

Commissioners told:

More money is needed to rescue ALS service

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

To get Brunswick County's advanced life support (ALS) program back on line and ensure 24-hour-a-day emergency medical services, the EMS department needs to upgrade and expand its staffing level, EMS supervisor Doug Ledgett told the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Monday night.

In response to Ledgett's request, commissioners approved \$26,966 in additional funding for the EMS department to hire a qualified paramedic to act as supervisor and training officer for the ALS program, two additional shift coordinators and one part-time emergency medical technician (EMT). The additional funds also will pay for overtime compensation for shift coordinators and EMTs, and for the contracted services of the medical director, Dr. H. L. Johnson.

The county's ALS program was suspended effective August 4 because of a lack of paperwork regarding ALS training for county rescue workers. Since then, EMTs have been unable to use advanced life support techniques, such as administering intravenous medications and using electronic defibrillators for heart attack victims.

Ledgett said he has submitted a plan of action to get the ALS pro-

gram back on line to the state board of medical examiners. If the state board approves the plan, he said he expects county rescue workers to begin using defibrillators again by October 1.

"Once the (medical examiners) give us the go-ahead, we can be back at the defibrillator level in four to five days," Ledgett said.

However, it could take until the first of next year to fully re-implement the ALS program, he added. All 85 of the county's rescue workers will have to take a 16-hour refresher course, pass an evaluation of their abilities, perform ten patient assessments and complete 24 hours of field internship, he said.

In other business discussed by the board of commissioners Monday night:

•Shalotte resident Tom Pope told the board he was concerned and disappointed that the library board had selected an out-of-county firm to design and refurbish county libraries. Commissioner Donald Shaw agreed: "I think we as a board of commissioners should try to spend every possible dollar in the county."

However, commissioner and library board member Gene Pinkerton said the library board had selected the firm which seemed to be the best qualified and most experienced. The library board's main concern, he

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Doug Ledgett
EMC supervisor

said, was selecting a firm that would do the best job for the county.

•Shell Point resident Michael Perry told the board that he regularly found used and unused hypodermic needles along the roadside. He said he had seen some of the younger children in his area using them as darts. Perry said the problem is due to the fact that people near Shell Point have to

drive too far out of their way to get to a trash disposal site. Commissioners chairman Kelly Holden said he would have the county solid waste director look into illegal dumping in the Shell Point area.

•The planning department has located an additional 45 roads in the county, and a public hearing on their names was scheduled for Monday, October 19, at 6 p.m.

•James Cox was designated a CAMA minor development permit officer.

•Jean Speight, Ginger Sugrue and Don Gates were appointed to the Southeastern Mental Health Task Force. Steve Stanley and Pete Barnette were appointed to Four-County Community Services, Inc.

•Saturday, September 26, was declared National Hunting and Fishing Day in Brunswick County.

•A public workshop on the proposed CAMA land use plan update was scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, at 6:30 p.m.

•A public hearing on the proposed leash law was scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, at 7 p.m.

Sanitary district considers zoning

The Southeast Brunswick Sanitary District board will meet Monday to address concerns about zoning. The session will be at 7:30 a.m. in the Southport-Oak Island Chamber of Commerce building on Beach Road.

In the board meeting last week commissioners were reminded that county zoning is now on a "fast track," with implementation imminent.

Presently the board anticipates the zoning of the northern portion of the district by the county, but the section south of Calf Gully Creek (near Fish Factory Road) has not been part of the county planning department's consideration.

Consultant Finley Boney met last week with the planning department, and board chairman James W. Smith is to meet with county planning director John Harvey this week for briefing that might be helpful in Monday's considerations.

Board secretary Lucille Laster said that fee schedules for sewer hookups may also be considered in Monday's session.

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Repaving

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water project. Discussions were also scheduled between lawyers for the village and developer to propose operating and ownership agreements.

Harris Bagley requested that the village transfer the cable television franchise from bankrupt Trietek to King Cable Inc., of Georgia, and said that service could be extended to Middle Island customers.

The council approved the franchise shift on condition that all delinquent franchise fees be paid, and indications were that several customers would petition for extension of cable to Middle Island immediately.

An ordinance aimed at preserving emergency equipment placed by the village at beach accesses was approved.

In its business session the Bald Head Association board approved a recommended continuation of the four-cent property owner assessment, which when added to the village ad valorem tax brings the effective local tax rate to 62 cents.

Incentive

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explained.

"There is a carrot there for him to increase his pay by meeting those objective goals annually," Peterson said. "He'll be given four years to meet those three objective standards we specifically set out."

If there is no trend toward improvement, the board is free not to renew the superintendent's contract, the attorney said. If the contract is not going to be renewed, the decision must be announced by December 15, 1995.

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