

THE WAY IT WAS

Southport senior citizens remember the days when menhaden fish boats tied up overnight at docks along the waterfront. These are two of the smaller vessels used in that business (probably the *Morehead* and

the *Anderson*) and we think the building in the foreground was at the end of what now is the Caroon dock. It was a peaceful sunrise scene taken from the shoreline. We think this picture is about 50 years old.

Caswell

Continued from page 1

were going to bury lines on both sides of the road or only one side.

Cook told Whitesides there would be space left because BEMC lines would be buried five to six feet deep, much deeper than other lines, and added that lines probably would be buried on the side farthest from the ocean.

Earl Gilbert asked when the second phase of the project would be started.

Cook said this depends on the BEMC work schedule, but that it probably would commence in 1994. He assured citizens there would be another public hearing for the second phase and said it would be a "different story" because of the presence of CP&L transmission lines for Bald Head Island, from which Caswell Beach residents derive no benefit.

In other action, the board:

- Set December 3 as the date for the next regular meeting. Cook will be out of town on December 10 when the meeting would normally be held.

- Set a public hearing at 5 p.m. December 3 to consider the recommendation of the planning board for the OceanGreens Phase IV final site plan. The planned project consists of 46 units on OceanGreens Lane.

- Received the 1991-92 audit report from town auditor Wayne Berry which shows revenues of \$191,433, about \$8,000 more than budgeted, and expenditures of \$175,286, approximately \$27,000 less than anticipated.

- Received Boyd's report on three properties which are under scrutiny by the town for various reasons. Boyd said owners of the Heinz property, which allegedly is in violation of local building codes, are being asked by town attorney Elva Jess to comply with the codes. The second property, owned by the Bell family, is considered to be in a deteriorated condition and would be subject to action after Jess meets with the building inspector. In the case of the third property, owned by Catherine Rogers, Boyd recommended that police take action to ensure it does not lie open as "an invitation to vagrants and animals."

Hot water

Continued from page 2

from the city.

"The fire department is headed in a new direction," he said, "and will be looking good."

Buckbee said he thought the change in board structure is a good idea and the change is overdue.

"With all due respect to firemen, they were only seeing their own situation until now," he said. "Now that they have outside people with management skills, they'll be a lot better off."

Johnson said in his view the department belonged to the community and by bringing other citizens onto the board it gave firefighters more time to concentrate on actual operations. He said he does not believe there will be a conflict between the board and the firemen.

Stephenson said he hoped the board would set up a long-range plan to raise money to buy much-needed equipment. The department hopes to buy a new fire truck soon at an esti-

mated cost of \$135,000, and set up a third fire station in the Mirror Lake section near Highway 133.

He said he hopes the arrangement will lead to a clear division of labor, with the board looking after the budget and the fund-raising and the firefighters spending their time on training and maintenance of equipment.

"As far as operations go, the fire department will be responsible to itself," he said.

Davis said he saw his duties as managing the business end of the department, including fund-raising in the community and dealing with new equipment and expenditures.

He said the fund-raising could be enhanced by new projects such as carnivals and additional bingo games, and by increasing advertising of these activities.

Stephenson said one of the major problems that the department faces is a shortage of volunteers due to public apathy. He said he hopes that will change with the new board structure.

He said the department currently has only 12 people capable of responding to emergency calls, a situation that is worse during office hours and on weekdays when sometimes there are as few as one or two people available.

"We have to make it clear that all share the responsibility in the community," he said. "The current perception is that somebody else will take care of it."

Davis said one of the major concerns of the new board will be to get more community support and participation than in the past.

"The department is an organization that has had some problems," he said. "It is a sort of a status quo organization. It certainly isn't growing."

He said the board will try to recruit new volunteers and help get them trained.

The department is funded largely by county and city monies with supplementary fund-raising. The department's budget this year is \$47,000, with \$14,700 funded by the city, \$14,900 by the county and the balance coming from the public.

This year, at budget time, there was some friction between the department and the city board of commissioners. The city wanted funding of the department to remain at \$2,500, according to the contract. The department complained that the funding was insufficient and said the city allocation should match the county allocation.

As a compromise, the city gave the department matching funds this year and promised to try to match funds next year through a special tax or assessment.

Davis said the new board would request more funding from the city. He said the board would try to convince the city board of the need for department services.

Buckbee said the city was trying to hold the line on taxes and would have to raise taxes to fund the department at any higher level.

Schools

Continued from page 1

adding that the parcel donated is "beautiful."

The 1992-93 capital outlay budget has in it a \$550,000 line item for construction of the \$1.2 million central office, as recommended by the state department of school planning.

That figure includes funding of the architectural design for the building which will replace the 1920-era building currently housing the county school administration outside Southport.

"I think it will help the image (of the school system) a lot," Baxter said. "And I believe the new building will provide a productive environment for the school administrative staff."

Baxter said she hopes the building will be completed within two years.

A state department of public instruction survey conducted last year pointed to a new central office building as a "critical need of the Brunswick County school system."

"At present part of the superintendent's staff is housed in a wood frame building that resembles a small dwelling," the survey said. "The space in the facilities are cramped and inadequate."

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Zoning

Continued from page 1

it.

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

Rabon admitted there were some positive aspects of zoning, such as making the county appear less "cluttered," but added that he still believes property owners should have the right to do as they please with their land as long it does not infringe on other people's rights.

Also Monday night, commissioners appointed four of the five members of the zoning board of adjustments: John Wright Butler, Graham Justice, Dick Marshall and Nick Newton. Rabon said he will have a recommended appointee when the board continues its meeting on December 3 at 5 p.m.

In other business Monday night:

- Commissioners took no action on a request from the Brunswick County Hospital Authority for the county to underwrite the cost of connecting The Brunswick Hospital to the Brunswick County water system.

The hospital would generate annual revenues of about \$12,500, hospital authority chairman Larry Andrews said in a letter to commissioners. The estimated cost of the project would be \$45,000.

- At the request of commissioner Gene Pinkerton, the board agreed to give the Brunswick Community College Southport annex \$5,000 from the county's contingency fund to pay for the cost of completing renovation of a classroom.

- The board agreed to contribute \$1,194 to the N. C. Department of Human Resources to conduct a study on potentially automating human service agencies throughout the state.

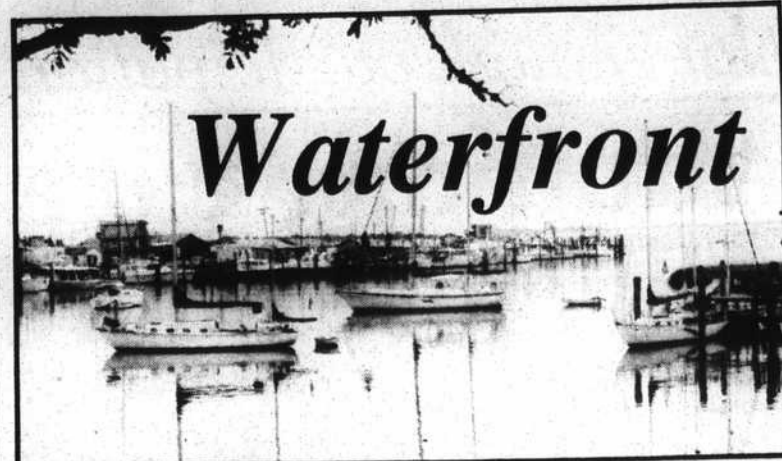
- Commissioners agreed to use the same fee schedule the state used to cover costs of performing regular inspections of large wastewater treatment systems. For systems containing over one million gallons the fee will be \$300; for systems containing 10,000 to one million gallons the fee will be \$250; for systems containing 1,001 to 10,000 gallons the fee will be \$200; and for closed loop or evaporative systems the fee will be \$200.

- The board agreed to enter into

contract with Dr. Harry M. Johnson for his services as emergency medical services director, and pay him \$10,000 per year for those services.

- The board tabled approval of the health board's recommendations regarding the health department time management study.

- Commissioners approved the following board appointments and reappointments: Harry Johnson, Brad Williams and Herbert Davis were reappointed and Brad Kerr was appointed to the board of health; Larry Prince was reappointed to the airport commission; Larry Andrews and Bobbie Larrison were reappointed to the Brunswick County Hospital Authority; and the entire utility operations board was reappointed -- Earl Andrews, William Browning, Donna Kritzer, Al Morrison, Burton Myers, Robert Nubel and Rudolph Simmons.



Waterfront

In addition to maintenance dredging on the Cape Fear bar this winter the U. S. Corps of Engineers plans to perform maintenance dredging in the Intracoastal Waterway and deposit spoil on nearby beachfronts. Some 31,000 cubic yards is due to be pumped onto Long Beach from Lockwood Folly Inlet and another 42,000 yards is to go onto Holden Beach from the same source. Ocean Isle Beach is designated to receive almost 70,000 cubic yards of sand from Shallotte Inlet.

The dredging is to be done between January and the end of April, to avoid any conflict with nesting turtles, and is expected to cause no environmental problems, but the corps has asked that any questions regarding the projects be addressed to Jim Wells, at 251-4824 in the Wilmington office, in the near future. Citizens can call for a public hearing through November 23.

The Cape Fear maintenance project is expected to produce no beach-grade spoil this season, but Bald Head Island has already put its name in the pot for the next good sand to come out of the river bottom to supplement renourishment from last winter, which is still holding up there rather nicely.

The recreational vessel fee, which always seemed to be no more than a fine for owning watercraft -- all boaters ever got out of it was a decal that said A, B or C, and grief from the Coast Guard when it was absent -- is dying a slow death and the first to feel the effect are owners of boats 21 feet and under.

No RVF is required for the small boats any longer, and a federal department of transportation announcement says that money paid by dutiful citizens after October 1 of this year will be refunded.

Beginning October 1, 1993, no fee will be required for vessels under 37 feet, and after October 1, 1994, no recreational vessel fee will be required from anyone.

Lonnie Broadwell of Long Beach has been recognized by the Southern Kingfish Association and Saltwater Anglers Association for life-long achievement as well as for current performance as a tournament angler.

In a recent issue of the publication "Angler" the 74-year-old Broadwell is noted as being a leader in the SKA senior division almost all year as well as being in the top-30 anglers overall.

Fishing with his son Boyce and grandson Andy aboard the *Nauti Lady* Broadwell was a money-winner in "ten or 12" tournaments this year by his own account, including a second-place finish in the Scotts Hill event last spring and a ninth-place finish in Manteo last month. He also won the local CP&L event in October.

Broadwell says he's looking forward to the awards ceremony for the SKA senior citizen prize in December.

The final Oak Island Fishing Club tournament of the season, blown out last Saturday, has been rescheduled for this Saturday. A captain's meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Friday at Sure Catch Tackle at the Southport Marina, and that is where tournament headquarters will be on Saturday. Fishing hours are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The club's annual awards banquet will be December 5.

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