

CAROLINA SHORES TALKS ANNEXATION

# Calabash Hires Building Inspector

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
Following a 40-minute executive session Monday, Calabash Town Council hired a new building inspector.

Frank Adams of Ash, Brunswick County's first building inspector and a retired building trades expert, was hired for a 90-day probationary period.

The hiring followed the expiration of former inspector Bill Dunker's two-year probationary period on Jan. 16. Dunker cannot become a state certified building inspector until the next N.C. Department of Insurance examination period in March.

In the meantime, Adams said he is willing to serve on a temporary basis, until Dunker receives his certification, or for a full, two-year term.

Although the town never officially advertised for the position, three persons applied for the job.

Also during Monday's closed session, the town discussed land acquisition with Calabash realtor Darius Lewellyn upon the request of Town Attorney Mike Ramos.

Newly-appointed board member John High, who was scheduled to take the oath of office Monday, was not present.

**Annexation Discussed**

In other business Monday, Carolina Shores Manager Robert Noe and council members discussed the possibility of annexation.

Noe said the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association Board has indicated an interest in either annexation or incorporation.

Mayor Doug Simmons said, "We've been talking about annexing some places."

Although he admitted that making Carolina Shores part of Calabash would benefit both the town and the retirement community, he added that conflicts may develop because of the contrast between the two areas. He indicated that town residents and Carolina Shores residents have different needs and goals.

Pulling on 25 years experience as a city manager, Noe said it would be wiser for Carolina Shores to become a part of Calabash than for the subdivision to incorporate. He said growth problems facing the area could be better addressed as one governmental unit.

Councilwoman Sonia Stevens said

some town residents may oppose annexation because it would bring 800 voters into a town which currently has about 130. She said town representation would be at stake.

Ramos recommended that Noe survey property owners to determine if the majority favor annexation. He said town council would not likely force annexation on the subdivision if the people were opposed.

**Rezoning Tabled**

Also Monday, council delayed action concerning the rezoning request of property owner Ed Steele.

Steele requested the rezoning of two lots, which adjoin his Island House II Restaurant property, from residential to commercial.

The request was unanimously denied by the town planning board on Dec. 7. In a letter to the town council, the board said the request was denied partly because an identical rezoning request from former property owner Richard McLean was denied in 1986.

**Other Business**

In other business, council:

- Discussed the proceedings of the town's first land use plan with consultant Ken Weeden of Talbert, Cox & Associates. Weeden said he has nearly completed the base map and has arranged to send out surveys to town property owners for input into the planning document.

- Heard from Town Clerk Janet Thomas that Sunset Beach Council was prepared to adopt the revised extraterritorial jurisdiction area border between the two towns. She said the Sunset Beach Planning Board wanted to meet with Calabash Town Council to discuss the minor border adjustment.

- Discussed budgeting some funds in the next fiscal year for town street signs and Christmas decorations. Mrs. Thomas said she contacted the N.C. Department of Transportation concerning the possibility of homemade street signs but was informed that signs have to meet DOT standards.

# Calabash To Award Water System Contract

**BY DOUG RUTTER**

After more than a year of discussion and preliminary measures, Calabash Town Council is expected to award a contract for its town water system today (Thursday).

During a special 4:30 p.m. meeting at town hall, council will decide between six bids which were opened Monday during the regular board meeting. Council did not make a decision at that time pending bid examinations by consulting engineers Alan Lewis & Associates of Shallotte.

Mayor Doug Simmons said the town will most likely award the contract to W&S Underground, Inc. of Florence, S.C., which presented the lowest bid. He also said it is likely that the contract will include Riverview Drive, which was not planned as part of Phase I.

The base bid of W&S Underground was \$33,797, which included work for Ivey High Road, Oak Street and Nance Street. The alternate bid, to include Riverview Drive, was \$58,744.

The next lowest bid was that of Zeigler Construction of Sumter, S.C., with a base bid of \$45,845 and an alternate bid of \$67,600.

Lewis said the contractor will have 45 days from the issuance of notice to proceed in which to complete the project. Residents along those streets should have county water sometime in March, he predicted.

In other business relating to the water system, council heard a report from Town Attorney Mike Ramos concerning the position of the county Utility Operations Board on supplying of water to Calabash.

Ramos said the UOB left the town with two options concerning the water lines—to dedicate them to the county or to maintain town ownership.

He explained that if the lines were dedicated to the county system, the county would sell water to customers at the normal retail rate, maintain the lines and coordinate all billing at no charge to the town.

However, if the town retains ownership of the lines, it would have to pay the county to handle maintenance and billing. If this were the case, the town would have the option of charging customers an additional fee to cover the costs of county services and to make some profit for future expansion.

Ramos recommended that the town retain ownership of the lines for at least a short period of time to insure that assessments will be paid.

He said the town will have to sign a contract with the UOB fairly soon so water can be furnished once construction is complete.

# Trucker Found Not Guilty In 1986 Double Fatality

**BY RAHN ADAMS**

The driver of a moving van that collided with a car on U.S. 17 and killed two Brunswick County men in 1986 was acquitted of two death by motor vehicle charges earlier this month.

However, according to the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, William C. Leisure, 45, of Indianapolis, Ind., pleaded guilty to driving without an operator's license. The charge stemmed from the same accident that claimed the lives of Keith D. Inman of Shallotte and Garland H. Hale of Supply on Oct. 20, 1986.

Leisure's North American Van Lines tractor-trailer rig crossed the center line and struck the local men's car head-on. The crash occurred about one-third of a mile north of Shallotte on U.S. 17.

Following a 1½-day trial Jan. 13 and 14 in Bolivia, a Superior Court jury found Leisure not guilty of the death by vehicle counts. The jury deliberated for 1¼ hours, court records showed.

According to Assistant District Attorney Napoleon Barefoot Jr., the defendant claimed that a manufacturer's defect in the braking system of his 1979 GMC truck caused the rig to cross the center line in the head-on crash. The defense offering expert testimony about the brake defect.

The prosecution maintained that the tractor-trailer's brakes were in poor condition—not counting the manufacturer's defect—and that Leisure had not properly inspected

the brakes prior to the accident.

"I had to prove my case beyond a reasonable doubt," Barefoot said last week. "I argued that it was his (Leisure's) fault, because if he'd kept his brakes in good working order, it (the wreck) would never have happened."

"The jury looked at both sides and came back with a not guilty verdict," Barefoot said.

He pointed out that Leisure had appealed his case to Superior Court after being found guilty of the death by vehicle charges in Brunswick County District Court about a year ago.


Leisure pleaded guilty Jan. 13 to the driving without an operator's license charge. A reckless driving count against him was dismissed.

Judge Samuel T. Currin sentenced the defendant to a six-month prison term, with all but 14 days suspended. Leisure was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and court costs, and was to be placed on unsupervised probation.

According to Brunswick County Jailor Linwood Gray, Leisure was released from custody on time served, due to the more than 30 days he previously spent in the county jail in connection with the case.


Records on file at the clerk of court's office show that civil lawsuits against Leisure and North American Van Lines are pending in Brunswick County Superior Civil Court. The suits were filed in 1986 and 1987 by the estates of Inman and Hale.

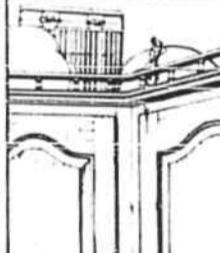
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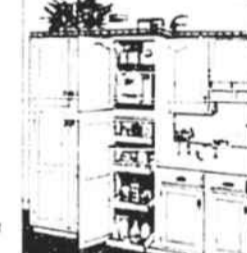




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## New Route Should Improve Mail Service In Calabash

A new rural mail delivery route to be implemented next month is expected to generally improve mail service in the Calabash area.

Residents living on the back nine at Carolina Shores, except for those living at gates, will be included in a new route. It will be the 10th at the Shallotte Post Office.

According to Officer In Charge Jimmy Eubanks, the only changes will be a new mail carrier and faster delivery.

He emphasized the new route has been created to avoid address changes. Since Carolina Shores has street names and numbers, and not rural box numbers, customers will not have to make any changes.

"We're gonna make this painless," said Eubanks.

Route 10 will consist of part of an existing route which includes all of Carolina Shores. Eubanks said mail carrier Billy Hickman has been "overburdened" with his current route, not getting mail delivered until 4:30 p.m. in some cases.

"It's gonna cut him down where he can get his mail out in a reasonable time," he said.

The area has grown so much, explained Eubanks, that the post office has had to offer Hickman auxiliary assistance by bringing in other carriers to help complete delivery.

He said the entire area of Calabash will benefit from the new route, since Calabash Post Office will receive its box mail earlier and another mail pickup will be added.

"The end result will be that everybody in that area will get their mail earlier," said Eubanks.

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