

## Committee Starts Working On First Varnamtown Budget

Funds for a town hall and the town clerk's office were among the needs identified this week by members of a committee working toward adoption of the first budget for the Town of Varnamtown.

The committee, appointed during the Nov. 14 town meeting, includes board members Ennis Swain and Marion Davis, Town Clerk Paul Vealey, and residents Judy Galloway and Luellen Norris. Mayor Pro Tem Swain is chairman of the group.

During a one-hour meeting Monday night at Gospel Center Baptist Church, committee members agreed on several immediate needs for the town and estimated the cost of meeting those needs. Those will be included in a town budget that will run through the remainder of this fiscal year ending June 30, 1989.

Although actual dollar amounts could change, the committee tentatively agreed that the budget should include \$600 for office space, \$200 for electricity bills, \$150 for supplies such as postage and letterhead, \$100 for a bond for the town clerk, \$25 for a town mailbox and a \$400 contingency fund which would be used to cover anything not anticipated in the budget. As it stands now, expenditures total \$1,475.

Given the town's approximate pro-

perty valuation of \$9 million, committee members agreed that the town could probably get by with a first-year tax rate of two or three cents per \$100 of valuation.

If all taxes are paid, a tax rate of two cents would bring in about \$1,800 while a rate of three cents would raise approximately \$2,700. The town charter prohibits the town board from setting the tax rate above 10 cents.

There will likely be additional costs in the budget, however, as committee members discussed a potential need for legal advice in conducting town affairs and the cost of an annual audit which is required by law.

Mayor Tracie Varnum, who sat in on this week's meeting, encouraged committee members to work together on this initial budget as the town tries to get on its feet. "We're not the only town starting without any money," he said.

Committee members agreed they will need to meet again before presenting a proposed budget to the full board of aldermen. Once a budget has been proposed, a public hearing will be required before it can be adopted.

The next meeting of the town board will be Monday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Gospel Center Baptist Church.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

VARNAMTOWN ALDERMAN Marion Davis, left, discusses immediate needs of the community with other members of the town budget committee during a meeting Monday night at Gospel Center Baptist Church. Also pic-

tured, from left, is Mayor Pro Tem Ennis Swain, Mayor Tracie Varnum, Judy Galloway and Luellen Norris.

## New Officers Presented To Brunswick Senior Council

The Brunswick County Senior Council reviewed its slate of new officers at the council's monthly meeting, held Nov. 15 at the Public Assembly Building in Bolivia.

The 1989 officers include President Grace Peoples, First Vice President Jo Nash, Second Vice President Harold Watson, Third Vice President Margaret Holmes, Secretary Lena Beachum, Publicity Chairman Mary Richardson, Chaplain Lottie Johnson and Assistant Chaplain Frances Sweatt.

The slate was presented to the council by Ms. Sweatt, who was chairman of the nominating committee. The officers will be installed in January.

The annual senior citizens'

Christmas party will be held on Dec. 17, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., at the Public Assembly Building. Each participant is asked to bring a \$3 gift suitable for someone of their own gender. The organization with the most members present at the party will be awarded \$25.

At a recent gift-wrapping party, the Over 55 group of Southport brought the most gifts and received a cookbook holder. Also, the Leland nutrition site donated the most food items and received an afghan. Local senior citizens also contributed more than \$500 to the United Way.

The senior council's January meeting will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m., at the Public Assembly Building.

## Update Of Standards Proposed

Draft changes in the state's water quality standards regulations are to be reviewed when the N.C. Environmental Management Commission meets on Thursday, Dec. 8, in Raleigh, its first meeting since before the November general election.

The commission meets starting at 9 a.m. in the ground floor hearing room of the Archdale Building, 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh.

It is to also authorize public hearings on the proposed regulatory changes, probably in February 1989.

Under the federal Clean Water Act, the state is to review and update its water quality standards program at

least every three years; North Carolina is approximately one year behind that schedule.

On Nov. 10, at a meeting of the Water Quality Committee of the Environmental Management Commission, representatives of industry expressed opposition to the proposed regulations for toxic substances.

The draft regulations are undergoing final revision for presentation to the Commission. Copies of the November version of the draft regulations are available from Greg Thorpe, DEM Water Quality Planning, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611.

## Brunswick Town Hosts Christmas Open House

Savor the sounds, sights and flavors of Christmases past during Brunswick Town State Historic Site's Christmas Open House from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11.

Following open house, an evening vespers service will be held in the ruin of St. Philips Church. The service will begin at 5 p.m., led by Rev. Frank Ross and members of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Southport.

There is no admission charged to either event.

Decorations reminiscent of the 18th and 19th centuries will adorn the Visitor Center. This year's Christmas tree will be decorated by Grace McLarty's fourth-grade class from Leland Middle School.

Decorations include wreaths, garland and table arrangements were created by historic site staff and volunteers participating through the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service.

Refreshments, using traditional 18th and 19th century recipes, will be

served during open house. Baked goods such as gingerbread loaf, Maryland rocks, applesauce cake, carrot tea cake and others will be prepared by Extension Homemakers Clubs from Boiling Spring Lakes and Town Creek, as well as several volunteers from the surrounding area.

Volunteers will also provide the afternoon's entertainment. Appearances will include Peggy Olsen, flutist; the North Brunswick High School Woodwind Quartet; Joe Robinson, harmonica player; and Welsh and Friends, playing English recorders.

Don Shannon, portraying Royal Gov. William Tryon, will greet and mingle with guests.

The program is sponsored by Friends of Brunswick Town, site staff, area businesses and community volunteers.

The historic site is located off N.C. 133 adjacent to Orton Plantation, between Southport and Leland.

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