

School Plan

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monitoring all county schools next month.

High levels of carbon dioxide at Lincoln Primary School have recently been blamed for causing a variety of symptoms among students and teachers, including coughing, wheezing, frequent headaches and nausea.

"I'd like to make a commitment that the safety and health of our students will take priority over any central administration building," Johnston told the board. "We don't want to leave any stone unturned in a matter of public health."

Although plans call for the new office building to be constructed next year and ventilation improvements to be completed in 1995, Johnston stressed that any aspect of the plan could be changed if necessary.

"This is not carved in stone," he said. "This is simply a suggested list we have to submit to the state by January 1."

Commissioner Jerry Jones said he voted in favor of the plan because it may help the school system qualify for more state funds. The plan is based on the assumption that the county will continue to grow rapidly, he said, and the state may see the urgency of constructing additional classrooms.

"We can't have kids sitting out in the hallway," said Jones. "We're certainly going to have to have more classrooms if the growth rate continues, and not too far in the future."

However, Vereen said he was skeptical about the growth rate predicted by the plan, and pointed out that many new county residents are retirees without children.

"They're projecting all this growth, but if the economy doesn't turn around that won't happen," he said. "There's nothing wrong with planning, but a lot of times planning leads to the idea of, well, you sanctioned it, now you got to give them money.... They already take \$7.5 million per year. That's most of the county's budget."

In other business discussed by the board of commissioners Monday:

• Because the state cut funding for school energy costs this year, the board voted 3-2 in favor of reimbursing the school system \$153,622. Vereen and Jones voted against the reimbursement.

• Commissioners took no action on a request by Civietown fire chief Al Nord for the county to create a fire tax to support volunteer fire departments. Nord also asked the commissioners to consider creating a fire commission to act as an intermediary between the commissioners and the county council of fire chiefs.

• County manager/attorney David Clegg reminded the board that a state-wide ban on yard waste in landfills will take effect January 1, and that a ban on construction materials will become effective in July, 1993. The landfill is inspected by state officials six times a year, Clegg said, and there is a significant penalty for violating state mandates.

• A public hearing on road names was set for January 18 at 6 p.m.

• Commissioners unanimously approved adopting a resolution to honor the 1992 West Brunswick High School football team, which won the state 2A football championship on December 12.

• The board approved the following commissioner appointments: Cape Fear Council of Governments, Vereen; Council of Governments Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, Warren; Council of Governments Solid Waste Advisory Board, Warren; Brunswick County Board of Health, Warren; Southeastern Economic Development Commission, Vereen; Utility Operations Board, Tom Rabon, Sr.



Security Savings and Loan president Al Trunnell presents a check for \$5,000 to Brunswick Community College president Mike Reaves for renovation of a classroom at the Southport campus. Four of five classrooms have now been funded for renewal, and college officials are hopeful that work will be completed for the 1993 fall term.

Bald Head

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renourishment escrow releases.

Meanwhile, citizen complaints about the condition of Federal Road elevated repaving to a high priority, and paving of the access road, which serves the lighthouse, post office, village hall and chapel, was also added to considerations as a desired extra.

"It became apparent during the public hearing (in November) and the calls and letters addressed to this committee that the vast majority of people on Bald Head felt that both of these projects should become a part of the village road system," the committee said in its report.

While North Bald Head has been owned by the village for some time, the access road and Federal Road remain in the hands of the developer.

The Watkins committee, including councilman Tom Bradshaw, property owner association board member Ken Miller and Middle Island property owner Griff Weld, found that the North Bald Head repaving could be done by MAC Construction for \$128,896. Federal Road could be paved by MAC for \$190,360 and Village Green paving could be done for \$62,461, for a total project cost of \$380,738.

That money would come from a variety of sources, including:

- \$125,000 previously appropriated by the village for North Bald Head work;
- \$100,000 from Bald Head Island management (the Mitchell develop-

ment);

- \$35,000 from the Bald Head Association;
- \$25,000 from Young Realty;
- \$10,000 from "contingency";
- \$7,500 in a MAC credit if all projects proceed as one;
- \$6,000 previously appropriated by the village for Village Green sidewalk work;
- An additional \$73,238 yet to be appropriated by the village.

Mitchell and Young participation was sought and obtained because the two developers had been planning to restore Federal Road after a recent waterline installation.

Association participation was guaranteed in November when the association board appropriated \$35,000 to give the Federal Road project impetus.

The \$10,000 "contingency" was described by Watkins on Sunday as part of "an agreement that Kent (Mitchell) has made with the chapel. The chapel does not have frontage and he is going to deed them that land and the chapel is going to put that into sidewalk and making improvements in front of the chapel."

Watkins noted that this "has not been approved yet by the board of governors of the chapel."

Asked Sunday how the project would be affected if such approval by the chapel board were not forthcoming, Watkins said, "It would be \$10,000 more difficult to do."

He added, "We're on a borderline deal to get it funded."

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Committee report

Zoning

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workshops and question-and-answer sessions to explain to rural people: What is a farm? What constitutes a bona fide farm?" Warren said.

The zoning ordinance defines a bona fide farm as any tract of land that is used for production, or activities related to production, of crops, fruits, vegetables, ornamental and flowering plants, grasses and grains, forest products, dairy, livestock, fish and shellfish, poultry and any other agricultural products having a domestic or foreign market.

Many residents also believe the zoning ordinance will prohibit mobile homes in some parts of the county, said commissioner Wayland Vereen. According to the Institute of Government, Vereen said, "in no way could the county zone out trailers."

Harvey replied that he wrote the ordinance as loosely as possible for mobile homes, and that they are permitted in every zoning district.

Dogs

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books it's there for the rest of your life."

However, commissioners chairman Don Warren said the leash law was needed to control the influx of dogs into the county, and to prevent the spread of rabies.

Animal control clerk Dee Lee agreed.

"It will help with a lot of complaint and nuisance calls we get," she said. "A lot of the calls we get now, we can't do anything because we don't have a leash law. Our hands are tied. We'll have more power with the law behind us."

Lee said she is not sure exactly how the law will be enforced, but indicated that she is certain the law will create more work for animal control officers. An additional animal control officer is expected to be hired by February, she said.

Creek

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as well as humans, is taken as an indicator of pollution in water, and the standard under which the creek was shut down is one agreed to by the federal Food and Drug Administration and various shellfish-producing states.

One shellfish sanitation spokesman said earlier that he suspected that runoff from developed portions of the island, rather than human waste disposal facilities, was a likely accelerator of coliform bacteria pollution.

Stewart said he had been concerned about a drainage waterway located between the Lighthouse Creek boat ramp and the village chapel that allows creek water to flow into golf course lagoons, and lagoons to drain into the creek.

But he said that Bald Head Utilities Company manager David Edwards had taken several samples in the watercourse and they disclosed no high level of coliform bacteria pollution there.

"What we have done," Stewart said Tuesday, "is go to the top water quality agency in the state and ask them to help us. We'll taken on the burden of tracking (the pollution) down."

Vandals hit decorations in Southport

Vandals struck at the very heart of Christmas last week, destroying holiday lighting in the hollies and Whittler's Bench cedar in downtown Southport.

Damage was estimated at over \$500 by city engineer Ed Honeycutt. More vandalism occurred in Waterfront Park over the weekend, when the ship-sailing bulletin board was damaged. No estimate was given for the cost of repair there.

Southport police chief Bob Gray said that in light of these occurrences, foot and vehicle patrols will be increased in the downtown area.

Should vandals be apprehended, Gray said, "The only resolution will be reached through the courts. They will not be warned, they will be arrested."

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