

New Commissioners Want To Know How County Runs

BY SUSAN USHER
Brunswick County Commissioners forged ahead last Wednesday toward their goals of learning more about how county government operates and making it clear they expect a tighter-run operation.

In interviews begun with individual department heads last Wednesday afternoon, board members also made it clear they're taking their responsibilities seriously as a board that sets both tone and policies for the county government.

The sessions with department heads were to continue Wednesday. Commissioners were also to begin interviewing candidates for county finance officer.

They repeatedly said they wanted to "cut out the slack" in county government, but at least on Wednesday weren't sure exactly where it was. County Manager Billy Carter suggested a closer study of the budget as a starting point.

Carter said he "felt good" about the two hours or more he spent with

commissioners, saying there was "positive, open communication."

Board members addressed many of their ideas about county government and also allowed a two-way exchange of ideas, learning about the responsibilities and problems of each department in turn. They made it clear they want to know more about how the county operates and improve the flow of information.

"They're in charge," Carter said. "They've let department heads know there's a chain of command to follow.

They're publicly stating the commissioners are taking their responsibilities seriously."

Carter said he thinks the commissioners—four of whom took office in December—recognize the county has some good departments.

"We can always improve," he added.

The board agreed that the county manager should be regularly evaluated, as did Carter, and that

they wanted closer tabs kept on county employees' travel. They told him he should question them when their directions are not clear.

Commissioner Frankie Rabon expressed a similar evaluation of the session Monday night.

"Both commissioners and the department heads have a better understanding of their responsibilities," he said.

"Most agreed with what we said two weeks ago," he added, referring

to several policy changes now in effect, including a requirement that county employees live in the county.

"We told them we expect them to be responsible for their departments, not individual employees. They appeared to respect that."

Rabon said commissioners also told department heads that there is a path, a chain of command to follow to reach the commissioners, and that all county employees are welcome to attend commissioners' meetings.



BRUNSWICK COUNTY Board of Education members met Monday night to review the duties and responsibilities of the administrative staff. Assistant Superintendent Ed Lemon, left, reviewed his goals for the coming year. Lemon is in charge of curriculum and student support services.

School Board Briefed On System

BY TERRY POPE
Members of the Brunswick County Schools administrative staff addressed the board of education Monday night, outlining their goals and duties for the coming year.

School Superintendent Gene Yarbrough said the meeting was needed to acquaint the board with present goals of the school system.

The special meeting is one of several that will be called over the next few months to better acquaint the board with the operations of the school system, said Chairman James Forstner.

Addressing the board were Business Manager Samuel Adcock, Assistant Superintendents Ed Lemon, Stephanna Tewey, and P.R. Hankins, and school plant operations and transportation supervisor Bill Turner.

According to Adcock, business department goals include automating the financial systems on the office's new central computer and improving records of the system's fixed assets, which are needed in seeking funds from county commissioners.

Adcock said the system also wants an energy management proposal approved to help reduce school energy costs. At the present rate, the schools could be spending more than \$1 million a year for utilities within 10 years, he added.

Assistant Ed Lemon, who is in charge

of curriculum, said system goals in that area include implementing curriculum guides for every teacher at every grade level. A curriculum guide for science teachers has already been developed, he added.

Lemon is also in charge of seeing the schools through reaccreditation. This year, the three high schools will be up for 10-year accreditation renewal.

He listed automated student attendance sheets, report cards and manuals for principals as other needs.

Although Ms. Tewey has begun work for the state in helping to implement an "Effective Teacher Training Program" in 16 school systems across the state, Brunswick County is not included in the pilot study that will begin next year.

Recruiting better qualified teachers is also a goal Ms. Tewey rates high among her duties.

"Right now, we only have one application on file for a science teacher," Ms. Tewey said.

Maintaining a nutritional meal program for students is a \$1.8 million annual business for the school system, said assistant P.R. Hankins, who is in charge of federal programs.

"We would like to help students learn while they are in the dining room," Hankins said. "A concerted effort is being made now to do so."

Hankins also said teachers need updated instructional materials,

such as filmstrips and movies. The schools maintain 625 films at the teacher's center in Bolivia, he added.

Seven different publications are produced by the school system in an effort to "get out the correct word about our schools," Hankins said. Seven staff members are involved in printing such brochures and booklets as "Quest."

Pupil transportation and plant operations supervisor Bill Turner said updated equipment is needed at schools and the county maintenance office to meet safety standards. An updated property survey book is needed for each school to show floor plans of the buildings, he said.

Turner would also like to implement a preventive maintenance program for school buses and a school bus driver recruitment program.

Calabash Attorney To Enter Into Contract Negotiations

BY TERRY POPE
Calabash wants county water as soon as possible, but first a contract with the town's former engineering firm must be legally broken.

Following a 45-minute executive session Monday afternoon, Calabash town council members instructed attorney Robert Serra of the Southport firm of Murchison, Taylor and Shell to negotiate with Peirson and Whitman Inc. engineers of Raleigh early termination of a binding contract with the town that will expire in November.

In 1975, Peirson and Whitman prepared plans for a town water system; however, the plans were never presented to the board. Mayor Sonia Stevens said the 10-year contract signed with the company is binding until November.

Board members voted at their Jan. 14 meeting to contact their attorney about breaking the contract provided it does not cost the town more than \$500 to do so. They also voted to have the Shallotte engineering firm of Jerry Lewis and Associates prepare an updated feasibility study on the costs of installing a town water system as soon as the contract is broken.

Stevens said Monday she will "contact the county as soon as possible" about receiving county water after the contract negotiations are settled. Serra replaced attorney Mike Isenberg, who left the Southport firm to join another.

Council members also met in executive session with Serra Monday to discuss the location of a private commercial sign owned by John David Frink, owner of Capt. John's Seafood House on the waterfront. After entering open session, the board approved a motion to have Serra write a letter to Frink about moving the sign.

According to Mayor Stevens, the

"advertising sign has got to be moved back" from its present location. There is a question as to "where it's positioned," Stevens said.

The board met in executive session at its Jan. 14 meeting with Gene Mills before announcing that an agreement had been reached for having the sign relocated.

Resignation Delayed
Board member Michael Frink, who earlier announced he was resigning from the council, will not do so until the board's Feb. 11 meeting. Frink, 25, a native of Calabash, said Monday his moving into a new home outside the town limits has been delayed.

Council members must be residents of the town. Frink recommended Monday that resident Susie Moore take his seat on the board.

"I've talked with her," Frink said. "I believe she would accept it if asked."

Supermarket?
Plans to bring a 15,000-square-foot independent supermarket to Calabash appears to have been revived, said Town Clerk Janet Thomas.

Ms. Thomas said Monday that Hal Arnett of Fairmont has signed another six-month option on land for the supermarket and mini-mall within the town limits. Arnett contacted the town last February asking for help in obtaining state grants to help build the shopping center, but his plans were delayed.

"He wanted to let us know he is still interested," Ms. Thomas said.

According to Ms. Thomas, Arnett and his business partners would like for the town to apply for state grants that could be loaned to the developers at low interest. He will be back in touch with the town at a later date, she said.

To be eligible for the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development grant, the town

must submit an application during one of three different filing periods during the year and qualify under the poverty-level bracket, which Ms. Thomas said it does.

"It may mean the town will have to start work on a flood insurance plan," she added. The town has not participated in the federal flood insurance program in the past, making it difficult for the town to obtain state and federal grants and funding.

In other business Monday, the board delayed appointing members to the town planning board. Five seats are open on the board, but council members only have the names of two residents the board knows are willing to serve.

Rather than make just two appointments Monday, Mayor Stevens recommended waiting until the February meeting before appointing Robert Weber and John Johnson to the board.

Also at the February meeting, representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may meet with the town concerning the dredging of Calabash River. Ms. Thomas said Monday some state funds may be available to help the town do a partial dredging of the river at its worst spot, where the water is only three to four feet deep on low tide.

Home Crosses Waterway To Leave Holden Beach

BY TERRY POPE
When moving a house there's more than one way off the island, a Holden Beach resident discovered over the weekend.

With the help of three companies, a barge, tug boat and crane, surveyor Tom Morgan safely moved a home from the island to the mainland across the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. But it took two days.

"The only problem was we had to work with the tides," Morgan said. "It's not a terribly hard thing to coordinate, but you have to be able to get everything just right."

Morgan began devising a way to get the oceanfront home off the island after purchasing it from Holden Beach developer James Hobbs. The home has found a new resting place on Holden Beach Road across from Sabbath Home Baptist Church. Morgan says he plans to refurbish the frame house.

A moratorium on moving homes on the island, but not off the island, was passed by the Holden Beach town council last year. With the beach's new highrise replacement bridge not scheduled for completion until 1986, home moving on the island appeared to be a thing of the past.

However, Saturday morning Henry Milligan House Movers of Shallotte loaded the structure onto a truck for a short drive to the waterway adjacent to the bridge, Morgan said. After the truck and house were driven onto the waiting barge, low tide made it difficult for the tugs to pull the barge off the bottom of the waterway.

Tug boats were contracted for the job from O.E. Durant Inc. of Wilmington, Morgan said, while workers from Lee Construction Co. also aided.

"We had 20 to 25 men working at once with three different contractors involved," Morgan said. "It was an enormous feat to pull off."

On high tide, the barge was transported to the mainland side, and the home was safely removed.

Although the first effort to move a home off the island via waterway was successful, Morgan said he is not sure others homeowners or developers will want to follow the same route.

"I haven't gotten the bills in yet from the companies," Morgan said. "I hope it'll be worth it, but I won't know until then."

MILLIGAN HOUSEMOVERS, Inc.
License 055

Tabor City, N.C.
653-2272 754-6065
Insured Bonded

Ben Franklin
Better quality for less

Bonus Bucks Sale!

<p>Irregular Towels</p> <p>\$4.99 12 perfect BATH TOWEL \$2.49 12 perfect HANG TOWEL \$1.29 12 perfect WASHCLOTH</p> <p>3.00 2 for 3.00 2 for 1.00</p>	<p>Irregular Blankets</p> <p>100% easy-care acrylic, twin full size</p> <p>5.00 each</p>	<p>Plastic Housewares</p> <p>A bonanza of pans, dish pans and more! Colors.</p> <p>1.00 each</p>	<p>Textured Bathing Mat</p> <p>Self-grip suction cup bot. 30in. 14 1/2 x 22 1/2 in.</p> <p>2.00 each</p>	<p>Rachelle Cluny Lace</p> <p>Machine washable beige color 1 1/2 - 2 1/2 in widths</p> <p>4.10 YDS</p>	<p>Polyester Fiberfill</p> <p>12-oz bag 100% polyester. Machine washable</p> <p>1.17 pkg.</p>

Men's Shirts & Sweaters..... 25% OFF
Men's Winter Coats..... Up to 1/3 OFF
Men's Suit Sportcoats..... Up to 60% OFF
Levi & Lee Fancy Jeans..... \$14.00 Up
Boy's Coats..... 1/2 Price
Winter Dresses..... 1/2 Price
Winter Coats & Skirts..... 1/2 Price
Ladies Catalina Sportswear..... Up To 1/2 Price
45" wide Quality & Craft Cotton..... \$1.99 yd.
Large Group Of Levi, Lee & Chic Jeans..... Values to \$35 \$14.00

Most Winter Merchandise Reduced

Ladies' Winter Boots Reduced

Kirby's
DEPARTMENT STORE
and **BEN FRANKLIN**
Downtown Shallotte 754-4846