

BOND SALE SET JULY 2

Ocean Isle Pulls Sewer Bond Package Together

BY SUSAN USHER

Ocean Isle Beach Mayor LaDane Bullington has several loose ends to knot before the July 2 sale in Raleigh of \$2.6 million in general obligation bonds toward construction of a town sewer system.

At a 4 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, con-

tinuation of Tuesday's meeting, the board plans to authorize the mayor to issue the bonds.

On Friday, June 19, the mayor and representatives of the town's engineering firm and the N.C. Local Government Commission will meet

in New York City with representatives of the two major bond rating companies, Moody's Investors Service Inc. and Standard & Poor's Corp. The firms will evaluate the town's stability, financial condition, growth record and other factors in

rating the town. The rating relates to the quality of the bond issue and town's ability to repay. A high rating improves the town's ability to sell the bonds at a lower interest rate.

This is the first time Ocean Isle has been rated.

Initially the town was to be required to sell up to \$3.4 million in bonds that had been approved by voters.

But Mayor Bullington said the Local Government Commission, which regulates and conducts the bond sale, has since agreed to allow the town to use its accumulated sewer-related fees during the last months of sewer system construction.

"Because of the interest we don't want to sell any more bonds than are needed," she added.

The town must have a larger share of its non-bond issue construction funds on hand before the state will allow the sale. These funds include impact fees, accommodations tax revenues, ABC Store profits and also \$915,129 in sewer assessment fees that were to have been paid in full by June 1. Property owners are paying 8 percent interest on those late payments. So far about \$740,000 has been paid.

"It is very important we get these

revenues in," she stressed, adding that the money must be available before contracts are signed.

The engineering firm of Henry Von Oesen & Associates is to send contracts to the contractors for signing now; the town will sign only when authorized by the Local Government Commission—when the money is on hand.

If the other deadlines are not met, award of the contracts could be delayed, giving the contractors an opportunity to increase their charges.

Against a similar deadline the mayor and town attorney are fighting two related brush fires.

In an error by the engineering firm a 1,140-foot stretch from Sanford to Raleigh streets was omitted from the final bid maps for the system, though it had appeared on earlier maps and abutting property owners were assessed for the line.

The town is obligated to install the line, according to Elva Jess, town attorney. The construction cost of \$17,334 will be added to contracts for the system.

But Jess will write the engineering firm to express the town's "surprise and displeasure" at the engineering firm's suggested charge of up to \$1,000 for the line's design and a

related change order.

In another apparent mistake—this one by the town—sewer design maps show a line running along a private extension of Duneside Drive.

Property owners along the extension, which is not dedicated as a town street, are divided in their support for the sewer system.

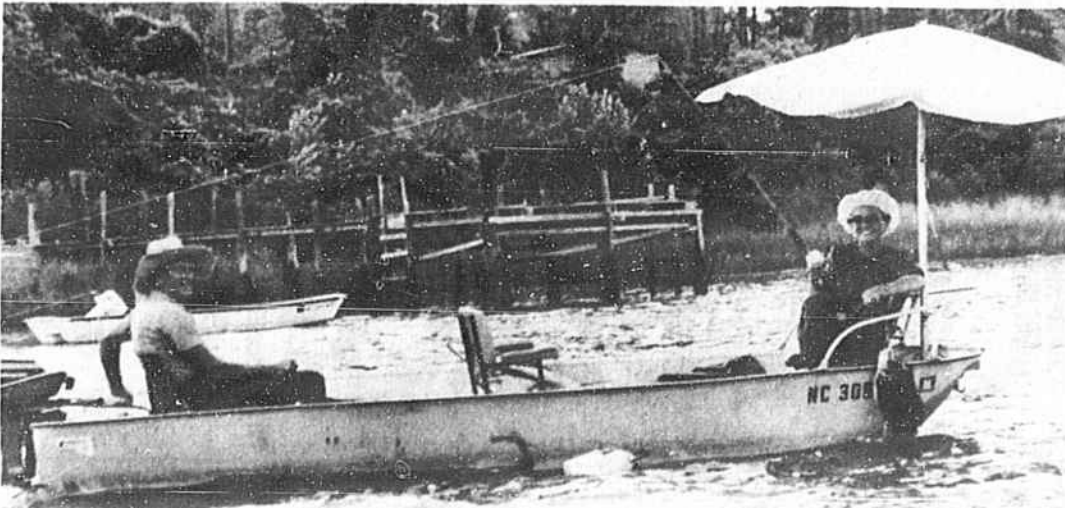
Resident Finley Boney, also an engineer, wrote the town that it didn't have the right to cross private property with the line or to assess the property owners.

Another resident, John Porterfield, disagreed with Boney, stating he wants the sewer service at his home.

The town will give the four owners of the 13 lots involved a choice of paying the assessment and providing an easement for the line or allowing sewer construction to proceed excluding them. In that case the town would most likely follow the same procedures used in extending water to subdivisions—having the property owners assume the cost of installing the line, in this case the more costly alternative.

Hook-on to the system will be required of all town residents.

Certified letters notifying the four of their options were to be mailed by Jess, with a request for immediate response.



THE WALTER K. DAVISES of New London relaxed and enjoyed themselves Friday afternoon as they fished the Shallotte Point Volunteer Fire Department

Flounder Tournament, creating their own patch of shade as temperatures rose into the high 90s.

Thermometer Hit 103 Monday

Temperatures over the next few days may not soar to the 103-degree high recorded June 10, but they will continue above average.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the area can expect average nightly temperatures in the low 70s and average daily highs in

the lower 90s, with about three-quarters inch of rain.

For the period of June 4-10, Canady also recorded a minimum low of 65 degrees on both the 8th and 9th. A daytime average high of 96 degrees and an average nightly low of 68 degrees combined for an average

daily temperature of 82 degrees, about six degrees above normal for this time of year.

The area received 2.12 inches of precipitation, mostly from a series of afternoon and nighttime thunderstorms.

Calabash Budget Proposed

(Continued From Page 1-A)

the town clerk's performance. Afterward members voted to increase her pay from \$4.50 to \$5 per hour and to consider establishing a pay plan that would provide Ms. Thomas with regular salary increases. Her first pay increase came after seven years, the next after a two-year interval, Mayor Stevens said.

Trash collection service, at \$27,800, again accounted for the largest portion of the preliminary budget as presented Monday. The sum includes a drop axle so the trash truck can carry a heavier load and a proposed maintenance service agreement. It also tentatively included \$3,000 to cover any landfill dumping charge the county may decide to collect, though the town board has gone on record objecting to such a plan.

Other budget items include: Administration, \$27,124; Public Safety, \$4,000 (\$2,000 each to the fire and rescue departments); Street Department, \$15,908, including Powell Bill funds; and Non-Departmental, \$24,747, of which \$20,997 would be set aside for acquisition of a town hall.

Property taxes remain the town's largest source of revenue—with each penny of the tax rate generating about \$500 based on an 80 percent collection rate. ABC Store revenues and franchise taxes follow, with pro-

jected 1985-86 revenues of \$9,000 and \$8,376 respectively. The clerk has proposed appropriating \$13,977 of the town's fund balance to the coming year's budget.

The board hasn't discussed whether to reinstate trash pickup fees previously charged to restaurants and residences, and that space remains blank in the budget.

Told that the building inspector earned only about \$3,200 last year, based on receiving 80 percent of the town's flat \$30 fee, the board decided to ask him if 80 percent of a \$50 fee would be acceptable. The flat fee covers up to five or six inspections of each structure and the town does not pay a mileage fee.

The budget included several items relating to expenses that would be incurred if the town moved into a town hall of its own—such as purchase of a desk, as well as items related to the growth of the town—\$3,500 for street lights and \$900 for planning and zoning, including annexation maps.

Current and past Revenue Sharing funds were included in the money set aside in the town hall building fund.

Other Business

In other business, the council:

- Appointed member Suzy Moore to the Brunswick County Council on the Status of Women.

- Tabled consideration of a propos-

ed \$145 per month service agreement with (Donnie) Beck's Equipment Service until several questions could be answered. Beck proposes to service the town's garbage truck on a monthly basis, including a preventive maintenance check, but council members were unsure whether the town would have to pay for both parts and labor for additional repairs that Beck might determine are needed during servicing.

•With notice that the town's liability insurance will likely triple, instructed Ms. Thomas to investigate alternate insurance plans and the cost of reducing the amount of coverage.

•Heard, but took no action on, information from the town clerk about a resident of Pine Burr Acres in the town's extraterritorial district whose electricity was cut on and then off again by Brunswick Electric Membership Service. "They're threatening to sue," she said.

Electrical service isn't to be connected until certificate of compliance is obtained from the town and filed with BEMC, the board said. The resident had not obtained the certificate and Ms. Thomas said the town was unaware that power to the residence had been turned on until after it had been disconnected and the woman sought the certificate so that service could be restored.

"We had not complained," Ms. Thomas said.

While the policy has existed for some time, she added, it is a recurring problem area.

Fireworks Discussed At Ocean Isle

(Continued From Page 1-A)

"If the county is unwilling," said Mayor LaDane Bullington, "I would recommend against entering into extraterritorial zoning because I don't think we're ready to start policing that area."

Ocean Isle is uninterested in annexing the area, she said, only wanting to exercise control over the appearance of approaches to the beach. It proposes to enforce its subdivision, sign and appearance ordinances, while asking the county to continue the building code enforcement it will begin in the area on July 1.

On that same date, the town will begin enforcing all volumes of the state building code within its limits.

The proposed zone runs from the waterway out to and across N.C. 179, roughly extending along the road from Hale Swamp (Blueberry Farm) Road to near N.C. 904 and the west side of Tarheeland Acres.

In regulating the area, she said the town would attempt to conform with existing deed restrictions and to allow property owners the fullest options for use of their property, while assuring development "will be nice." For instance, she suggested zoning non-subdivided acreage as the equivalent of the in-town C-2.

That would allow commercial or single-family development.

Since it has been some time since the last public hearing, the mayor said a second hearing would be planned.

The zone would have two representatives on the planning board.

State law allows a town, with the county's approval, to partly regulate developing urban areas within one-mile of its perimeter as a matter of self-protection.

Fireworks By 8?

Commissioners will consider a request from the Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association to hold a town Fourth of July fireworks exhibition "for next year," not next month since the holiday is only a few weeks away.

The association proposed the display as an alternative to visitors putting on their own shows to the consternation of neighbors.

Commissioners and Police Chief Jerry Gurganus agreed that the fireworks situation at the beach is "getting out of order" over the July 4th holiday.

Under state and town law possessing or setting off fireworks of any kind is against the law. So much so that attorney Elva Jess said that if the town held its own fireworks displays, it probably would violate its own ordinance as it is now worded.

Meantime, reality offices will be asked to remind guests over the Fourth that fireworks are prohibited, highlighting that town ordinance on a sheet of regulations routinely distributed to visitors and new residents, who might otherwise be unaware of the laws.

But Gurganus reminded the board, "Ask Marvin (Stanley), he'll tell you it would take 30 men to control it."

Other Business

In other business, Ocean Isle commissioners:

- Agreed to Gurganus' recommendation, adopting a resolution asking the N.C. Department of Transportation to consider turn lanes on N.C. 179 at the entrance to the beach. The lanes are not included in construction plans relating to the new bridge. "It looks to me like they have plenty of room to do it without buying additional right-of-way," said Gurganus.

- Heard from Building Inspector T.D. Roberson that 52 buildings are under construction in town. During May he issued 20 building permits and collected \$14,425 in fees for construction valued at \$829,500. "You can't look at any place in town where there isn't construction," he added.

- Voted to donate \$1,000 each to the Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad and to the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce from the 1984-85 contingency fund. Mayor Bullington acknowledged this will be the town's first donation to the chamber of commerce, which is involved primarily with promoting tourism and commerce in its five-community service area.

- Directed attorney Elva Jess to check on the legality of a chain erected across the end of Driftwood Drive, blocking access to an area traditionally used for boat launching.

- Agreed to coordinate sidewalk construction with the work of sewer contractors next year. The town will incorporate sidewalk planning in the scope of a \$10,000 land use planning grant, using technical assistance from Natural Resources and Community Development consultant Melba Lane.

- Learned that the town, a "part-time" customer, had been on county water for two weeks until Monday, when water was cut off by the county. Mayor Bullington said she didn't know why. But she said the county was to send the town a letter indicating it would be able to meet all of the town's water needs by October 1986, roughly the time by which the new water mains and treatment plant will become operational.

- Reappointed Margaret Byrd and Martha Benton to three-year terms on the town Board of Elections, and appointed Cecil Andrews to replace Rick Joyner, who had moved out of town.

- Reappointed Bill Bullington to a third 3-year term on the Planning and Zoning Board.

- Approved a contract of \$3,000 for the 1984-85 audit with accountant John A. Caraway of Wilmington.

- Released as uncollectable bad debts \$876 in taxes 10 years and older.

- Specified that only trucks weighing 1½ tons or less are allowed as through traffic on Second Street. Larger trucks are required to use First Street, which is maintained at state, not town, expense. Second Street will be posted.

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