



THE FIRST ATTRACTION for the new waterfront park in Southport was put in position last week next to Frying Pan Lightship. City Manager Alvin Kornegay said the World War II deck gun, which the city has had for several months, came from the Naval Reserve Unit in Charlotte.

Leland School Funding Comes Up Shy Of Bids

By ED HARPER

The Board of Education has been told to search for funds of its own to meet the bid totals for the proposed Leland Middle School.

But member Bill Sue told the county Board of Commissioners Monday night that the school board capital outlay fund is "already down to the bare essentials" following budget - trimming by the county last summer.

So the boards will meet next week - the commissioners at 7 p.m. on Monday, the school board on Tuesday at six - to determine what, if anything, will have to be omitted from the planned 1,000 - student facility to serve middle - grade students in the Leland area.

Bids were opened last Thursday for the facility. L.R. Evans, architect for the school project, said the bids were "excellent" and came within the estimated cost. Trouble is, Evans had estimated \$3.2 million but only \$2.8 was budgeted. The bids opened Thursday were \$390,000 above the amount available.

All members of both boards except Commissioner Ira Butler, Jr., were present for the Monday night joint meeting. Commissioner - elect Marvin Watson and

member - elect Shirley Babson of the Board of Education also attended the session, along with all members of the school executive staff and County Manager Don Flowers.

Board of Education Chairman Wilbur Earl Rabon outlined his board's

"dilemma."

"There is not much I can say," Rabon told the commissioners, "except that we need some money." He said the school board wanted to proceed with awarding bids for the Leland school and that \$390,000 was needed for a "turn-key job."

Evans, who noted that the total cost figured out to be \$28.83 per square foot, said the school was "not an elaborate design at all, but is very adequate."

Franky Thomas, county commissioner from the Leland area, said the Board of Education would have to "come off" the requested figure of \$390,000 "because we just don't have it. It's just not there."

The total can be reduced, said Evans, by postponing any landscaping (\$52,000), delaying the rear playground area (\$53,000), putting off the curb, gutter and paving work (\$73,000) and waiting until later to add the food service expense (\$70,000). None of the deletions would change the

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'Holiday House' Plans Shape-Up

Plans are progressing for Holiday House, the annual Christmas display sponsored by local women's groups.

The show will be held December 4-5 from noon until 5 p.m. at the Community Building.

Several groups are decorating trees to carry out the theme "Christmas Is ...". Some ideas are "Christmas Is Children" (Green Thumb Garden Club), "...Confusion" (Woodbine Garden Club), "...Bells" (Tidewater Junior Woman's Club) and "...Christ's Birthday" a Chrismon tree by the women of Trinity United Methodist Church.

Display tables also will be used to show angels, Santas, candles, Madonnas, and snowmen. The Doshier Hospital Volunteers, with the theme "Christmas Is Sharing," are in charge of

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Wiggs Named

Joe Wiggs was unanimously named Tuesday morning to fill the Yaupon Beach Town Board seat of Mayor Marvin Watson, who has resigned to take a post on the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners.

No action was taken on naming a mayor because Commissioner William Smalley was not at the meeting.

Hospital Decision Slated Wednesday

By ED HARPER

A decision is expected "no later than Wednesday" on whether the Brunswick County commissioners were entitled to call the August 17 Doshier hospital referendum.

Judge Henry McKinnon, who heard 32 minutes of debate during a late - Monday afternoon session of Superior Court, said he would review the evidence before announcing his decision.

If the court rules in favor of the county commissioners — and the intervenor defendants the City of Southport and the Doshier trustees — an appeal is possible. Attorney for the plaintiffs J.B. Lee of Whiteville pointed out that such a case "hasn't been before the appellate courts."

Lee, in the hearing that started after 4:30 p.m., said his clients were asking for a permanent injunction to "restrain the county commissioners" from carrying out obligations required by the August 17 vote; specifically, the collection of taxes to support the facility.

But, "they have gotten part of the way already," Lee told the judge in noting that the referendum was called and a board of trustees already named.

Lee said the plaintiffs did

not argue the right of the General Assembly to confer rights on townships, but said it must be done through the proper governing body. "The county commissioners are not the governing body (of Smithville Township) and cannot act," Lee argued before Judge McKinnon.

Noting that the General Assembly in 1877 abolished the rights of townships except as provided through the Legislature, Lee said that if the court upheld the action of the county commissioners it was upholding the premise that they are the governing body of the township.

County Attorney James R. Prevatte, Jr., said Lee had raised eight Constitutional issues in his brief but would address his rebuttal to the "central point": whether the county commissioners could call for the referendum as an action of the governing body of the township.

He said the act that enables commissioners to oversee townships is "viable legislation."

He told Judge McKinnon that it was not as if the commissioners were "governing" Smithville Township; they were delegated responsibility for a specific action (in this case, calling the hospital

referendum). It was the singular duty of the commissioners, he said, to set - up the referendum and "breathe life" (name the board of trustees) to the hospital.

He said there is "nothing inherently wrong" with the commissioners acting as the governing body of the township. He pointed to the "time sequence" in which the General Assembly took away township powers in 1877 but enacted specific legislation in the early 1900's for which only the county commissioners could be the body to carry - out the legislation.

Carter Lambeth, attorney

for the intervenor defendants, said that the plaintiff's argument of double taxation (paying for both the township and county hospitals) is answered in other court actions. He pointed to the Mecklenburg County Charlotte case where both a city and county library are supported by taxes from county residents.

Lambeth also reviewed the history of Doshier Memorial Hospital, telling Judge McKinnon that since 1935 it has provided invaluable service to this area, as well as

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Shop Area Merchants, Local Campaign Urges

Baxter Stirling of Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company has announced that Southport - Oak Island merchants will sponsor a "Try Local Merchants First" campaign to encourage local residents to do their Christmas shopping here.

"In support of the program, Southport - Oak Island merchants will receive a supply of buttons for their employees to wear between now and Christmas," Stirling said.

The buttons, red and green in color, picture a Christmas tree and bear the legend "Try Local Merchants First." Each store will also be given a door sticker and window posters which feature the "Try Local Merchants First" slogan, a supply of counter cards reading "Santa Thanks You For Shopping In Your Hometown" and other materials for the merchant's use.

Stirling stressed the fact that Southport - Oak Island merchants are committed to the future of the area. He cited the many benefits to the local economy of shopping at home, mentioning the indirect value of keeping dollars in the community. Specifically mentioned were the providing of more jobs and encouraging the growth and development of new stores and shopping areas, as well as expanding the amount of merchandise available.

"It's not necessary that people shop only in Southport - Oak Island," said Stirling. "But because our dollars work twice as hard when they're spent at home, we want to encourage everyone to "Try Southport - Oak Island First."

Causeway Used OK'ed

The use of the causeway to carry a water line to Oak Island has been approved by the state Department of Transportation, it was learned Monday.

The announcement was made in a letter to Troy Doby of the Pierson and Whitman engineering firm from Warner B. Powell, State Utility Agent.

County Commission Chairman Steve Varnam, Jr., termed the announcement "very good news," and said the approval "will probably save the county \$300,000 to \$400,000, maybe more than that."

The causeway was replaced by the high - level Oak Island Bridge, and the state had said the causeway had to be removed once the new span was opened. The county has urged retention of the causeway, citing the safety factor if another bridge disaster were to occur.

Delayed Water System Could Receive Approval

By BILL ALLEN

The proposed Long Beach water system, which has been delayed by the state, could be approved next week, town commissioners were told during their regular monthly meeting last Wednesday night.

Town Manager John Berry reported that state officials have indicated that they will approve construction of the water system "once an active 201 Facilities Study Area plan is in hand."

Berry said the county, which is serving as the lead agency in the preparation and completion of a tree-step 201 program for Southeastern Brunswick County, will deliver the information to the state on Friday, November

26. The three steps are making the study, developing an engineering plan, and construction.

The board requested that Berry accompany county officials when the study is "hand-delivered" to officials in Raleigh.

The Water Quality Section of the Division of Environmental Management of DNER announced last month it was withholding certification until the town has an approved 201 plan.

The board voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance to establish preventive measures against the pollution of surface waters by septic tank systems in the town.

Berry said adopting the ordinance was one of the

steps the town must take to have the Water Quality Section approve the water system.

The resolution says that residences, businesses and places of public assembly constructed after December 1, 1976, will not be served by the public water system if they have septic tank systems located in an area without established minimums.

The established minimums include: any private water supply, 100 feet; any stream classified as A-II, (none in town) 50 feet; any lake, 50 feet; any water line, 10 feet; community water supply, 100 feet; waters classified as S.A., 100 feet, and any other stream, canal, marsh or coastal waters, 50 feet.

Berry and Town Attorney James Prevatte, Jr., said the ordinance came from the county Health Department regulations.

The board voted unanimously to apply for \$853,000 in Public Works funds to improve the proposed water system.

The board proposes to use the funds, designed under the federal program to reduce unemployment, to run an 18-inch water main from the Yaupon Beach-Long Beach town limits along East Oak Island Drive, Middleton and West Beach Drive to Lockwood Folly Inlet and construct a 300,000-gallon elevated tank to maintain adequate reserve and

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