry and Seafood Company in Wilmington.

Investigating SBI agent Neil Godfrey said the thefts, which amounted to over

\$5,000, allegedly took place on a number of occasions from late November of 1975 to June of 1976, with the stolen seafood being delivered to the Jones restaurant.

The other men named in

Caswell Beach Town Meeting

The Caswell Beach town board will meet Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Oak Island Club.

The meeting has been scheduled for Saturday, according to Mayor Robert Jones, so that non-resident property owners may attend.

the indictments are 20-year-old Charles Dewitt Hawsey, 17-year-old Edward Lee Toliver, 18-year-old Rickie Lee Herd, 23-year-old Thurmond McClammy, 17-year-old LeRoy Lewis, and a 15-year-old juvenile.

The SBI charges that these six persons committed the thefts, and delivered the stolen seafood to the restaurant.

Godfrey said that other charges may be pending in the case.

L.D. Jones, who was indicted on two counts of receiving stolen goods, recently announced that he would be a candidate for sheriff of Brunswick County in 1978. According to Pilot sources, he resigned from the Yaupon Beach Police Department last week.

School Board Names Powell New Attorney

By BILL ALLEN
Staff Writer

A Shallotte man has been selected school board attorney in Brunswick County.

W.A. (Bud) Powell was unanimously elected to serve as school board attorney during a meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Education on Monday night.

Supt. Ralph King, who has been asked to make a recommendation, submitted Powell's name to the board. It was the only recommendation he made.

King, who said he had discussed the matter with Powell, said he was seeking an attorney who was both "non-political and non-controversial" to serve the school board.

Member Franklin Randolph asked if Powell had been informed that he was to provide legal information and not to consider himself a

member of the board. King said he had informed Powell about his duties.

Member Barbara Yount told member W.T. Bowen that the school attorney serves at the "pleasure of the board". King pointed out that most school board attorneys have served in the position for years.

Powell replaces Shallotte attorney Mason Anderson, who was fired on a unanimous vote of the board in August.

In other business, Supt. King was instructed to present a proposal at the November meeting about holding open house for the public at the new additions at Bolivia, Lincoln, Union and Waccamaw schools. Chairman Wilbur Earl Rabon suggested that the open houses be held at night so more members of the public can attend.

Randolph said he hoped

that the principals of the four schools will tell their teachers living outside the county to attend the open houses.

Assistant Supt. John Hicks told the board he expected the final inspections to be made at the four schools by the last week in October or the first week in November.

Board members said they had been informed that the roof of the new addition at Waccamaw was leaking. They said they were being asked why new buildings that don't leak can't be built in the county.

King and Hicks said they had received no reports that the roof of the new addition at Waccamaw was leaking. King was instructed to contact Principal Roland English at once.

King, who made a telephone call, said English told him water leaked into a classroom around the window and door during a "blowing

rain." King and Hicks said they knew about the problem, which has been reported.

King told member Bill Sue that a rash of break-ins has been occurring at the schools recently.

During the past weekend, King reported break-ins at both North and South Brunswick. Tool chests value unknown were removed from North and vandalism was done at South. Both have been reported to the Sheriff's Department.

King said the central office and the Sheriff's Department were investigating the larceny of \$611 worth of food commodities at Lincoln school during the summer.

Assistant Supt. P.R. Hankins said the freezer box was unlocked at Lincoln, the commodities removed and the box re-locked. He said the central office did not find out

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