

Cardinal Board Gives Nod To Beverly

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tion. Specifically he said Beverly excluded the cost of a \$350,000 sewer treatment system Brunswick Hospital plans to build and share with Beverly.

The 50 mgd system, approved earlier by the Cardinal board, will allow the hospital to double its bed capacity to 120 as well as serving the 160-bed nursing home. Beverly's application shows approximately \$20,000 in tap-on costs, but specifically lists no development costs.

Two Brunswick County Hospital Authority members, Leo Fulford and George "Buddy" Evans, have signed notarized statements asserting that 1) that Sons and Authority Chairman Robert Sellers asked the authority to give Beverly approval to use the entrance to the hospital and to hook up on the hospital water and sewer systems "and they would pay their fair share."

Further, the two assert in the document that "we were not informed of the fact that there were other real homes proposing to come to this area and at no time did we endorse Beverly Enterprises Corp. over any other company."

Beacon coverage of that meeting indicated unanimous endorsement of the Beverly proposal by resolution of the members of the authority, Blueprints of the Beverly project were displayed at the meeting.

However, last week the Town of Shallotte was denied access to the public record, the minutes of that authority meeting. Town Clerk Cynthia Long told the Beacon she was told the minutes had not been approved, but that she was offered an explanation of any business transacted. The Authority only meets twice a year.

Speaking on behalf of Autumn, Shallotte Mayor Beamon Hewett said he had helped lead the fight for a centrally-located hospital for the county and that he was now trying to lead a fight for another central location—the center of population to be served by the proposed nursing

home. "Do we serve the people of the area or do we serve a special interest at Supply?" he asked.

Also speaking for Autumn was Warren "Bud" Knapp of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association and Alinda Meares of the North Carolina Shores Property Owners Association.

Speaking on behalf of Beverly, in addition to corporation representatives were Rev. Ned Eaddy of Brunswick Christian Center and John F. Holden of Holden Beach.

Eaddy and Holden showed on a map the broad-based support given a nursing home location near or at the Supply hospital, listing more than 40 church congregations, the Brunswick County Citizens Association, Brunswick County Christian Businessmen's Association, several towns, fire departments and rescue squads.

"We are trying to assure that every citizen who gets nursing home care gets every right to life possible," said Eaddy.

Triad Tries Again

Jim Hayes of Triad Medical Services, which owns and operates Ocean Trail Convalescent Center, told Cardinal members he hoped the decision had not been narrowed already to "a two-man race" between Autumn or Beverly because the Southport area needs skilled nursing beds. Ocean Trail has intermediate and home for the aged beds and can convert up to 10 beds per year for skilled care.

However, he said he was told Doshier Hospital cannot convert any of its beds to skilled nursing as Cardinal suggested it could earlier this month.

Letters from the Southport medical community submitted to Cardinal as part of an information packet from Autumn Corp. generally suggested the 100 available skilled and intermediate nursing home beds be divided between Shallotte and Southport, generally at 25 to 40 beds for Ocean Trail and 60 to 75 for Autumn Corp.

Calls, More Calls Sway Commissioners

Responding to a second barrage of telephone calls, Brunswick County Commissioners last Wednesday afternoon rescinded a resolution adopted two nights earlier that endorsed locating a nursing home beside Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Instead, they forwarded a letter to Cardinal Health Agency supporting a nursing home for the county, but not a specific location or a specific company—essentially the same stand they had taken two weeks earlier.

In making an endorsement after first stating their intentions not to do so, "I feel like we had betrayed the public," said Commissioner Frankie Rabon in explanation of his vote to rescind. He said he thought other commissioners had similar feelings.

The commissioners' Wednesday vote came in an afternoon session continued from Monday during which they began meeting individually with county department heads.

Their endorsement Monday of a Supply location in effect endorsed Beverly Enterprises' certificate-of-need application since it is the only one of six applicants that proposed to build near the hospital.

The endorsement followed a weekend telephone campaign in support of the Supply location and was rescinded following a similar barrage of calls Tuesday and Wednesday, this time from supporters of a Shallotte location.

A letter to the Cardinal Health Agency from Chris Chappell, chairman of the county board, suggested that the commissioners lack the expertise in health planning needed to make such a determination.

"Therefore the board will make no recommendation as to location or provider and shall rely upon the expertise of professionals to determine what is in the best interest of the people of Brunswick County in this regard," concluded Chappell's letter.

Four Zoning Change Requests Await Sunset Council Monday

BY TERRY POPE

Four zoning change requests that would affect future developments on the mainland are on the agenda of the Sunset Beach town council meeting set for Monday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

Included in the zoning change requests are applications that have been before the town council "some for as long as a year," said Mayor Pro-Term Ed Gore. Council members held a final public hearing on the requests last Wednesday night before a packed town hall.

Four parcels of land would be affected by the zoning changes—three areas along N.C. 179 between Bonaparte's Landing and the Calabash River, and another eight-acre parcel in Seaside abutting the Intracoastal Waterway.

Owners of 13.2 acres where the old Magnolia Motel once stood and across the road at Bonaparte's Landing are requesting a zoning change from MR-2 (mainland residential) to MB-1 (mainland business). That area would contain both multi-family housing and shops if approved, said Mason Anderson, spokesman for Sea Trail Corp., Island Development Corp. and Oceanside Corp., all companies holding an interest in the land.

Another request the board will consider involves land that borders N.C. 179 adjacent to the Calabash River. Applicant David Staneland has requested the land be rezoned from MR-2 to MB-1.

Applicant Mike Brazeal, who has recently purchased the Landing I subdivision on N.C. 179, has requested the entire area be rezoned from MR-2 to MR-3, which would allow multi-family units.

A final application received by the town planning board in December seeks the rezoning of an eight-acre section in Seaside known as the "Brooks Estate" from MH-1 (mobile home) to MB-1 for commercial use. Ocean Isle Developer Stuart Cooke is requesting the zoning change on behalf of the Joe Brooks family.

Prior to opening the public hearing last Wednesday, council members met briefly in special session to adopt a code of conduct that as of Wednesday governs anyone wishing to comment during hearings held by the council or planning board.

A need for such a set of rules became apparent during the last hearing held by the planning board in December.

That hearing was not an official town public hearing since the council was not invited to meet in joint session with the planning board. Town Manager Wallace Martin said the



STAFF PHOTO BY TERRY POPE
MIKE BRAZEAL, who recently purchased the Landing I subdivision, has requested that the entire area be rezoned from MR-2 to MR-3 to accommodate multi-family housing.

planning board likes to hold public hearings of its own before sending applications to the council for a vote.

All four requests will go to the council Monday with the planning board's prior approval. However, board member George Meier voted against the zoning changes and restated his opposition to the requests Wednesday night.

"My feeling is that if the council decides they are going to change this into a business area," Meier said, "then they should determine how much is to be business and how much is to be multi-family."

A request introduced by Anderson that would change the 13.2 acres at Bonaparte's Landing from residential to business would also allow multi-family units in the same district. Meier spoke against the move, saying that mixing business with homes could create fire hazards and traffic problems.

"Our intentions is to try to clean up that corner of town," Anderson replied. "What I can tell the group is, that's very valuable property up there. Anything that will be done there will be carefully planned and will be done in good taste."

Opposition to the zoning changes was also voiced by John McCarthy, president of the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association. McCarthy also said new businesses and homes would create more of a problem for parking and traffic on the beach.

"I'd just like to repeat, the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association is unanimously opposed to any changes

in zoning that would add to density or height," McCarthy said.

As an immediate means of cleaning up the area, McCarthy suggested that Anderson take down the old Magnolia Motel sign that was left standing after workers demolished the building. Anderson said he did not realize the sign was still standing, but added it would be removed.

William Taylor, of T & T Development Inc., presented a petition to the council Wednesday containing signatures of property owners surrounding the Brooks Estate in Seaside who are opposed to the requested zoning change. If the signatures are verified and the petition is considered legitimate, it may take a 4-1 vote of the council to approve the zoning change, Town Manager Martin said.

Taylor said he was not opposed to changing the area from MH-1 to MB-1 where a fish house and restaurant are now standing on the estate. However, Taylor stated he was opposed to rezoning any area next to the site where mobile homes are now parked.

Taylor holds an option on a parcel of land that lies in the middle of the eight-acre area requested for rezoning. At the planning board hearing, Taylor requested that his parcel and all those around his remain zoned for mobile homes.

Anderson, a Shallotte attorney and resident of Sunset Beach, advised that signatures of persons living outside the town limits by law cannot be considered on petitions.

"Those persons were not asked about zoning in the first place," Anderson said.

According to the application, plans include multi-family units, a restaurant, marina and docking facilities for the site.

Mike Brazeal, owner of the Landing I subdivision, said if his rezoning request is approved then multi-family units will be built. Brazeal said he would like for the area to "be a source of pride" and "add to the community." The development would cater more to retired couples, he said.

Single Water System Intended

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"total costs" of the county water system, which it says includes Phases 1, 1-A and 2 facilities.

It denies that the rates charged are in breach of the county's agreement with Pfizer, as the chemical firm alleges. Rather, the county argues that Pfizer's withholding of a portion of its monthly charges from July 1983 to December 13, 1984, constituted a breach of contract.

It denies that the Phase II expansion of the county water system was "separate and apart" from Phase 1 and 1-A, with, since at least 1973, "the true intent of the County at all times being to have a unified water system."

Further, it responds that when Phase 2 of the unified system "becomes a part of budgeted costs," Pfizer will be required to pay its

share of such costs the same as all other customers.

It argues that the raw surface water taken from the Cape Fear River for treatment is intended to supply the entire water system, not a specific portion of the county as alleged by Pfizer.

The county also contends that it never has sought to have Pfizer underwrite the economic viability of the water system, but "only to pay its appropriate share of the costs of the system."

The county says its position since 1973 is that it will furnish Pfizer its water requirements "within the water system's capability," not from a specific phase or phases.

Further, the county contends that if it agreed with Pfizer's interpretation, "the county would be in the posi-

tion of discriminating against some of its citizens while favoring Pfizer," which it couldn't do. That would be against the law and therefore unenforceable, the county contends.

If Pfizer's interpretation of the agreement is as alleged in the complaint, Ligon continued, then the parties entered the agreement "laboring under a mutual mistake as to proper interpretation of the agreement as it relates to the method of calculating the water rates" and the contract should be adjusted accordingly to require Pfizer to pay its water bill on the same basis as other customers.

And, Ligon continues, if a previous board of commissioners entered into "contractual limitations" on its authority to set water rates, it couldn't prevent the current board from exercising powers granted it by state law.

DSS Board Hears Reports

(Continued From Page 1-A)

that the staff also come up with a proposal for the switchboard.

"Just get a system going," said Brown.

Clerical Supervisor Linda Green said she plans to reorganize the reception desk, using both a switchboard operator and a receptionist and separating the two. Also, included in this year's budget, she said, were funds to purchase a mobile file system that would increase the department's filing capacity about 65%. But so far this year the bids have not gone beyond the finance office, she said. Rabon suggested she ask why at the next commissioners' meeting.

He also suggested the department investigate the feasibility of conver-

ting its file to microfilm.

After Rabon asked for her recommendation, board members proceeded to adopt Social Worker Supervisor Evelyn Johnson's recommendation idea of asking commissioners to allow the department to retain Ola Frink's half-time county position, which was initially set aside for focal point on aging, but to have her work as a community resource technician coordinating Medicaid transportation volunteers. The county commissioners have assumed the function of focal point agency themselves.

After hearing reports from supervisors Linda Green, Evelyn Johnson and Sandy Jackson approved requests to fill vacancies in three existing positions. Those requests will

be forwarded to the county commissioners.

Heard that the department's food stamp unit received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture commending it for meeting the emergency food needs of county residents following Hurricane Diana.

Heard that the Department of Human Resources found no errors in its Medicaid quality control check for the months April through September 1984.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
Established Nov. 1, 1962
Telephone 754-6890
Published Every Thursday
At Main Street
Shallotte, N. C. 28459

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Waccamaw Plans Meal

Waccamaw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad will sell pork barbecue and chicken bog dinners Saturday, Feb. 9, beginning at 11 a.m.

Each plate will cost \$3.50, with proceeds going to the fire and rescue service.

The station is located on N.C. 130 near the Ash intersection.

Winnabow VFD Will Serve BBQ

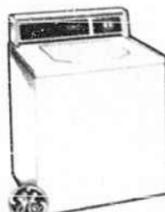
Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department will serve barbecue plates Saturday, Feb. 2 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Plates will include pork barbecue, potato salad, cole slaw and hushpuppies.

The department is located off U.S. 17 on Governors Road in Winnabow.

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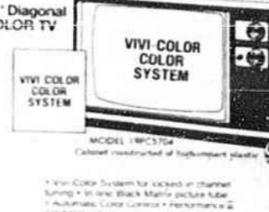
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