

North Brunswick Communities Attack Water Problem

BY DOUG RUTTER

A 12-year struggle for a water system in northern Brunswick County should be resolved in less than a year, according to Leland Sanitary District Board Chairman Boyd Williamson.

Construction on the \$2.3 million project, which will be connected to the county water system, can begin after bond anticipatory notes are approved by the Local Government Commission in Raleigh, he said.

The water system is to include about 47 miles of pipeline and will service the Leland Sanitary District. The district covers the communities of Belville, Eastbrook, Lanvale and parts of Navassa.

The contract was awarded to the W.E. Blackmon Co. of Smithfield, which last installed sewer lines in newly-annexed areas of Wilmington.

He said the contract calls for a completion date of nine months from the time of ground-breaking, which should take place in about three weeks.

Williamson said, "Relief won't come until the first piece of pipe is in the ground and the project is underway."

He said the board has awarded two-year contracts to two separate companies which will handle the billing and maintenance of the water system.

After the two-year contracts have expired, Williamson said the Leland Sanitary District Board may choose to handle the billing and maintenance internally.

The water lines will come after 10 years of continuous effort by the Leland Sanitary District Board to acquire a water system for the area, he said.

Williamson said the initial plan of the board was to use groundwater and its own water treatment plant along with water tanks.

After the county water plant was constructed and lines were run only a few hundred yards outside the district, however, the board decided to connect to the county water system.

He said that if the community was an established municipality, it wouldn't have taken as long to acquire the water system.

Residents of the district are currently using wells to meet their water needs, but Williamson warned that this has to change quickly.

"The water is running low, and the quality of well water is becoming an issue. Time is running out with this current situation," he said.

The Leland Sanitary District Board will connect residents to the system on a voluntary basis.

Williamson said about 70 percent of the district's residents have asked for the hook-up while some others remain skeptical or content with cheaper well water.

He said ground-floor customers will only be charged \$50 for the tap, while those applying during construction will be charged approximately \$300 and those applying after construction will be charged up to \$700.

Construction on the project is expected to begin at the county water source at the intersection of U.S. 17 and the Sunny Point Railroad, south of Lanvale.

Williamson said the various communities will be supplied with the county water as construction is completed in each region.

Church Seeks Special Permit For Temporary Classrooms

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shalotte aldermen were expected to decide at their Sept. 2 meeting whether a local church can move a mobile classroom onto its grounds to temporarily house Sunday School classes.

Calvary Baptist Church, located in Shalotte Estates on N.C. 179 near Brierwood Golf Course, has asked for a special use permit to place a double-wide trailer on its property for up to six months.

Rev. Douglas Ponder, pastor of the church, said the trailer would be placed on the back of the church property behind the parking lot.

"This additional space is needed immediately if we are to continue to grow as a church. We are simply outgrowing our current church building," he continued.

However, at least one businessman in the neighborhood was expected to oppose issuance of the permit.

Jody Simmons, manager of Pat Simmons Construction Company, which is a developer of the Village Pines office/residential project across from the church, said Thursday he feels "forced to oppose" the special use permit.

"I really don't think this is a mobile home section of town. This end of town is too nice for mobile homes," said Simmons, who is an unopposed candidate for election to the town board in November.

Rev. Ponder said the mobile home is needed as a "stop-gap measure" to continue the church's Sunday School program.

"We have simply run out of room with our current facilities. It is something which can be done quickly, without too much time or money involved," he said.

Shalotte Zoning Administrator

Albert Hughes said a special use permit would be required because the church is located in a subdivision which does not normally allow mobile homes.

He added that as far as he knew, only one special use permit had been disallowed since he took office four years ago. "If no one complains to the board, they are usually granted without any problems," said Hughes.

Shalotte Mayor Jerry Jones said the board can adjust the permit time or deny the permit completely if the opposition is overwhelming.

He said the board was to hear all

opposition to the permit Wednesday and would probably take action that same night.

Ponder said the church has already voted to purchase the temporary classroom and has set the money aside for it.

He said the church would not be able to keep the Sunday school active if it meant waiting several years for an addition to be added to the existing building.

Simmons said he would not be opposed to the project if the trailer was set up behind the church, but feels that a mobile home visible from Village Point Road will detract from the environment of the Village Pines community.

"I would really like for this issue not to go to the town board, but I feel strongly that there is another solution besides a mobile home," said Simmons.

"I am a Baptist myself and I am willing to help the church just like any other concerned citizen," said Simmons. "I just feel that a mobile home is not the way to go."

Simmons said last Thursday he had not contacted the church, but that he would be willing to help with the costs of expansion in lieu of the mobile home.

"I would be willing to help out with anything they need to expand the church—money, labor or materials," he said.

Thoroughfare Plan Nearing Completion

BY RAHN ADAMS

"This is close to the end." That's how Wayne Davis, project engineer with the N.C. Dept. of Transportation's Thoroughfare Planning Unit, greeted local officials last Thursday at a coordinating committee meeting in Bolivia.

Representatives of local municipalities, chambers of commerce and the county planning staff attended the session.

Davis and fellow project engineer Blake Norwood presented committee members with a preliminary draft of the plan which outlines the intended growth and improvement of Brunswick County's road system for the next 18 years.

Norwood asked that committee

members thoroughly review the draft by the end of September, and that they update elected officials in their municipalities on the proposed plan.

Norwood said the committee should meet again in mid-October for a final review.

In explaining the draft, Davis noted that several factors are involved in assessing the county's road needs: population trends, future land use, present road deficiencies and high accident areas.

Brunswick County's projected population in 2005 is listed at 97,100, up over 78 percent from 1987 figures.

In terms of future land use, Davis said roads leading to the county's beaches will continue to be heavily traveled. As a result, Holden, Ocean Isle, Yaupon and Long beaches were added to the preliminary plan's list of "major traffic generators."

The plan also states that "sections of Brunswick County roads have deficiencies in lane widths, level of service and accident experience."

Statistics show that accidents reported between 1978 and 1985 occurred most frequently on U.S. 17 in west Shalotte near N.C. 130 and on Old Village Road (S.R. 1472) one-quarter mile from U.S. 17-74-76 in Leland.

Two Hurt In Weekend Wreck

Two Brunswick County motorists escaped serious injury Saturday in a single-vehicle crash near Belville.

According to N.C. Highway Patrol spokesperson Ruby Oakley, the accident occurred Saturday around 11:45 a.m., 5.5 miles south of Belville on N.C. 133.

Trooper B. C. Jones listed Sarah Joann Henderson, 18, of Southport, as driver of the 1984 Toyota truck in the wreck.

Jones' report said the Henderson vehicle was traveling approximately 75 miles per hour when the driver lost control in a curve. The truck ran off the right side of the road and overturned.

Henderson was cited for exceeding a safe speed.

She and an unidentified 16-year-old female passenger were treated at Doshier Memorial Hospital in Southport for "no visible sign, but complaints of injuries," said Ms. Oakley.

The Highway Patrol estimated damage to the Henderson truck at \$4,000.

In another weekend wreck, Ms. Oakley said a New Jersey man was cited after his van was involved in a rear-end collision near Bolivia.

Ms. Oakley said no one was injured in the 11 a.m. Saturday wreck that happened one mile south of Bolivia on U.S. 17.

Trooper J.V. Dove charged Bacu K. Patel, 23, of Passaic, N.J., with failure to reduce speed, after Patel's 1987 Plymouth van struck the rear of a 1965 Chevrolet driven by Dorman Lowell Mercer, 92, of Bolivia, Ms. Oakley said.

Dove's report stated that the Mercer auto was slowing to make a left turn into a private driveway at the time of the collision.

Damages were estimated at \$1,800 to Patel's van and \$800 to the Mercer car.

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