

More On Taxes Inside

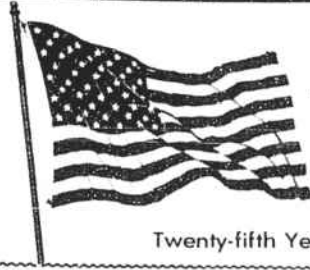
Sunset and Ocean Isle Beach tax rates have been set. The stories are on the inside of this issue.

Island Living

Supplement included in this issue.

Fishing Looks Better!

After several weeks of slow activity, fishing picked up last week. The weekly report is on page 7-C.



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County Commissioners Boost Tax Rate By Six Cents

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Despite continuous opposition from County Commissioner Benny Ludlum, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners adopted a budget Monday that will add six cents to the present 46.5-cent tax rate.

An interim water budget was approved, as the 52.5-cent rate will not include operation and maintenance of the new system.

The tax increase was deemed necessary to pay the required \$2.3 million debt service on water bonds. Lithia Hahn, finance director, said

last year's debt payment came from reserves for that purpose, but there are none this year, and it must come from new taxes.

Water system expenses not met by revenues will be taken from another funded item or from general fund reserves, which Hahn said now total \$2.8 million.

Commissioners have met in several budget work sessions, the final one lasting five hours. Chairman Grace Beasley led them patiently through a long list of additions and deletions submitted last week by Commissioner Jim Poole. One by

one, they were voted up or down, Ludlum voting against most additions.

Included in the final budget total of \$28.7 million was a \$234,000 capital outlay addition for the school system. This will make possible the land purchase and architect's fee toward construction of the new elementary school at Supply.

Also, 13 new positions, previously cut from the budget, were restored. These include seven (five deputies and two detectives) in the sheriff's department, two in the tax department and three in the register of

deeds office.

Other last-minute additions were \$3,000 for a public address system in the public assembly building; \$25,000 for relocation and upgrading of the greenbox on Hwy. 211; an additional \$500 for each fire and rescue squad in the county; \$20,000 for roof repair at Brunswick Technical College; and smaller contributions to the Status of Women, the sickle cell program, the Farm Aid hotline, Acme-Delce fire and rescue, Hope Harbor Home, Miss Brunswick County Pageant, and Volunteer Information Center.

Budget deletions included \$100,000

from the \$400,000 allocation for mapping the county; \$42,258 for a computer programmer position; \$1,000 from the domestic violence allocation; \$8,000 from the Brunswick County airport allocation; and a car and radio for the landfill.

Commissioners voted to combine the proposed county engineer and utilities operation board director, with one person to be hired at \$50,000 to perform both duties.

One of the more controversial budget items was \$75,000 to the Parks and Recreation Department, to be used for maintenance of athletic

fields at the three county high schools.

Ludlum protested, "That's an outrageous price for mowing three football fields. You couldn't even tote \$75,000 in a suitcase. You'd do better to give a mower to the booster clubs and let them handle it."

Former County Manager Billy Carter, working with the board as a budget consultant, suggested signing a memorandum of understanding with the school system on this item.

"State that the county will maintain those fields in exchange for use of (See LUDLUM, Page 2-A)

Swimmer Dies At Ocean Isle

An Ocean Isle Beach man died while swimming on the east end of the beach last Wednesday afternoon, apparently after suffering a heart attack.

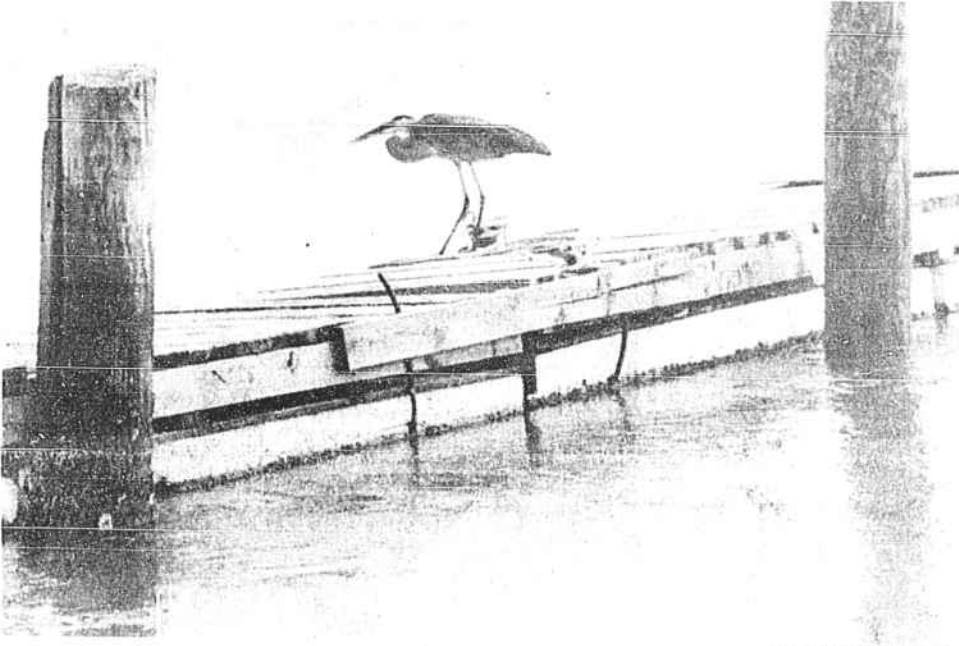
Dwight M. Irwin, 62, of Tarheeland Acres, a subdivision on the mainland, was swimming in the ocean when witnesses said he began to call for help, according to the Ocean Isle Beach police report.

A small boat reached Irwin as he was going under water, the report stated. After pulling him into the boat, an attempt was made to revive him.

The Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad was called to the scene. Rescue personnel worked for 35 to 40 minutes to try to revive Irwin, the report stated. It was first thought the victim had drowned, but the cause of death was reported as heart failure.

He was taken to the Brunswick Hospital in Supply where he was pronounced dead.

Irwin was a retired middle school teacher from Union County. His wife teaches at West Brunswick High School in Shallotte.



Keeping An Eye On Things

A heron on the dock at Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point hangs over the water keeping a watchful eye out for something in the water below. Was it a mullet or a

shark? When people disturbed him, he kept coming back to the same place again and again until a boat docked at the spot.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Shallotte Holds The Line On Tax Rate

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

"No increase in tax rates! No increase in water rates!" Shallotte Alderman Wilton Harrelson exclaimed triumphantly Monday night as the board of aldermen adopted the town's budget for 1987-88.

The \$842,159 budget is only slightly higher than that of last year, which totalled \$797,955. The tax rate will remain the same at 44 cents per \$100 evaluation.

Water rates remain at \$8.93, with a \$2.51 charge per 1,000 gallons over 3,000. Sewer rates continue at a flat \$7, with an additional \$2 per 1,000 over 3,000.

The general fund total is \$458,220, compared with \$450,831 for last year. The remainder of the budget comes from revenue sharing (\$20,942) and water and sewer revenues (\$362,997).

Town Clerk Cynthia Long pointed out that final payments are being made this year for the backhoe (\$11,726) and the Christmas lights (\$3,539). "This takes care of all debts owed by the town," she said.

The largest budget addition, \$28,000, was in the police department, where a position has been added. Another \$11,474 increase came in administration, due to rearrangement of funds, according to Long.

Some departments experienced a decrease in funding this year, including planning and zoning, public buildings, the street department and the sanitation department.

Before adopting the new budget, the board heard proposals for town insurance from Coastal Insurance and Brunswick Insurance Services. The award was made to Brunswick Insurance Services.

Filing Begins Friday For Municipal Elections

Candidates for municipal offices may begin filing for the fall elections Friday. The filing period starts earlier this year and has also been extended.

Filing begins at noon July 3 and closes at noon Aug. 7. The elections will be held Nov. 3.

"So you have to start early and run fast," Ocean Isle Beach Mayor LaDane Bullington told commissioners at a recent board meeting. "Since it's July 4th, don't forget to wave your flags."

The towns of Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach, Yaupon Beach and Boiling Spring Lakes will conduct their own elections. The Brunswick County Board of Elections will conduct elections for the remaining towns and for the J. Arthur Doshier Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees.

Where public offices are closed Friday in observance of Independence Day, candidates may still file that day by going before a notary public with the appropriate forms, obtained from the board of

election in question.

Following is a list of Brunswick County municipalities, the available seats, length of terms and incumbents.

Calabash

The offices of the mayor and all five council members are up for election at Calabash where a referendum will also be held. All serve two-year terms.

Incumbents are Doug Simmons, mayor; and Robert Weber, Sonia Stevens, Suzy Moore, Linda Roberts and Pati Lewellyn, council members.

When they go to the polls in November, Calabash residents will also vote on a referendum that will decide if the town can pre-assess property owners to raise funds for a water system.

The town estimates \$100,000 to \$160,000 in up-front money is needed to run water lines along the Calabash River and other areas where water is needed.

Sunset Beach

Two council seats and the mayor's

position are open at Sunset Beach. The council seats are four-year terms while the mayor's position is a two-year term.

Incumbents are James Gordon, mayor; and Mary Katherine Griffith and Don Safrin, council members.

Ocean Isle Beach

Voters will elect a mayor to a two-year term and three commissioners to four-year terms at Ocean Isle Beach.

The incumbents are LaDane Bullington, who was unopposed in her 1985 re-election as mayor; and Commissioners Virginia Gibson, Debbie Fox and Betty Williamson.

Shallotte

In Shallotte, three seats on the board of aldermen will be open. Incumbents are Wilton Harrelson, David Gause and Bobby Ray Russ. Members serve four-year terms.

Holden Beach

At Holden Beach, a mayor and three commissioners will be elected to two-year terms, following the provisions of a May referendum

establishing two-year terms for board members.

Available seats are those held by Commissioners Hal Stanley, Lyn Holden and Graham King and Mayor John Tandy. Commissioners Gay Atkins and William Williamson will serve out their current four-year terms, with all seats on the town board to be filled in 1989.

Bolivia

Bolivia residents will elect a mayor and all four aldermen to two-year terms. Incumbents are Mayor Ina Mae Mintz and Aldermen Murray Tatum, Ella Jane Wescott, Debbie Stanley and Steve Robbins.

"I think everybody will run again," said Mayor Mintz, "but we still have time to change our minds."

Boiling Spring Lakes

Voters in the mid-county community of Boiling Spring Lakes will elect a mayor to two years in office and two commissioners to four-year terms.

Incumbents whose seats will be open are Mayor Elinor Handler and (See FILING, Page 2-A)

Area Celebrates A Festive Fourth

From Southport to Wilmington, not forgetting Holden Beach in between, Independence Day will be marked with fireworks and other festivities.

The annual N.C. Fourth of July Festival will delight residents and visitors to Southport beginning today (Thursday) and continuing through Saturday.

Highlighting events there is the parade at 11 a.m. Saturday, but Franklin Square Park and the waterfront will be the scene of arts and crafts, musical entertainment, even free ice cream cones, Friday afternoon and all day Saturday.

The festival will culminate in fireworks at 9 p.m.

At the same time, a fireworks display will begin in Wilmington, launched from the grounds of the U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Memorial. They will be visible over the Cape Fear River at Riverfront Park and at the battleship.

And Holden Beach will once again enjoy its own fireworks exhibition, provided by William Williamson at his Carolina Retreat Campground.

This one begins at 8:30 p.m., set off on the Intracoastal Waterway side of the campground.

Crew, Fishermen Saved From Burning 'Salty I'

BY TERRY POPE

An offshore fishing trip turned into near disaster early Thursday morning for five fishermen and two crew members aboard the "Salty I" of Holden Beach.

The 35-foot charter fishing vessel caught fire and sank about a mile from the Lockwood Folly Inlet sea buoy off of Holden Beach. The passengers and crew jumped into an inflatable life raft to escape the flames.

"It wasn't much of a decision," said Capt. Gary Carr of Greensboro Street, Holden Beach. "She burned in about 60 seconds."

Carr said the fire, of unknown origin, started in the engine compartment. No one was injured. The passengers didn't even get wet, he said.

On board were five men who had chartered the boat for a fishing trip to the continental shelf, 50 miles offshore. After drifting for about five

minutes, they were picked up in the life raft by the "Old Man" shrimp trawler of Varnamtown, owned by Arthur Thompson.

Thompson said he was "going out of the inlet when I saw a little smoke" and went to investigate. He kept the "Salty I" crew on board as they watched it burn and sink. The crew was then transferred to another boat and brought back to the docks at Capt. Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach.

Mate Ronnie Rabon helped Carr

get the passengers into the life raft. Carr said an emergency radio beeper was activated to notify the local Coast Guard that the boat was on fire, but that he did not have time to radio a "Mayday" distress signal.

On board were Harold E. Nicholas of Huntington, W. Va.; Danny Lee Miller and his son, David Wayne Miller, both of Charleston, W. Va.; Richard LaScala of Chapel Hill; and Bill Erdman of St. Louis Mo.

According to Carr, equipment lost by the fishermen included a cooler, camera and portable radio for a total value of about \$120.

The Duffy and Duffy boat was about two years old, Carr said. The fishermen left the Lockwood Folly Inlet from the dock at Capt. Pete's at 5:30 a.m. The fire began around 5:45 a.m., he said.

The fishermen had planned to spend the day catching bottom fish,

snapper and grouper, about 50 miles offshore.

The boat is owned by John Huffstetter of Holden Beach.

"We're going to get another boat," Carr said Friday. "We'll have another one shortly."

Carr said Monday morning that the 35-foot Duffy boat named "One In A Dillon" will replace the "Salty I." It will operate out of Capt. Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach.