

# DSS Board Calls Emergency Meet To Discuss Personnel

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Social Services board members took no action after meeting 1½ hours behind closed doors Tuesday morning in an "emergency" executive session called to discuss attorney-client and legal matters.

When the board's lack of action was questioned, board attorney Mary Easley defended the decision to enter executive session.

Under the state open meetings law, certain matters can be discussed in private and not reported to the

public, she said. "In my opinion, it fell under that category," she said.

"If action is taken on that subject later, we will have to tell you. But we need more information first. I don't think any decision particularly has been made."

"I may have told you too much already."

The legal matter discussed, she said, was already covered under client-attorney privilege.

An emergency meeting is one called because of "generally unexpected circumstances that require im-

mediate consideration by the public body."

The board initially met in special session Tuesday to review a state audit of the department's accounts from 1982-83, with all members expect Barry Frink present. They learned, meeting with their attorney, departmental supervisors and County Finance Director Wallace Harding, that some recommended changes in procedures are in place and others in the works to correct a number of minor administrative problems identified in the audit.

Some of the changes are expected to involve personnel, possibly retraining of existing employees or situating someone in the department with finance management skills.

The emergency executive session was called after a department employee asked to meet privately with the board with a request for immediate action in an unidentified situation.

Media not already present for the audit review, including The Brunswick Beacon, were contacted by telephone at approximately 11 a.m. and informed that an

"emergency meeting" to discuss personnel would begin in 10 minutes.

Mrs. Easley said that the board was trying to "do it right," in calling the closed door session, and would change its procedures next time if an error was pointed out.

The state open meetings law permits executive sessions for two general types of personnel-related matters. It may consider the "qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment" of a present or

prospective employee, and it may hear or investigate a complaint, charge or grievance either by or against an officer or employee. The section of the law that allows emergency meetings does not specify that the situation require immediate action, only immediate "consideration."

In regard to the audit, the county social services department owes the state small refunds from several programs, but may also stand to collect some expenses that were previously underreported or improperly reported.

# Schools Approach Energy Savings Conservatively

BY TERRY POPE

Brunswick County Board of Education members have decided to approach the idea of saving energy at the schools in a more conservative manner.

Only three schools will be included in a two-year trial effort to reduce energy costs, instead of all 11 schools as was initially proposed, the board voted Monday night. A.E. LeBlanc Inc. of Raleigh is seeking a contract with the Brunswick County school system to install computerized energy saving devices in the schools.

Under the new proposal, West Brunswick High, South Brunswick High and Leland Middle School would be the three schools to receive the devices at a cost close to \$85,000, school Superintendent Gene Yarbrough said. The guaranteed energy savings from the three schools would be close to \$45,000 per year.

A formal proposal will be drafted and presented to the board at a later meeting for approval. A proposal to include all 11 schools in the program would involve funds that are not committed from the county commissioners to the school board to spend, said board member James Clemmons. The board can not obligate itself to fund a project beyond a fiscal year, he added.

LeBlanc appeared before the board Monday and said the contract would include a "non-appropriating clause."

Board attorney E.J. Prevatte said the question surrounding funding had long since been resolved.

"I'd like to see us get it off the ground starting with those three schools," Yarbrough said. "They have the highest potential for energy savings. If it works out well, then we could later include the rest of the school system."

In other business Monday, Yarbrough presented the board a detailed copy of the school system's four-year school improvement plan. The plan lists school needs dealing with facility construction, capital replacement, business affairs, curriculum, school transportation and maintenance, food service, community schools and federal programs.

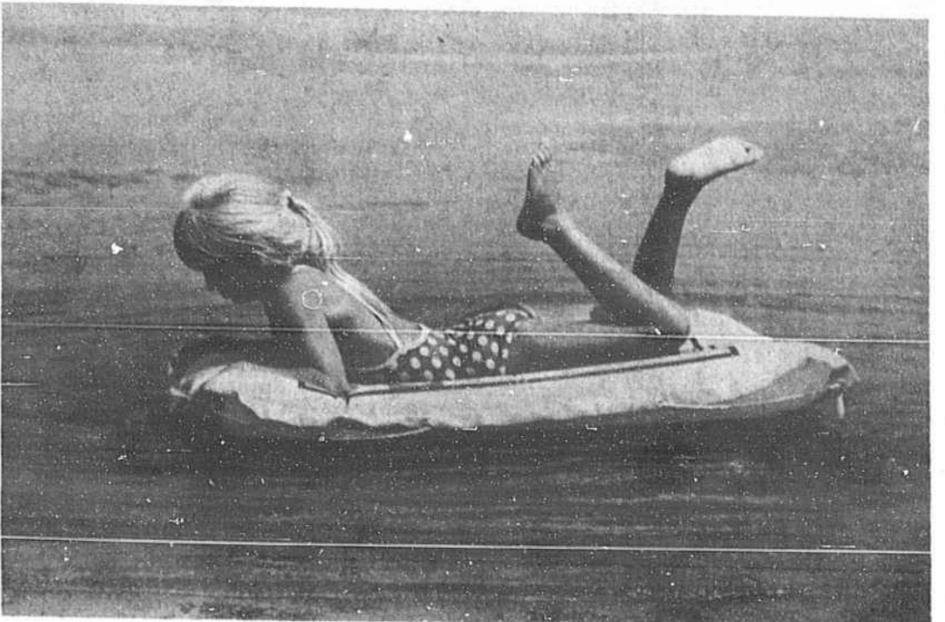
Yarbrough said the proposal "indicates areas we'd like to move into over the next four years." It also includes a list of requested funds from the county that were listed in the board's budget, such as replacement school and activity buses, maintenance and service hook-ups, additional computer hardware and additional staff members such as supervisors and school counselors.

In personnel decisions Monday, the board accepted resignations from Beth Brittain, special education instructor from South Brunswick Middle School; Jacqueline Robbins, maid, North Brunswick High and Julia McNeil, maid Leland Middle.

Leaves of absence were also approved for Moses Hodnett, assistant principal Leland Middle School (educational), beginning of the 1985-86 school year; Linden Mathews-Boone, community schools coordinator, Aug. 1-Dec. 31 and Marsha Coleman, cafeteria worker, Waccamaw Elementary.

Retirements were also accepted for Mercer Sullivan, mechanic and Sadie Evans, third grade, Southport Elementary. Willie Randolph was hired as a mechanic effective June 10.

A motion was also approved unanimously Monday commending the local press for its coverage of the schools. Board member James Clemmons made the motion prior to adjourning the meeting.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## Cooling It At Holden Beach

Crystal O'Quinn of Burlington had no trouble at all keeping cool as temperatures climbed into the mid- and upper-90s over the weekend. Like thousands of other uplanders, the six-year-old and her family head-

ed for their beach cottage. Floating in a tidal pool on Holden Beach's west end, her biggest problem Saturday morning was discouraging the attentions of several small crabs trapped on a falling tide.

# Animal Welfare League To Hold Second Meeting

A second meeting for persons interested in forming a Brunswick County Animal Welfare League has been scheduled for Thursday, June 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the public assembly building at the Brunswick County Government Complex in Bolivia.

Guest speakers at the June meeting will be Martha Raynor and

Shirley Leonard of the New Hanover Humane Society, who will introduce ways to help the Brunswick County Animal Control Shelter make its animals more comfortable and offer other fund-raising suggestions. A representative from the animal shelter will also speak on the department's activities and problems.

At the organizational meeting,

close to 20 citizens elected Bolivia resident Teddi Neal as president, but decided to wait to elect other officers at the June meeting.

Major concerns expressed at the previous meeting were: 1) getting shelter facilities large enough to allow animals to be kept long enough to find homes; 2) finding a way to

lower the neutering/spaying cost in the county so more people could afford the operations; and 3) that gaining the animals is both very traumatic and a painful and slow death. They understood that there will always be animals that would have to be killed, a news release from the group stated.

Also at the organizational meeting, a group from the Coastal Coon Hunters Association in Windy Point stated they were interested in animal welfare because some of their dogs may get lost and get picked up by the animal shelter.

The group was primarily concerned about a "possible leash law that would interfere with hunting," the news release stated. "They were assured that was not the intention of the group."

At present, the Brunswick County animal shelter can accommodate about 52 dogs and from 25 to 30 cats and kittens. The number of animals picked up each month range from about 190 during the slow months to over 500 during the busier months.

The group supports an increased animal control budget as requested by the Brunswick County Board of Health to help expand the shelter facility and to offer Saturday hours. The league is encouraging concerned citizens to contact the county commissioners to support the shelter expansion and extended hours, the release states.

# Local Bills Moving To Senate Floor

Several bills introduced by Rep. David Redwine should be adopted into law this week, but one local bill has been delayed for a second time.

Local bills that redistribute the proceeds of ABC Stores in Belville and Ocean Isle Beach will go to the full Senate this week, Redwine said, while a farm implement dealers' bill will be considered by a Senate committee on Tuesday.

Under the ABC changes, money now distributed in various ways will now go to the towns themselves, except that the bills require contributions of unspecified sums to schools within the school district that serves the town. Belville's contributions would go to North Brunswick High, Leland Middle and Lincoln Primary schools, while Ocean Isle Beach would donate money to Union Primary, Charlotte Middle and West Brunswick High Schools.

The farm implements dealer bill, H.B. 762, would provide for franchise agreements between suppliers and dealers of farm equipment and for repurchase of that equipment should the franchise agreement be terminated, Redwine said. It is intended as a boost to the state's agricultural economy.

Redwine said he has held up further consideration of a bill that would provide for third-party billing to recoup the cost of extending water lines in a fully-developed subdivision because there is disagreement as to whether the bill is needed.

An Institute of Government faculty member, Jake Wicker, advised Redwine that the county has the power under existing laws to assess property owners their share of installation costs that may have been paid in advance by someone else, and then reimburse that third party. County Attorney David Clegg told Redwine he didn't think the law directly authorizes the county to collect funds due a third party. In either case, 100 percent of the funds would have to be paid up-front, rather than obligating county funds.

At present, a substitute bill from the House Local Government Committee has added a public hearing requirement. Seventy-five percent of the property owners would have to petition for the assessment.

An amendment to S.B. 304 proposed by Redwine has been adopted. It requires the Marine Fisheries Commission to take into account the recreational uses of waters before issuing a shellfish lease.

Another bill introduced by Redwine, H.B. 1193, would provide funds for a project to increase minority participation in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. It would appropriate \$50,000 in 1985-86 and 1986-87 to N.C. State University for this purpose.

Four of five bills dealing with submerged lands are now law, while a fifth is under consideration by the Joint Appropriations Committee. H.B. 114 would appropriate funds for settlements of claims litigated in local superior courts. The Department of Natural Resources and Community Development has asked for \$280,000 over the next two years to computerize the claims.

As adopted the bills are expected to resolve about 27 percent of the more than 10,000 claims to submerged lands filed with the state, primarily those that pertain to property above the high-water mark.

The legislation will:

- Validate deeds issued by the Board of Education in the 1920s and 1930s, including those covered by about 197 of the 851 claims filed by Brunswick County property owners;
- Reaffirm state policy that title to land subject to public trust rights may not be acquired by adverse protection, or "squatter's rights";
- Protect public access to and use of beach property and navigable waters for recreation;
- Permit issuance of shellfish leases by the Division of Marine Fisheries to resolve claims to shellfish beds.
- Moves appeals of decisions concerning public use or ownership of certain submerged lands from the Industrial Commission to Superior Court.

At a hearing on the bills conducted in Wilmington, Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. told claimants that the bills, when enacted, would strengthen their deeds for the lands in question. His Senate Judiciary Committee IV sent the bills to the Senate floor with a favorable vote.

# Mutual Aid Agreement Approved

A resolution adopted by Brunswick County Commissioners Monday authorizes county volunteer rescue squads to cross county and state lines as well as service area boundaries to provide mutual aid.

Emergency Management Coordinator Cecil Logan said he hoped that signing the county-state agreement for mutual aid would help local efforts to get mutual aid agreements between departments in writing.

Local squad provide mutual aid on request, he added, but most of them have oral, not written agreements. Commissioners have discussed briefly making written agreements a condition of receiving county funding.

Brunswick County also crosses county lines to provide rescue service on occasion, he said, "but not as much as others respond to our county."

To his knowledge, Brunswick was,

until Monday, the only county in the state that had not signed the agreement.

Logan said emergency management officials also hope the interstate agreements might also lead to similar agreements between states so that emergency personnel would have equal legal recognition.

Presently, emergency medical technicians and ambulance aides certified by North Carolina are not recognized in South Carolina and vice versa.

Under the agreement, mutual aid would be provided under specific circumstances:

1. When the primary emergency service provider deems the situation requires additional resources and that "serious aggravation" of an existing injury or possible loss of life may result without such aid, or

where there is doubt about in whose area the emergency call originated.

2. When a disaster occurs, a calamity likely to cause widespread loss of life that cannot be responded to successfully by the emergency service of the county without "severely hampering" its ability to carry out its other duties or a call where there is doubt as to whose area the call is coming from.

The agreement with the state doesn't affect any existing mutual aid agreements in force in the county, Logan said. And while the agreement allows the responding unit to charge any fee it normally would collect, Logan said that provision would be difficult to enforce in a county where the rescue squads don't charge for calls.

**J.M. PARKER & SONS, INC.**  
Your Complete Building Headquarters!  
**754-4331**  
HWYS. 211 & 17 Supply

**COMPLETE INTERIOR DECORATING SERVICE**  
—Leveler blinds —Carpet  
—Vertical blinds —Wallpaper  
—Draperies  
Original paintings by Bryan Varsom  
*Ocean Isle Interiors*  
3 Ocean Isle Square  
Ocean Isle Beach Causeway  
579-6091  
*Long Beach Interiors*  
6402 C E Oak Island Dr.  
Long Beach, 278 3959  
© 1984 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

**BRUNSWICK BUSINESS SERVICE**  
YOUR AUTHORIZED SALES AGENT FOR  
**XEROX MEMORYWRITERS**  
The new standard in electronic typewriters  
■ Come see our fine selection of Xerox Memorywriter typewriters. Ask for a free demonstration. Compare: ■ Features and options ■ Ease of operation ■ Upgradability ■ Price ■ Financing ■ Trade-in allowance

CALL FOR FREE DEMONSTRATION  
**754-8300 — 754-8101**  
Shalotte, Next to the Post Office  
XEROX is a trademark of XEROX CORPORATION

Authorized Xerox Sales Agent  
**XEROX.**