

Holden Beach Board Draws Closer To Hiring New Town Administrator

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners were to meet bright and early Wednesday morning to continue discussing the hiring of a new town administrator and possibly vote on a candidate.

The board met behind closed doors Monday night to interview one applicant for the position and planned to interview another Tuesday night before meeting Wednesday at 8 a.m. to decide its next step.

According to Commissioner William Williamson, a member of the town personnel committee, the next step will be to either hire one of the interviewed applicants or continue sifting through applications and scheduling additional interviews.

"It will really depend on what we think of the first two whether we interview any more," he said Tuesday afternoon. "If the board feels either of those two are qualified for the position we probably won't need to interview anyone else."

Last Thursday during a continuation of a special

meeting held Sept. 19, commissioners met in executive session for 1 hour and 20 minutes to select four final applicants from the original group of about 50.

Following last week's meeting, Mayor John Tandy told The Beacon that the majority of the remaining applicants have earned master's degrees in public administration and all have good experience.

The four finalists were all male, said Tandy, with two living in North Carolina and two in South Carolina. Each of the men presently holds another position, he added, and is now or has previously been employed in public administration.

Williamson said this week, however, that one of those finalists had accepted another position and another had indicated he no longer wanted to vacate his present post. He added that the town has received several more applications since last week's meeting and that some of those people may be qualified for the job.

The mayor also said the original group of applicants included ones from as far away as Alaska, Washington state and Cairo, Egypt. Commissioners agreed last week to send letters to non-finalist applicants thanking them for showing an interest in the position.

In light of a proposed switch to the council-manager form of municipal government, which will likely be the subject of a referendum early next year, Holden Beach advertised for a town administrator/town manager. The position would start out as administrator and change to manager if and when the town charter is amended.

To inform the public about the council-manager form of government prior to the proposed referendum, the town plans to mail an information booklet to each registered voter. The pamphlet, produced by the International City Management Association, answers 22 common questions about the format.

After the packets are mailed the town also plans to hold a public meeting at which a representative of the N.C. Institute of Government in Chapel Hill will address the differences in how the town would operate under a manager as opposed to an administrator.

Commissioners agreed last week to purchase 300 booklets at a cost of about \$84, and mail them to registered voters along with a notice of the public meeting.

The board considered mailing the information to all property owners, but decided against it because of the added cost and the fact that only registered voters would be able to take part in the referendum.

A similar booklet explaining the occupancy tax will be mailed to all property owners next month, according to Commissioner Bob Buck, who successfully argued that the booklet explaining council-manager government would draw more attention if it were mailed separately.

River Sampling

(Continued From Page 1-A)

ed by the state to detect pollution. Fecal coliform bacteria are found in both human and animal waste. State officials have indicated the closure could be long-term, since it was prompted by a study of the waters that showed steadily higher concentrations of the bacteria, rather than a sudden influx associated with storm-water run-off.

However, those areas that remained open in mid-August were shut down by the end of the month because of heavy rains, forcing shellfishermen to harvest in other waters and reducing the overall harvest.

Since then two other areas closed temporarily by heavy rainfall, the Shallotte River and Sassapan Creek, have reopened.

Depending on the test results of shellfish meat samples taken Monday, the ban could be lifted in some areas of Lockwood Folly later this week.

State and private sampling data is just part of the information SOS is accumulating. "We're trying to find out where we're at, then we'll start moving," said Varnam. The group's attorney, Glen Peterson, is checking with various permitting agencies on various items, including the status of the Lockwood Folly Marina.

Despite assurances from several state agencies, a number of shellfishermen in the area are not convinced the 153-acre river closure was unrelated to Channel Side Corp.'s application for a major CAMA permit to build a 50-slip marina between 200 and 250 feet above.

Application Incomplete

That application was still "on hold" Tuesday, according to John Parker, the Division of Coastal Management's major CAMA permit coordinator.

"I haven't seen anything to take it off hold," he added. "I understand the applicant is back at the design stage as to the basic wastewater treatment will be provided."

By mutual oversight, plans for treatment of wastewater from the 500-acre Lockwood Folly golf course and residential community were not included with the original application.

Since then the company has submitted some data, then withdrawn it. The treatment plan must be reviewed and commented on by the Division of Environmental Management and depending on the system or systems proposed, possibly other state agencies, before it is forwarded to Parker's office.

The Division of Marine Fisheries is the only one of 14 reviewing agencies to date to oppose issuance of the permit, based on the application minus wastewater treatment plan. One other state agency, the Division of Community Assistance, expressed some reservations.

However, the Division of Environmental Management agreed last week to schedule a meeting with local citizens regarding the river.

Charles Wakild, chief of the water quality section, agreed to the meeting after SOS President Annie Smigiel spoke up at the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission meeting in Wilmington last week.

Jim Sheppard, public information officer for the Division of Environmental Management, said Tuesday that plans for the meeting have not been completed.

It was tentatively scheduled to be held within three weeks, with representatives of several state agencies to be invited.

SOS has repeatedly sought a public hearing on the marina permit application, but the CAMA permitting procedures do not require one.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Center Turn Lane Extended

Traffic congestion in Shallotte was expected to continue through Wednesday while workers widened U.S. 17 (Main Street) to extend its center left-turn lane from the Holden Beach Road traffic light to just beyond the northern town limits. According to J.W. Harrelson,

superintendent of Dickerson Carolina Construction, after widening and resurfacing, the pavement will be repainted to indicate the turn lane. Above, Carlton Carrette and Gene Pennell remove dirt along the shoulder in preparation for the road-widening.

Normal Temps, Rain Forecast

The Shallotte area can expect "very nice early fall weather" over the next several days, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Canady said temperatures through

the weekend should range from the low 60s at night to the lows 80s during the day. Rainfall should be near normal at about one-half inch.

For the period of Sept. 20 through 26, the daily average temperature in

the Shallotte area was 76 degrees, which Canady said was about two degrees above normal.

The daily average high temperature was 84 degrees, and the daily average low temperature was 68 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 88 degrees, occurring on Sept. 21. The minimum low temperature was 58 degrees, occurring on Sept. 22.

Canady measured .39 of an inch of rain during the seven-day period.

It's Last Chance To Register

Shingletree Precinct is offering a last chance on Saturday, Oct. 8, to register to vote in the Nov. 8 election. Registrars will be at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., said Warren "Bud" Knapp. "Tell your neighbors," he suggested, "so that 100 percent of

Shingletree residents will vote Nov. 8."

For information is available from Jan Knapp, a registration commissioner, 579-7618.

Voters can also change party affiliation or transfer precincts if they have moved.

Northwest Road To Close Monday

The N.C. Division of Highways will close Northwest Road (S.R. 1419) near Maco in northern Brunswick County for three weeks beginning Monday, Sept. 26, while a bridge is replaced with pipe.

Traffic will detour along local

routes.

Bridge Supervisor Robert Cox said the bridge to be replaced is a 40-to 50-year-old small, one-stand span. Replacing it with another bridge would cost approximately \$150,000.

Paine Begins Serving Term

Former Shallotte physician Karen N. Paine reported last Thursday to the Federal Women's Correctional Facility at Lexington, Ken., to begin serving a three-year sentence, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Marshal's Service in Raleigh.

Paine was sentenced Aug. 22 in U.S. District Court in Raleigh following her conviction in June on 76 various counts of Medicaid, Medicare and mail fraud.

Her active sentence was for the first of the counts; receiving five years' supervised probation on the remainder of the counts, which were consolidated for judgment.

One condition of her probation is payment of restitution and special assessments totaling \$10,770.

Dr. Paine, who previously operated an office on Forest Drive in Shallotte, was indicted last Oct. 13 following a two-year joint investigation by state and federal human welfare agencies.

She is expected to serve at least one year of the sentence before being considered for parole.

Still under investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation is a fire that destroyed her office in September 1987. The fire was determined to be arson.

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 Established Nov. 1, 1962
 Telephone 754-6890
 Published Every Thursday
 At 4709 Main Street
 Shallotte, N. C. 28459

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Roberts Released Early

(Continued From Page 1-A)

panded," Guth said. "However, they (the parole commission) do look at cases on a case-by-case basis."

Guth said population emergency provisions have gone into effect three times so far this year. The prison system's second emergency period ended July 11, less than a month before the August emergency began. He noted that the system ex-

perienced an unusually high commitment rate this summer and that the department had a "difficult time reducing the population."

"It becomes harder and harder for the parole commission to stabilize the prison population," he said, adding that the commission sometimes must act as a "pressure relief valve" for the prison system.

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