

68 1/2 cents; no tipping fee

# County rate proposed to stay same

By Holly Edwards  
County Editor

Brunswick County's proposed operating budget for fiscal year 1992-93 is an ongoing financial process designed to reflect the goals of the board of commissioners and reflect Brunswick County's diversity, county manager/attorney David Clegg told the board of commissioners Monday evening while delivering his budget message.

Clegg recommended a \$45-million budget that would require no increase in taxes, water rates, building inspection fees, improvements permit fees or food service charges. The proposed budget would keep the tax rate at 68 1/2 cents per \$100 of assessed property valuation.

A public hearing on the proposed budget is scheduled Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m. Commissioners must approve the budget before July 1.

"The diversity of Brunswick County has always been its strength, and this budget reflects that diversity and addresses the challenges of our governmental mission in prudent proportion," said Clegg. "We are funding everything from pregnancy kits to American Legion baseball.... The budget reflects what we're trying to create in terms of quality of life. That will hold the key to continued development."

Despite the sluggish, recessionary economy, he said, Brunswick County must attempt to deal with growing human service needs, and at the same time maintain a quality of life that will entice more people to move to the area and ensure that current residents will stay.

Part of the proposal calls for an across-the-board pay raise of 2.5-percent for all county employees, and for merit raises to be distributed after all county positions have been studied and reclassified. The last personnel management study was conducted in 1986, and Clegg described the current salary schedule as being in dire need of revision.

Commissioners' chairman Kelly Holden said he believed county employees were due for a raise, but that he preferred merit raises to across-the-board raises.

"With across-the-board raises, a lot of times you end up rewarding mediocrity," he said.

The sheriff's department and the register of deeds office, both headed by elected officials, were granted a lump sum to be distributed to employees as the sheriff and the register of deeds see fit.

If all the department heads had been given what they asked for, Clegg said the budget would have swelled to \$51 million, and would have required a tax rate increase of 14 cents. Of the 51.5 positions requested, 30 were approved by Clegg. Only one position was recommended to be dissolved -- a planner II at the county planning department.

Overall, Holden said he was pleased with Clegg's recommendations, but that he would request a few minor alterations. For example, one thing Holden said he was disturbed about was funding for the welcome center. The chairman of the welcome center committee, Dean Walters, said he would not request any funds, Holden said, but in the end requested \$60,000. The proposed budget calls for \$45,000 to be given to the welcome center.

Like Holden, commissioner Donald Shaw said he saw a few things he would like to change.

"There's still some fat in it we need to look at," he said. "But, I did want to give the schools more money. They need a new administrative building, and I wish we could come up with some funds."

Clegg recommended that \$7.8 million be given to county schools. That figure is \$375,000, or five percent, more than last year, but about \$500,000 less than the board of education had requested.

In an itemized summary of funding for other county departments, Clegg

recommended across-the-board reductions of personnel and capital outlay support items, as well as the following changes:

- The tax assessor's office will have an overall budget decrease, but the addition of one employee to oversee motor vehicle billing was approved.

- The Geographical Information Service (GIS) department will be funded for its first fiscal year as an operational department. One mapper position was approved.

- The register of deeds' budget was balanced to estimated revenues.

- The data processing department will have an overall budget increase associated with the GIS system, and one part-time programmer was approved.

- The building and grounds department will have a budget increase to cover the cost of repaving government center roads and the addition of one maintenance assistant.

- The housekeeping department was recommended to expand by one housekeeper I position due to new construction.

- The budget for the county engineer department included funding for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping, a recycling

revenues, including funding for the position of lead inspector. This position would provide day-to-day supervision within the department.

- The central communications department will be funded for the first fiscal year as an operational department. The department will have an overall budget decrease, but funding was approved for an additional radio channel for the sheriff's department, new positions of telecommunicator I and II, and full-time funding for eight telecommunicators.

- The shop sign is a new department with two positions.

- The Brunswick County Airport was allocated a lump sum operational appropriation of \$50,000, an increase of \$35,000 from the last fiscal year.

- The solid waste department had an overall budget decrease of \$479,427. The recommended budget included a payment of \$513,000 to Waste Industries, Inc.. Tipping fees were recommended to be deferred until the next fiscal year pending a 12-month cost analysis.

- The budget for the forest service county program increased \$6,828.

- The planning department will have an overall budget decrease of \$200,000. It was recommended that a planner II be eliminated and a land planner position be added.

- Funding for the resources development commission decreased by \$23,815.

- The Southeastern Center, which operates the county mental health department, requested a budget decrease of \$28,485, and that decrease was recommended.

- Brunswick Challenge, a committee formed to combat drug abuse, was not recommended to be funded.

- The Yahweh Center in Wilmington, which serves abused children in Brunswick County, was recommended to receive \$2,500.

- Brunswick Adult Day Care was recommended a \$5,000 increase in funding, or a total of \$10,000.

- Brunswick Community College was recommended to receive a funding increase of \$125,000.

- The Brunswick County Library, a new department, was recommended to have a budget of \$248,512, which included funding for nine positions.

- The parks and recreation department anticipates \$65,000 in revenue. District funding for the department is as follows: Lockwood Folly, \$15,000; Northwest, \$30,000; Shallotte, \$15,000; Smithville Township, \$50,000; Town Creek, \$15,000; Waccamaw, \$25,000. No requested positions or land acquisitions were approved. The parks and recreation department had requested \$150,000 to buy land for a park near Grissetown.

- The Southport Maritime Museum was recommended to decrease in funding to the sum of \$5,000.

- Funding for the health department was recommended to increase by \$198,557, which includes funding for additional vehicles, salary scale adjustments and three new positions -- a soil scientist, an environmental health specialist and a clerk typist. The recommended budget is \$298,137 less than requested.

- New positions of maintenance case worker and child care worker were recommended for the social services department. The CHORE program, which provides services for the elderly, was decreased from 36 to 32 hours per week. Medicaid expenditures have increased 33 percent, or \$275,124, for a total Medicaid budget of over \$1 million.

- The revaluation fund was recommended to increase by \$250,000, which would bring the total amount set aside for the project up to \$750,000.

- The utilities department budget was established at \$5,282,765. One position of meter technician was approved.

- Overall budget decreases were recommended for the finance department, clerk of court's office, board of elections, maintenance garage and veteran service department.

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David Clegg

study, \$99,000 for the re-roofing of the planning building, and \$335,000 for development of solid waste collection centers.

- The district attorney's office was not funded last year, but \$4,000 in funding was recommended for the purchase of computer equipment.

- The sheriff's department had an overall budget decrease due to the transfer of dispatchers to the 911 center. Recommended expenditures for this department included 12 automobiles and new positions of training officer and drug officer.

- The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) department will be funded for the first complete fiscal year. The recommended budget for this department was \$533,313, which is about \$1 million less than the requested funding. Six emergency management technicians, one shift coordinator and three emergency management technician I positions were approved.

- The fire department and rescue a squad allocations were unchanged, but the Northwest Volunteer Fire Department and the Navassa Rescue Squad have been included this year. The creation of county service districts for fire and rescue was not included in the budget. It was recommended to delay the implementation of district levies until the next fiscal year to determine the impact EMS and the 911 system will have on departmental operations and expenses.

- The building inspections department budget was balanced to estimated

## BENEFIT AUCTION

Saturday, May 30th, 10:00 a.m.

at the Old UCB Building, 818 Yaupon Drive, Yaupon Beach  
to benefit Oak Island Library Boosters

Viewing at 9:00 a.m. • Original artwork to be auctioned around 1:00 p.m.  
New & Used Merchandise including Gift Certificates  
Concessions by Jaycees • Baked Goods

ART SKIPPER REALTY, INC.-Limited Edition Print  
ART SKIPPER REALTY, INC.; Agent Kim Skipper-Hand Signed Lithograph registered in U.S. Museum & Gallery Archives  
ARTISTS: Helga Beacham, Jane Benbow, Bernie Case, Sally Case, Mildred Chistman, Johnnie Gills, Jamie Jameson, Arthur Jones, Ellen Jones, Marquerite Lubinsky, Phyllis Riley, Ortrud Tyler, Joan Wilson  
ARTS COUNCIL OF THE LOWER CAPE FEAR- Two Memberships  
BEACH PANTRY-Miscellaneous  
C & E APPLIANCE-Microwave  
CENTURY 21 GORDON REALTY-Ocean Scene Oil Painting  
CENTURY 21 GORDON REALTY; Agts. Doug & Laurel Warfield-NEC printer  
CURIOSITY SHOP-Great American Hanger, exact reproduction  
DUTCHMAN CREEK ACRES REAL ESTATE, INC.-\$10.00  
DOSHER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-Advertising  
FARM BUREAU INSURANCE, Sam Keziah-Miscellaneous  
FAMOUS SUBS & PIZZA-One Large Pizza  
FIRST INVESTORS SAVINGS BANK-Savings Bond  
LEWIS WESCOTT & ASSOC.-Typewriter  
LYNN'S FRAME SHOP-Signed & Numbered Framed Painting

MARGARET RUDD & ASSOC., INC.-Toilet Vanity & Guitar  
MARGARET RUDD & ASSOC., INC.; Agent Jerry Mills-Bedspread  
MARY KAY COSMETICS; Jennifer Lamb-Product  
MARY KAY COSMETICS; Kim Skipper-Tote Bag  
MARY KAY COSMETICS; Sally Skipper-Sunscreen  
MARY KAY COSMETICS; Janet Weikle-Miscellaneous  
MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS-Miscellaneous  
NEW YORK DELI-Two Lunch Specials  
OAK ISLAND SPORTING GOODS-Miscellaneous  
OCEAN CREST-Cooler  
PHARMACY RESTAURANT-\$10.00 Gift Certificate  
PORT CHARLIE'S RESTAURANT-\$30.00 Gift Certificate  
DR. BILL RABON-Savings Bond  
RX SHOPPE-Miscellaneous  
SHADE TREE ART GALLERY-Ocrakoke Print  
SOUTHPORT-OAK ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE-"Fish On" Print  
THE STATE PORT PILOT-Advertising  
SURE CATCH TACKLE-Fishing Rod & Reel  
VILLAGE HAIR STYLING-Washer & Dryer  
DR. JAMES BRADLEY WILLIAMS, DDS-Electric Braum Toothbrush

Washer & Dryer, Rocker, Sofa, Chairs, Lamps, Exercise Equipment, Appliances, Chain Saw, Christmas Decorations, Bikes, Stereo, Dining Table, Children's Toys, Glassware & Knick Knacks

Donations still being accepted & may be dropped off at the building Saturday, May 23 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Pick up service is available for large items and may be arranged by calling.

This advertisement paid for by Doshier Memorial Hospital; wishing you a safe & healthy Memorial Day Weekend!

