

Airport

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off before discussion continued.

Board secretary Wil Stewart pointed out that a recent financial audit of the airport showed that no money was missing from total revenues for the fiscal year. But, he added, he too would like to know why there is a shortage of hangar rental income listed in the financial reports presented to the board each month.

"I don't understand where the hangar deposits are either, and I'd just like someone to tell us where they are," he said. "But I don't think our employees are dishonest."

Franklin said he will ask Brunswick County commissioners to conduct an audit of the airport to show that no money is missing from overall revenues. He said since January, when bookkeeper Anne Marie Zaleski was hired, the airport has kept detailed computer records of all hangar rental payments.

Prior to January, Franklin said, none of the airport personnel was

qualified to operate the computer program that maintains airport financial records.

"We were all unqualified to operate the program," he said. "Anne Marie is the first one who is knowledgeable of this financial program so I can't explain what happened from July to January."

Franklin said all airport expenditures must be approved by the airport commission.

"I can't spend one dime without the commission approving it," he said. "It's frustrating to me because we're supposed to be working as a team."

Franklin said he regretted that he and Scott lost their tempers during last week's meeting.

"We got mad and we were wrong," he said. "We're supposed to smile and act polite like good politicians."

In other airport commission business:

■ In apparent violation of the state public records law, chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting and distributed a draft of the airport's budget for the upcoming fiscal year to commissioners but refused to provide a copy to *The State Port*

Pilot upon request.

While Stewart said he believed documents distributed after a public meeting are not public documents, N. C. Press Association attorney Amanda Martin said that is not the case.

"Any document distributed to the board is a public record no matter when it's given out," she said. "They should know better than that."

Stewart said this week that he did not want to provide a copy of the draft budget proposal to *The State Port Pilot* because he did not like other stories he's read in the newspaper based on drafts. He said he would ask for an opinion from airport attorney Bill Fairley before making the budget document available.

Garbage

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Thursday work session, the council held the matter over to the May 14-15 monthly meetings for a complete assessment and action plan.

Heavy winter rains flooded interior lowlands and roadways for weeks this year, and rain-flooding is also a common effect of tropical storms. The council, which this winter abandoned Saturday meetings in favor of Thursday work sessions and Friday business meetings, rejected a property owners association request to return to the monthly session on Saturday, but pledged to consider the matter further in the fall.

Horne said Monday that his proposed budget will be in the hands of council members by May 1, and thereafter will be aired in the May 14-15 meetings as well as in other work sessions and a public hearing which is tentatively planned for May 30.

Swimmer

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weapons belts and tried to reach Miller and Thompson; then officer Grasty and another woman swimmer were able to reach the depths where Miller could be assisted.

Thompson was taken from the surf "disoriented, but breathing on her own," chief Grasty reported. She was transported to Doshier Memorial Hospital for treatment and observation.

"Matt Miller saved her life," chief Grasty said. "We think Matt is a hero."

Caswell

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would not pay an employee for a lost-time injury if he were not on public property performing his job.

Commissioners and the five property owners associations in Caswell Beach have been working on this consolidation of water delivery systems since this time last year when commissioners began preparation of a budget for fiscal year 1997-98. Negotiations for an agreement by which the consolidated water delivery system would be operated and maintained by an entity outside town government were begun then, also.

Commissioner Paul O'Connor, who has spearheaded the town's drive to consolidate the five private and one public water systems, told commissioners recently that all parties are nearly ready to agree.

Caswell Dunes Homeowners Association bylaws require 80 percent of all condo owners there to agree to the consolidation, O'Connor said. Management there is working to get owners to sign-on to the agreement.

OceanGreens Condominium Association has instructed its attorney, Robert Serra, to execute deeds nec-

essary to provide rights-of-way to the town. OceanGreens Homeowners Association has instructed its attorney, Henry Foy, to draw similar agreements.

Arboretum homeowners are "putting together paperwork," O'Connor said. No one was sure of how far Oak Island Beach Villas Homeowners were in preparing to grant easements.

Under terms of a new ordinance to govern charges for a consolidated Caswell Beach water system, Arboretum, Caswell Dunes, OceanGreens Condominium, OceanGreens Homeowners, Oak Island Beach Villas and Caswell Beach Road residents will individually pay a base water fee of \$24 per quarter. They will also pay a \$2.05 user fee for each thousand gallons of water consumed. Unlike the old water ordinance, the monthly base fee does not entitle water users to any amount of water consumption.

The base fee schedule also calls for the Arboretum Community Association, the OceanGreens Condominium Association and the OceanGreens Homeowners Association to pay a quarterly base fee of \$128. Caswell Dunes Homeowners Association will pay a base fee of \$1,133 and Oak Island Beach Villas will pay a base fee of \$1,402 quarterly. The associations will pay the same consumption rate -- \$2.05 per thousand gallons -- for water they actually use.

N. C. Baptist Assembly, Carolina Power and Light Co. and U. S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island will be charged quarterly base water fees of \$250, plus the user fee for actual consumption.

Commissioners agreed a hike in the quarterly base water fee to these levels was necessary to support the consolidated system. After spirited debate this year, however, commissioners decided not to hike user fees beyond the \$2.05-per-thousand-gallon level in the ordinance they adopted April 9. Commissioner Bill Boyd was alone in his contention user fees should be raised also. He contended the user fee should go as high as \$2.40 per thousand gallons to assure the consolidated water system's fiscal health.



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