

The State Port

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Southport, Oak Island's most complete listing of available real estate properties



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Long Beach New fire building possible

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

A request to build a new fire station on Middleton Street with money the fire department has saved will be the subject of a December 1 workshop, called Tuesday night by the Long Beach Town Council.

Fire chief Tim Pitman earlier handed over \$53,386.38 to the town with the request it be combined with an additional amount the department had saved for a new fire truck and be used to pay off the debt on a fire truck now owned by the department.

Pitman said the money saved on interest could be used towards building a new station, which he estimated would cost \$275,000 with 5.1-percent financing.

Councilman David Durr suggested that council issue a directive which would couple the paying off of the fire truck debt with construction of the new station.

Other council members said they preferred a closer look at the proposal. Town manager Tim Johnson recommended that a joint workshop be held with the fire department.

Council also held a public hearing on the first phase of the undergrounding of utility wires by Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC).

Johnson explained that the total cost to the town would be \$47,385 for the undergrounding of primary wiring, which would be eight percent of the total project cost. He said homeowners also would be charged \$128 for undergrounding the service lines to their homes.

For the undergrounding of primary wiring, homeowners would be assessed \$3.45 per front foot for a three-phase (three-wire) line and \$1.15 per front foot for a single-phase line.

Rupert Riley questioned the short-term benefits of the project. He said if the long-term timetable for the project were 20 years many residents would no longer be alive.



Yachts continue to ply the Intracoastal Waterway, vantage points, including the Oak Island bridge, headed southward ahead of wintry blasts. Various provide interesting views of the parade.

Photo by Jim Harper

To take effect next July County zoning plan approved

By Holly Edwards
County Editor

After nearly 25 years of on-again, off-again deliberation and controversy, Brunswick County commissioners voted 4-1 Monday night to adopt a countywide zoning ordinance.

The ordinance will be implemented and become effective on July 1, 1993. Until then, the planning board will hear petitions for zoning changes for a fee of \$100, to cover the county's costs of going through the petition process.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon, a long-time zoning opponent, voted against the proposal, but added that he thought it would be a mistake for the next board to repeal the ordinance.

"No, they shouldn't repeal it, just because of the work that's been put into it, the time involved and the expense," Rabon said. "They've got until next July to look at it and monitor it. I endorse them doing those sorts of things, but a blanket repeal of the whole thing wouldn't be a wise move."

Rabon also said he was initially against the \$100 petition fee, but has since discovered that other counties and municipalities charge similar fees to hear zoning petitions.

Commissioner Donald Shaw voted against the ordinance at its first reading on November 2 because he said the proposal needed more work and most residents in the northern part of the county were opposed to zoning in general.

'It's a done deal. Now we just need to hope it turns out for the best.'

Frankie Rabon
County commissioner

Although Shaw said he could not vote for the ordinance as it was written at the first reading, and changed his mind after a large number of changes were made that affected his district, planning department records indicate that no changes were made to the ordinance between readings.

"There were large changes made on my end, and they were made after that first vote," Shaw said. "I've recently gotten a lot of calls from people thanking me for making a stand."

While the ordinance has not changed since November 2, there have been numerous changes made since it was first introduced to commissioners last May. Rabon indicated that he is happier with the ordinance as it is currently written, but said commissioners could have made even more changes. Still, he said, now that it is adopted everyone should try to accept general.

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Schools get land for central office

Brunswick County commissioners unanimously agreed Monday night to set aside a four-acre site at the county government center for the board of education to construct its new central office building.

The board of education has been discussing construction of a new central office since the 1970s when county government offices moved from Southport to Bolivia. However, the project was given a low priority because of the more pressing need for additional classroom space.

Board of education chairman Donna Baxter said she is happy about the commissioner's approval.

"At least we've got the ball rolling to get this project started," she said.

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Caswell okays line assessment

By Amitabh Pal
Municipal Editor

Caswell Beach commissioners Thursday authorized the \$3.45-per-foot assessment of property owners for the first phase of the undergrounding of utility lines.

The initial phase of the project involves the section lying between the western town boundary and the western property line of Caswell Dunes. Utility lines that front the Caswell Dunes subdivision already have been placed underground.

The project is being undertaken by Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC). Property owners will contribute an amount equal to eight percent of the project cost.

Town clerk Linda Bethune said payment of the assessment depends on BEMC's work schedule. BEMC general manager Don Hughes said earlier that BEMC hopes to start work on the first phase in January and complete it by next summer.

Mayor Jack Cook told citizens at the outset of Thursday's public hearing that there are two problems in assessing for the project.

The first, he said, is that a portion of the initial phase is used by Yaupon Beach residents on one side of Coun-

try Club Drive. He said these Yaupon Beach owners cannot be assessed for the project although the town has requested voluntary payment and some have expressed a willingness to participate.

The second problem, Cook said, is the question of ownership of property held in joint trusteeship by Oak Island Enterprises and The Caswell Partnership.

Some residents voiced questions and concerns about the project.

Dave Wilson, treasurer of Oak Island Beach Villas' property owners association, said the cost to his group would be \$4,500. He said he did not

see the need for the undergrounding project.

Commissioner Bill Boyd responded that the property owners association could assess individual unit owners at a cost of \$26 each.

Pam Whitesides, whose residence lies further east in Caswell Beach, asked if there would be a difference in assessments for the first and second phases of the project. Cook said there would not.

Whitesides also expressed concern about whether the undergrounding would leave space for lines for future projects and asked whether BEMC

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Thanksgiving edition

In a tradition nearly as old as the holiday itself, *The State Port Pilot* will publish its Thanksgiving week edition one day early, on Tuesday.

The early publication allows for distribution by mail prior to the holiday, editor Ed Harper pointed out. Counter-sale and rack distribution will be made mid-to-late Tuesday afternoon.

The deadline for display advertising will be noon Monday. The deadline for classified advertising will remain 3 p.m. Monday.

All news items must be submitted by noon Monday, "but to ensure publication we suggest the material be submitted by 4 p.m. this Friday," Harper added.

OUTSIDE



Tide table

HIGH	LOW
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19	
3:08 a.m.	9:18 a.m.
3:24 p.m.	9:42 p.m.
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20	
4:08 a.m.	10:20 a.m.
4:23 p.m.	10:37 p.m.
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21	
5:07 a.m.	11:17 a.m.
5:20 p.m.	11:28 p.m.
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22	
6:00 a.m.	----- a.m.
6:11 p.m.	12:11 p.m.
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23	
6:50 a.m.	12:18 a.m.
7:03 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24	
7:39 a.m.	1:06 a.m.
7:49 p.m.	1:48 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25	
8:25 a.m.	1:52 a.m.
8:35 p.m.	2:34 p.m.

The following adjustments should be made:
Bald Head Island, high -10, low -7; Caswell Beach, high -5, low -1; Southport, high +7, low +15; Yaupon Beach, high -32, low -45; Lockwood Folly, high -22, low -8.

Forecast

The extended forecast for Thursday through Saturday calls for partly cloudy skies with highs in the 60s and lows in the 40s. Sunday there is a chance of rain but it will be warmer, with highs nearer 70 degrees with lows in the 50s.

Audits may be good business for county

Thanks to a new policy implemented by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, the county tax department has collected \$421,000 from business personal property tax audits, and expects to collect nearly \$2 million more within the next several months, tax assessor Boyd Williamson told the board of commissioners Monday night.

During the past 16 months the county has spent about \$57,000 to initiate audits of nearly 250 companies. While some companies have refused to submit to an audit of their personal property, Williamson said, most audits have been conducted with an attitude of mutual cooperation.

"When we feel it's not a case of blatant conniving or underlisting,

we try to settle without penalty," he said. "We try to let them know we don't want to burn them, we just want to settle up."

Five companies have refused to turn over their paperwork to the county, including Lowe's of Southport, Rite Aid and International Paper Company. Williamson said the tax office is currently negotiating with these companies to resolve the situation.

Businesses that are unhappy with their audit can appeal to the board of equalization and review and to the N. C. Property Tax Commission.

Public utilities are not auditable by the county, Williamson said, because they are assessed by the N. C. Department of Revenue.