

Proposed Calabash Budget Reflects No Increase In Property Tax Rate

BY RAHN ADAMS

Getting their first look at the town's proposed 1988-89 budget, Calabash Town Council members were told Tuesday that the current 23-cent property tax rate in Calabash can remain unchanged.

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Janet Thomas presented copies of the proposed budget to council members at their 2 1/2-hour meeting Tuesday night, which was interrupted by an hour-long secret session requested by Councilman Landis High to discuss "contractual relations and personnel matters," according to Town Attorney Mike Ramos.

With little discussion following the executive session, the board appointed David Arthurs, Sheryl Hardee and Suzy Moore to three-year terms on the Calabash ABC Board. The three replace Ruth Lewis, Darius Lewellyn and Helen Bierworth on the three-member board.

Budget Outlined

The proposed budget, which totals \$103,208, contains several additions, including proposed salary increases for town employees, according to Ms. Thomas.

The council will consider setting an \$8,000 annual salary for the town building inspector. Last year, the building inspector received about

\$7,000 in wages.

Ms. Thomas requested a \$17,000 allocation that would increase her current \$5.25 per hour rate by 10 percent and allow the town to hire a part-time office worker.

Also, the council authorized Ms. Thomas to seek information from the N.C. League of Municipalities concerning a health care plan for the town clerk. The town currently has no benefits for employees.

In reference to one other possible addition, Ms. Thomas said the League of Municipalities recently questioned the town's present method of bonding the town clerk and building inspector. Ms. Thomas and

Inspector Frank Adams are bonded for \$10,000 each.

The League suggested that Ms. Thomas' bond be increased and that the town carry a separate "blanket bond" to cover town officials other than just the inspector. Ms. Thomas noted that the change would cost about \$100.

The town's budget hearing is scheduled for June 14, with adoption expected at the council's June 28 meeting, Ms. Thomas said.

Variance Discussed

In another matter, council members voted to hold a public hearing next month on a town building code variance that was requested by

the developers of the proposed Comfort Inn on N.C. 179.

Bill Cockayne and Mike Holt asked the board to grant the variance to allow construction of a three-story motel within the building code's 35-foot height limitation. The code allows buildings of no more than 2 1/2 floors.

After considerable discussion over the proper method of requesting a variance, Ramos said the correct procedure would be to notify adjacent property owners of the proposed variance and hold the public hearing.

Cockayne and Holt also were instructed to submit preliminary plans

of the project to the town prior to the June 14 public hearing.

Other Business

In other action, the council: •Tabled for later discussion a request from the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce for an unspecified contribution.

•Authorized Ms. Thomas to perform minor maintenance duties at town hall.

•And, on a motion by Councilman John High, instructed the town clerk to contact local Alcohol Law Enforcement officers about the possible failure of unidentified Calabash restaurants to obtain town beer and wine licenses.

Fair Weather Is Forecast

Seasonable weather is expected over the next few days in the Charlotte area, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady says both temperatures and precipitation should be near normal through the weekend. Temperatures will range from the upper 50s at night to the upper 70s during the day. Rainfall is expected to measure about one-half inch.

During the period of May 3 through 9, the daily average temperature was 64 degrees, which was two degrees below normal, Canady said. The daily average high temperature was 76 degrees, and the daily average low temperature was 53 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 81 degrees, occurring on May 7. The minimum low temperature was 47 degrees, occurring on May 6.

Canady measured .62 of an inch of rainfall during the seven-day period.



BRUNSWICK COUNTY WAS NOTIFIED last week that it must correct a waste management violation at the Brunswick County Landfill near Supply within 30 days. In March, a waste management specialist from

the N.C. Division of Health Services found that liquid residue was leaving the landfill through this sedimentation basin.

Violation Found At Local Landfill; County Working To Correct Problem

BY RAHN ADAMS

Officials with two state agencies said last week that punitive measures aren't expected against Brunswick County due to its efforts to correct a wastewater problem at the county landfill off Galloway Road near Supply.

Ikie Guyton, a waste management specialist with the N.C. Division of Health Services, said Friday that the county was notified May 2 that it was in violation of waste management standards, after two inspections found that leachate material—or liquid residue—was seeping from the landfill site in wastewater runoff.

However, Guyton said the county has been given 30 days to take corrective measures before the state issues an official compliance order. The possible penalty for non-compliance is \$500 per day.

"They (the county) have been real cooperative in their efforts to solve the problem," Guyton said Friday, "and I have no reason to believe the problem will not be corrected."

The Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch of the N.C. Department of Natural Resources and Community Development also is monitoring the situation, according to NRCD public information officer Steve Reid.

"We do perceive that there are problems with the landfill," Reid said last Wednesday. He added that "nothing hazardous or life-threatening" was found in the runoff.

"Most likely we will just work with the county to correct the problem as soon as possible... before we start throwing rocks," Reid commented.

He reiterated that a penalty is not anticipated due to the county's cooperation so far. He noted that only "gross negligence" by the county would result in punitive measures.

Guyton said the violation was discovered during inspections he conducted at the landfill on Oct. 28, 1987, and March 24. A sedimentation basin located at the rear of the landfill was not properly filtering runoff and was allowing leachate to leave the site, he

noted.

Brunswick County Solid Waste Director Leo Hewett said last Wednesday that his department was working with Guyton to correct the leachate problem—a process which was expected to take about five days, Hewett said.

Hewett said rock in the sedimentation basin would be replaced. Also, additional layers of rock are to be added in front of and behind the basin for more filtration, to prevent leachate from reaching a swampy area adjacent to the landfill.

According to Guyton, other measures include capping off landfill trenches and compacting the soil to improve filtration. Also, contents of the sedimentation basin are to be pumped out and discharged onto the landfill for regeneration.

Guyton said he will make a "progress inspection" before the 30-day period ends. He expects to make an official landfill inspection in June, "to make sure they bring it into compliance."

Shallotte Police Chief Resigns

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After meeting in executive session for another two hours on April 6, Mayor Jones said the problem had still not been resolved and asked the personnel committee continue working to resolve it.

Although no action was taken, Jones said the problem was resolved following a 35-minute executive session April 20.

When asked if he thought the resignation related to recent problems in the department, the mayor said, "I don't think so and I certainly hope not." Jones refused to give details of the problem on several occasions.

Stovall, who has served as chief of police for the past three years, also said last week that his decision to leave the department was not related to the problem which existed in the department. "It was not based on that. It's something I've been thinking about for some time."

In his handwritten letter to the board, Stovall said, "A great deal of thought has gone into this decision and I am resigning for purely personal reasons."

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Shallotte and its governing board," he continued. "The Town of Shallotte has a fine and very capable staff of officers who will serve the town well."

Immediately after accepting the letter of resignation last week, the town board voted to advertise for a new chief of police.

Jones said the board will concentrate on finding a qualified person to fill the position, adding that it may be some time before it is filled.

"I expect it may be a couple of months before we find a replacement," he added. "We will as soon as

possible, but it won't be a hasty decision."

Stovall also said last week that he will continue to work through May 18. He said has applied for positions at three other police departments, two of which are within Brunswick County.

He has served as chief of police since July 8, 1985. Prior to heading up the Shallotte Police Department, he

was assistant chief of police at Holden Beach for about three years and also worked with two other North Carolina police departments.

Shallotte aldermen hired Stovall about three months after firing former chief John Wayne Campbell. Campbell's dismissal followed accusations that he had secretly tape-recorded a conversation with then-Mayor Beamon Hewett.

Holden Beach Provides \$10,000 Toward Tri-Beach Ladder Truck

If the red tape gets untangled quickly enough, Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department expects to complete the purchase of a 65-foot aerial ladder truck this week.

Captain Keith Sawyer said the fire department's "game plan" is to pick up the truck from West Area Station No. 15 in Cumberland County on Saturday. "They're going to try to have it ready for us by then," he added, noting some equipment would have to be removed first.

The pick-up is contingent in part on all parties completing their paperwork. The Cumberland County fire department was to vote Tuesday night on the proposed sale.

Holden Beach Commissioners voted unanimously Monday night to donate \$10,000 to the department toward the \$40,000 purchase. The

\$10,000, and another \$10,000 from the department itself, will be used to match a \$20,000 allocation from the county's district contingency fund. The department had tried to obtain a grant from the state, but was turned down.

Speaking to the town board on April 18, firefighters had asked for a decision within 30 days.

The truck they expect to purchase is a 1961 model equipped with a 65-foot retracting ladder and with a pumping capacity of 750,000 gallons per minute. A similarly-equipped new vehicle could cost up to \$130,000.

Citing winds, wood construction and closely-spaced homes, firefighters told town commissioners last month that an aerial truck would be an asset in fighting fires on the island even though the town has a 35-foot height restriction.

Chappell Wants Change

(Continued From Page 1-A)

ten receipts before their bills were even mailed, Ms. Moore said.

In 1979, a number of paid tax bills were not properly recorded in the department's computer system, even though "hard copy" receipts of payment were filed at the tax office.

Williamson said that of the 12,000 notices mailed in March, 74 have turned out to be incorrect so far—cases where property owners had already paid the taxes. Some 45 of those 74 were from 1979.

Chappell pointed out that property owners who paid their taxes may not be able to find 10-year-old receipts. He also noted that a warning of possible foreclosure printed on the delinquent tax notices was "unfriendly as the dickens."

One concerned taxpayer who attended the meeting—Carlus Phipps of Calabash—told commissioners that he received a \$500 tax bill from 1978 and has been unable to find the receipt to prove that he paid the taxes. "It's not so much the money as it's the principle," Phipps said.

Another local property owner who contacted the Beacon Friday said he received a \$459 bill from 1979, but was able to find his receipt. "They (the tax office) really shook me up," said Bob Lineberger of Lincolnton, who is a director of the Holden Beach Property Owners Association.

At last week's meeting, County Manager John T. Smith complimented the tax officials for their strict enforcement of tax laws but en-

couraged them to use a more "liberal interpretation... if there's any shadow of a doubt" about an individual's tax bill.

Commissioner Benny Ludlum earlier told Williamson and Ms. Moore, "All I can say is, we told you folks over there to collect the taxes; we didn't tell you how to do it."

Other Business

Before adjourning until the board's regular May 16 meeting, commissioners also:

•Awarded low bids of \$21,234.78 for a utility truck to Jones Ford; \$34,445.28 for three pickup trucks to Jones Ford; and \$11,438.92 for a utility van to Mintz Chevrolet. All five vehicles are for the water department.

•Forwarded an S.R. 1 form to the N.C. Department of Transportation for Third Street in the H.A. Cumbee subdivision.

•Appointed J.A. Francis as chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Equalization and Review.

•Authorized advertisement for bids on the excavation of a new hole at the county landfill.

Planning Board Resets Meeting

Sunset Beach Planning Board, for the second consecutive month, has rescheduled its regular meeting.

Instead of meeting on May 12, the board will meet at the town hall on Thursday, May 19, at 10 a.m.

Meetings are open to the public.

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