

Calabash, Sunset Beach Discuss Border Adjustment

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Town Council Monday agreed to adopt an ordinance which will adjust the border of the extraterritorial jurisdiction area (ETA) between the towns of Calabash and Sunset Beach.

Following a discussion with members of the planning board and town council of Sunset Beach, Calabash councilmen voiced unanimous approval of the proposed change. Board member Ronnie Pittman was absent.

According to County Planning Director John Harvey, both towns will have to hold public hearings and adopt similar ordinances to make the border adjustment official.

Calabash will hold a public hearing March 14 at 4:30 p.m. in town hall to hear comments on the proposed ordinance.

One major point of the proposal is that it would terminate county jurisdiction of Shady Forest and include parts of that subdivision in the ETA of both towns. Shady Forest was once a municipality, but was later unincorporated by the General Assembly. It has been under county jurisdiction since 1985.

Harvey explained that this area would be included in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the towns and would eliminate "a small pocket con-

trolled by the county."

The proposed ordinance also includes minor adjustments which will allow the ETA border to fall on lot lines which had not been established when the original border was adopted.

Under the original ordinance, many lots are bisected by the border and property owners have experienced problems determining which town has jurisdiction.

Lots included in the extraterritorial jurisdiction area of Sunset Beach are subject to that town's zoning regulations, while properties included in the Calabash ETA are not regulated because the town doesn't have zoning ordinances for its ETA.

Following the discussion and agreement by Calabash Council, Harvey complimented both towns on their cooperation in the change, saying, "I think it will clear up a lot of misunderstanding."

Earlier this month, Sunset Beach Town Council agreed in principle to a planning board proposal which would add to the town's ETA the majority of Shady Forest and three other subdivisions located west of N.C. 179.

Since the ETA can be extended only one mile beyond the town limits, the proposal would include all but the westernmost lots in Shady Forest.

However, Sunset Beach Planning Board Chairman Richard Good said Monday that this proposal was introduced in the event that Calabash Council was not willing to negotiate and adjust the border.

Under the proposal agreed to by Calabash, the ETA border would stick basically to the line 500 feet west of N.C. 179, including the Shady Forest subdivision.

The other areas included in the Sunset Beach proposal are Heritage Haven, Bonaparte's Retreat II and an undeveloped tract bordering the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The inclusion of these tracts would not conflict with the proposed border adjustment with Calabash.

Sunset Beach Council will hold a public hearing on these extraterritorial additions at 7:30 p.m. on March 7, prior to the board's regular monthly meeting.

Methods Revised

In other business Monday, Calabash council members approved a new system of payment for the town's building inspector which is expected to prevent future salary problems in that department.

Under the revised system, the building inspector will be paid at the end of each month for any work completed during that month. This includes issuance of building permits

Town Changes Meeting Time

Calabash Town Council voted unanimously Monday evening to change the regular town meeting schedule starting next month.

Effective March 29, the town board will meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

The change comes as a result of the conflicting work schedules of some town council members.

Previously, the building inspector was paid in full for any permits issued during a given month, regardless of how many inspections were completed.

The new system was developed by Building Inspector Frank Adams, who said former inspector Bill Dunker was paid in full for the 74 permits he issued in the final months of his service, despite the fact that he completed very few inspections.

Since Dunker left with full payment for all the permits he had issued through December, Adams will have to complete many of the inspections and be reimbursed by the town. Adams said he has about 500 inspections to complete for which Dunker has already been paid.

He said a fee of about \$7 per inspection, about half of the normal rate, would be fair to him. Under this proposal, the town would have to pay him approximately \$3,500 to complete the inspections for which Dunker has already been paid.

Mayor Doug Simmons and Councilman Keith Hardee both said Dunker should be forced to return some of the money he didn't earn but no steps were discussed to recover the funds.

During the Feb. 8 town meeting, council had voted to hold Dunker's

January pay until this week's meeting.

However, Adams and Town Clerk Janet Thomas said Monday that Dunker had agreed to give up that pay. He left the town Jan. 16 after his two-year probationary certification had expired.

Construction Approaches

Also Monday, Alan Lewis, consulting engineer with the town water system, said construction of Phase I should begin shortly.

He said the pre-construction conference had been scheduled for Wednesday morning and that W&S Underground could start laying the pipe anytime after that.

However, an easement needed by the town to extend water service to several waterfront businesses has still not been acquired. The easement is needed between the properties of Lennon Nance and Russell Price.

"We're fast approaching construction so we do need to solve the easement situation," said Lewis.

Mayor Simmons added, "We'll do our best. If not, we'll just stop it at

the corner."

Lewis also said he had been assured that state approval of plans for the Riverview Drive loop would be received shortly. The N.C. Division of Health Services will have to approve the plans before any work can begin in that area.

Personnel Discussed

Following a 25-minute executive session called to discuss personnel matters, the town agreed to continue paying Mrs. Thomas' salary through the next town meeting.

The town clerk will have to take some time off to care for her husband, who is sick, and will use her vacation time "sparingly" over the next three weeks.

In the meantime, Vickey Phelps will work as a temporary town hall secretary. She is currently employed at Lewellyn Realty in Calabash.

Amendment Adopted

In other business, council adopted an amendment to the town's flood damage prevention ordinance as requested by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Two County Agencies Looking At 'One-Stop Shopping' For Permits

BY RAHN ADAMS

Brunswick County officials are working on a plan that would save homebuilders a few steps when they apply for permits at the county government complex in Bolivia.

According to County Health Director Michael Barrett-Rhodes, the health department and building inspections department are studying a proposal that would enable individuals to obtain septic tank permits and building permits at the same office.

"It's all just in the thinking stages right now," Barrett-Rhodes said last week, "but we do hope to do something like that in the near future."

"Hopefully we're looking at being able to provide a better service to some of our citizens and streamline our operation," he added.

Barrett-Rhodes said the plan has been discussed for the past several months. Environmental Health Supervisor John Crowder and Chief Building Inspector Billy Ingram were to meet about the proposal Tuesday.

Ingram said last week that he was unfamiliar with the details of the proposal but would favor it "if it will benefit the public."

Besides being more convenient for homebuilders, the proposed changes would make the permitting process easier for the county, mainly by cutting down on the paperwork involved in refunding certain fees, said County Manager John T. Smith.

Under current procedures, a person must receive a favorable

building site evaluation from the health department before he can obtain septic tank and building permits.

A complication is that the \$20 site inspection fee is refundable if the site is determined to be unsuitable for a septic tank.

Smith said the plan is not to charge for the site evaluation but to begin charging for septic tank permits which are now free.

"The problem with bureaucracy is we're drowning in paperwork," Smith commented. "That would be the only way we could get by without giving refunds."

Smith said the proposal would have to be approved by Brunswick County Commissioners and the Board of Health before it could be implemented.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Carlisle In The Spotlight

Cathy Carlisle, past National Oyster Shucking Champion and current state champion, gets a brief mention in "Spotlight South" in the February edition of Southern Living magazine, now in news stands. So does Louisiana's Duke Landry, the reigning national champ, in a brief write-up on the St. Marys County Oyster Festival, which hosts the national contest.

Norton Listed

Michael A. Norton of Supply has attained the fall semester dean's list at N.C. State University in Raleigh. Dean's list students earn a grade-point average of B-plus or better.

On Dean's List

Freshman Amy Michelle Hewett

has been named to the fall/winter dean's list at Salem College in Winston-Salem, earning at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mack L. Hewett of Shallotte.

Dinner Slated

Bethel United Methodist Church in Bolivia is sponsoring a barbecue dinner Friday, Feb. 26, starting at 11 a.m. at the church. Cost is \$3 per plate.

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