

# Another delay possible in Rockfish case

BY LANCE MARTIN  
rrspin.com

**GREENVILLE** - A possible delay in the trial of Operation Rockfish defendant Antonio Tillmon could be in the offing after his new attorney filed a motion for a continuance in the police corruption case.

Tillmon is the only defendant in the case to enter a not guilty plea. The other 14 have accepted plea deals and are tentatively sched-

uled for sentencing in March. Tillmon's trial at the federal courthouse in Greenville had been scheduled for the February term.

Now, however, his attorney, Paul K. Sun Jr. of Raleigh, has requested an order from United States Senior District Judge Malcolm Howard to set the trial for the weeks of April 24 and May 1.

"Mr. Tillmon is charged with ten counts," Sun wrote this week in a motion con-

tained in the federal court record, noting the counts include conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute heroin and cocaine, conspiracy to use and carry firearms, attempt to possess with intent to distribute, and federal programs bribery. "Undersigned counsel was appointed pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act after Mr. Tillmon's former counsel was permitted to withdraw."

Sun notes he has worked diligently and in good faith to meet with Tillmon and become familiar with the case.

However, he wrote, "The amount of discovery in the case is significant, comprising substantial paper discovery, electronic files, numerous audio and video recordings, and related transcripts. Thus, counsel reasonably requires additional time to prepare for trial."

The attorney advised the

government of his intent to file the motion to continue and says the government does not oppose it.

"This motion is made in good faith and not for purposes of delay," he said. "Undersigned counsel has not previously sought to continue the trial date. The ends of justice served by granting this continuance outweigh the best interest of the public and the defendant in a speedy trial."

# SBA extends Hurricane Matthew deadline

BY LESLIE BEACHBOARD  
Bertie Ledger-Advance

**ATLANTA, GA** - The United States Small Business Administration (SBA) has extended the deadline to apply for physical disaster assistance.

Anyone in the declared counties in North Carolina with physical damages caused by Hurricane Matthew should apply for a disaster recovery loan program before the new deadline of Jan. 23.

The deadline extension will help ensure that businesses and residents with

uninsured losses have the additional time they need to submit their SBA disaster loan applications.

Currently, the SBA has approved over \$77 million in low-interest disaster loans to over 2,100 North Carolina businesses and residents affected by the disaster.

Businesses and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives,

small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economy Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster.

The Economic Injury loans are available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster

damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates are as low as four percent for businesses, 2.625 percent for nonprofit organizations and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters with repayment terms up to 30 years.

Loan amounts and terms are set by the SBA, and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may be eligible for an existing loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA for mitigation purposes.

Eligible mitigation im-

provements may now include a safe room or storm shelter to help protect the property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at [www.disasterassistance.gov](http://www.disasterassistance.gov) or download the FEMA mobile app.

If mobile or online access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

## Village

From A1 nated sites, which including utilities. Campers who choose to go off the beaten path would not be charged for regular camping without utilities.

Maxik also recom-

mended beginning stays at the treehouses with a charge of \$60 a night.

"I also recommend the creation of a position of a campground host. This person will take money from camp-

ers as they arrive, explain the rules of the facility and keep an eye on everything," added Maxik.

"We already have someone there who does this now but I recommend giving them

the title for two lots rent-free each month. I also recommend changing the names to the Cashie River Campground and the Cashie River Treehouse Village," added Maxik.

"Is there any limitation on how long an individual can stay?" asked Windsor Commissioner David Overton.

"No, there will not be a limitation as long as the individuals staying pay the fees and follow the rules," answered

Maxik.

"We are hoping to set up an online account so individuals can make reservations and pay online. Then we can just confirm the reservation and we know we will get paid for it," added town of Windsor Administrator Allen Castelloe.

"How are we doing on the construction of the bathrooms?" asked Windsor Mayor Pro-Tempore Bob Brown.

"We currently have a foundation and they

will be worked on every pretty day we have until the project is complete," replied Castelloe.

Windsor Commissioner Cathy Wilson made a motion to accept the recommendations of the price rates, new position and name change. Commissioner Lawrence Carter Jr. offered a second to the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The board will meet again at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 9.

## Audit

From A1 nificantly.

A total of 87.88 percent of property taxes for Windsor, excluding vehicle taxes, were collected and the property tax rate has remained the same for the last three years at a rate of 0.00145.

The total operating revenue for the water and sewer fund in 2015-2016 was \$1,003,899.

"The electric fund is real steady from year

to year with a total operating revenue in 2015-2016 of \$4,979,547.

According to Taylor, during the audit three significant deficiencies were found which included: financial statement preparation, controls over cash collections and classifications of capital expenditures.

These deficiencies do not show any financial troubles with the town. "Financially the town

is in good shape, its fund balance just needs to be watched because of from where funds were loaned to the Roanoke River Project and the funds have not been put back yet," said Taylor.

The audit has been sent to the Local Government Commission (LGC) but has not yet been approved. There were no questions from the Windsor Commission Board.

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