

Warren

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•To keep the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department functioning;

•Not to fire parks director Bobby (B. J.) Jones; and

•Against drastic cuts to the Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service program that could cost the department two jobs.

The list is just some of the "immediate concept rejections," said Warren, who polled commissioners by telephone following last week's budget message. All were contacted except commissioner Donald Shaw, who was not available.

"I think we're all in agreement that we want to keep the tax rate at 68 cents," said commissioner Jerry Jones.

Items labeled unacceptable may be added to the list as the board reviews the budget and meets with department heads, said Warren.

At a budget session Monday, the board instructed finance director Luthia Hahn to prepare an estimate of how much each department is likely to spend through June 30 and compare the figures with Harvey's recommended allocations for 1993-94.

"Surprise us with about a 65-cent tax rate," commissioner Wayland Vereen joked.

Work sessions were also scheduled for both Tuesday and Wednesday.

The goal is to get the tax rate back to 68 cents, said Warren.

Although the budget is \$3.7 million more than last year, it was the personnel changes and restructuring of some county operations that drew protests.

Fifteen workers would lose their jobs under the proposal submitted by Harvey, who told reporters he prepared the budget not only as a financial statement for the year but as a plan for the future direction of county government.

Warren, who labels himself a friend of the library system, said the library board should continue to do its job. It is now overseeing construction of two new branches in Leland and Oak Island and renovations to branches in Southport and Shallotte.

Harvey said the board should be dissolved and instead sought expansion of the Friends of the Library.

"This board has diligently worked for a countywide library system and has provided invaluable assistance at no county expense," noted Warren.

Harvey also proposed the parks department be dissolved and its current recreational programs be continued by a new Light Human Services Division managed by a committee of six outsiders. The parks director's position was cut.

Named to that body were Jan Reichenbach, public health educator; the county manager or designated person; Nelson Best, athletic coordinator for the schools; Rita Hatcher, drug abuse and wellness coordinator for the schools; and Gwen Ellis and Evelyn Johnson, of the department of social services.

Two of the members say they were not asked to serve on the committee prior to last week's budget message and were surprised when their names were mentioned at a public meeting in connection with a controversial issue.

Management of the parks program by a group as diversified as the one proposed "seems logistically unsound" and would appear to be "not efficient government," stated Warren.

Other department reductions, position eliminations, restructuring and the capital improvements plan will be studied by commissioners prior to budget adoption.

Warren said he wants department heads to have a chance to state their cases to the board on items that may

be cut from capital outlay needs. "It appears there could be some significant savings in the budget," Warren said.

Thursday's public hearing will likely be the only one scheduled by commissioners, said Warren. State law requires just one hearing prior to adoption.

Lose

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posed zero;

•Chambers of Commerce/Committee of 100: \$60,000 last year, requests \$100,000, proposed \$60,000;

•Welcome Center: \$10,000 last year, requests \$60,000, proposed zero;

•Fifth District Civic Center: \$10,000 last year, no request, proposed \$5,000;

•Southeastern Sickle Cell: \$3,000 last year, requests \$3,000, proposed \$3,000;

•Hospital Hospitality House: \$1,000 last year, requests \$1,000, proposed \$1,000;

•Black History Program: \$500 last year, requests \$500, proposed zero; and

•Lower Cape Fear Hospice: \$2,500 last year, requests \$2,500, proposed \$2,500.

CP&L

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and I want to be able to say, 'I have observed for a long period of time, and I concur with what my people tell me.'"

Both units at the Brunswick plant have been under close Nuclear Regulatory Commission scrutiny since they were shut down in April, 1992, and restart of Unit 2 has been under supervision of NRC staffers in the control room along with CP&L personnel.

While the NRC may remove observers from the Unit 2 control room next week the Brunswick plant will remain under NRC observation until the second unit is repaired, refueled and is powered up in a similar process to what is happening now with Unit 2.

Startup of Unit 2 began April 27 in a deliberate program to carefully observe all components of the nuclear generating system, as well as the operating staff which had also been idle for a year.

"The people are doing well," Anderson said Tuesday. "They are not doing perfectly, but they're doing well. They are open to constructive criticism. I am very pleased."

Anderson said that progress with refurbishing Unit 1 and reducing the maintenance backlog there points to a startup in September.

Library

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that. The apparent low bid for the G. V. Barbee Sr. branch at Oak Island was \$384,000 submitted by Luther T. Rogers Construction of Wilmington. With the Leland branch, Tucker said it would be cheaper to award a multi-prime bid, meaning that the general contractor constructs the building while subcontractors install the plumbing, heating and electrical systems.

The apparent low bidders for the Leland branch were: Harnett Construction Company of Wilmington, \$346,708; Watson Electric Company, \$31,869; Cannon Heating and Air Conditioning, \$26,625; and Kelly Contracting Company, \$15,700. The total bids for the project were \$420,902.

Library board building committee chairman Don Eggert said that, pend-

ing commissioners' approval, he hopes to have the contracts signed by June 21. Construction would then begin one to two weeks later.

'Encouraging'

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funding to construct a sewer system unless sewer was an encouraged land use. However, he added that encouraging the development of a central sewer system also does not guarantee its construction. Town manager Tim Johnson pointed out that sewer has been encouraged in the land use plan since the 1970s.

Although the majority of septic tanks appeared to function properly, others were seriously malfunctioning, Holland stated in a report to the committee. County health department records show that as many as 100 septic tank repairs are conducted every year. The most serious problems occurred on Pelican and Dolphin drives, in the heavily populated east end of town, and in areas with drier soils where oak tree roots grow into drain lines in search of water.

Lot size in Long Beach also has been cited as a potential problem. Holland stated that most of the 7,385 vacant lots remaining are less than 8,250 square feet in area.

"At some point, the continued installation of septic systems will result in ground saturation," Holland said in his report. "If this occurs, Long Beach may be forced to adopt stringent no-growth policies."

And as development and density of houses increase, so does the potential for widespread septic tank failure, Holland concluded.

However, Holland also stated that construction of a sewer system would be a "major stimulant to development." Those who oppose sewer point out that rapid development would in turn lead to more storm-water runoff, which was also cited by Holland as a major environmental hazard. He suggested the town apply for a CAMA technical assistance grant to aid in the preparation of a comprehensive townwide drainage plan.

Other major land use issues cited by Holland in his report include: vehicular congestion and inadequate parking in commercial areas; the dangers of purchasing a home next to fragile areas, especially on the beach; the grid system street pattern, which hinders east-west mobility and complicates utility construction.

Repairs

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the rest of the house to put these things.

"The people that built those houses designed them to take care of their needs," Rudd said. "And they passed the existing codes at that time."

Clemmons indicated that the purpose of the change is to prevent the same damage from occurring again and again. He pointed out that almost exactly the same homes were damaged in exactly the same way during Hurricane Hugo and the March 13 storm.

"The lower level gets destroyed the same way each time," he said. "We're trying to help keep the upstairs, and eliminate all the damage we had downstairs. Anytime you can eliminate that damage, you can lower the damage to other people's property, too."

If seriously damaged lower levels are allowed to be replaced repeatedly, he added, they will be destroyed each time a major storm comes through. And, council member David Durr said that homes damaged repeatedly drive up the cost of flood insurance for everyone.

"(Durr's) not even in a flood zone, and I don't believe he's paying any flood insurance at all," Rudd responded. "Flood insurance only af-

fects people in a flood zone."

The proposed change would allow for a 300-square-foot storage area to be constructed underneath damaged homes whose first level cannot be rebuilt.

If the change had been in effect after the March 13 storm, Clemmons estimated that 20 lower levels could not have been replaced and 15 houses would have been lost completely.

The town council is expected to make a final decision on the proposal at next month's meeting.

In other business discussed last Tuesday:

•Resident and former council member David Drummond asked who would be responsible for future repairs to the sewer lines some Long Beach developers want to build to tap onto the Yaupon Beach sewer system. Town manager Tim Johnson replied that the town would be responsible for the maintenance of the lines, but that the developers would be assessed an administrative fee that would cover all repair costs.

•Resident Tim Jones complained that he was "flatly blown out of the water" last week when council members denied his request to rip-rap an area and waive the access requirement. Jones said the format of the town's public meetings does not provide citizens a chance to rebut the council's decisions.

•Resident Rupert Riley requested permission to borrow the Town Hall's copy of the proposed 1993-94 budget in order to have it copied at a cheaper rate. The town currently charges 25 cents per page. Mayor Joan Altman said the public's copy of the budget is required to stay in Town Hall in order to protect its integrity, and council member James Sloop offered to let Riley borrow his budget copy.

•Donald McNeill and L. Donald Meyers were appointed to the board of adjustments.

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