

Survey Says

A chamber of commerce survey draws a good response and offers an insider's profile of vacationers to the area, Page 11-A.

Meet A Champ!

Shallotte Middle School fifth grader Jordan Johnson will represent Brunswick County in the National Spelling Bee. Meet the champ on Page 6-B.



Biting Early

The spots are back and so is the weekly Fishing Report. For a look at the front end of the '89 season, check out Page 13-C.

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

HOAG & SONS BOOK BINDERY
PO BOX 152
SPRINGPORT MI 49284
12/31/99

Twenty-seventh Year, Number 23

©1989 THE BRUNSWICK

April 13, 1989

25c Per Copy

40 Pages, 3 Sections, Plus Insert

Resort Towns Oppose Change In Sales Tax Distribution

BY DOUG RUTTER

Despite the objections of officials at three local beach towns, Brunswick County Commissioners will probably not rescind their decision to distribute sales tax revenues on the basis of population instead of property valuation.

The county board voted 4-1 last month to revise the distribution method and has since received opposition from officials in the resort towns of Ocean Isle Beach, Holden Beach and Bald Head Island. Those towns stand to lose various amounts of revenue under the new method, which takes effect in July at the start of fiscal year 1989-90.

County Commissioner Gene Pinkerton, who made the motion at the board's March 20 meeting to revise the method of distribution, said last week it is unlikely the county will go back on its earlier action.

"I really don't feel like proper notice was given to the towns in this particular case."

—Betty Williamson
Ocean Isle Beach Mayor

He said commissioners have apparently had no second thoughts about the move, even though the county also stands to lose between \$300,000 and \$400,000 per year from its general fund.

Mayors at Ocean Isle Beach and Holden Beach both

said last week their respective town boards would probably adopt resolutions or write formal letters to the county board opposing the change. Bald Head Island Town Manager Wallace Martin last week sent a letter of opposition to the county manager.

Also, property owners associations at Holden Beach and Ocean Isle are getting into the act.

The Ocean Isle Beach POA has mailed letters to every property owner in town urging each to return a form letter to the county commissioners requesting that the board reconsider the change. About 1,800 letters were sent out last week with a stamped envelope addressed to the county board.

Holden Beach POA President Kenner Amos said last week the organization also planned to take a stand against the new county policy.

The change in distribution will result in a loss of ap-

proximately \$50,000 per year at Ocean Isle Beach, while Holden Beach stands to lose about \$30,000 in annual revenues.

"It just doesn't seem fair to me," said Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy, adding that the town may have to raise its property tax rate to recover the loss.

While he admitted that there is nothing wrong with helping other municipalities, Tandy said the county should have notified all of the towns before taking action that had a direct impact on their revenues.

"I think they did it awful quick," he said. "They should have taken a look at who was going to get hurt on it."

Ocean Isle Mayor Betty Williamson agreed and said she would have been at the commissioners' meeting if she had known the matter was going to be

(See TAX, Page 2-A)



TEACHERS AND TEACHERS ASSISTANTS applaud a school board decision to allow volunteer substitutes in local classrooms April 18 when county teachers lobby in Raleigh for higher pay.

Holden Beach Expansion Meets Mainland Opposition

BY DOUG RUTTER

A Holden Beach proposal to annex territory north of the waterway met up with unwavering opposition from mainland property owners who attended a public hearing Monday night.

Town officials heard from about 25 individuals during the hour and 15 minute long public hearing. Despite the tightly-packed crowd of approximately 85 concerned landowners, the atmosphere in town hall remained calm and free of tension.

Each of the dozen mainland property owners who spoke said they were against annexation, while input from island residents and lot owners was split evenly among supporters and opponents.

A show of hands near the conclusion of the hearing indicated that roughly 70 people opposed annexation and 15 favored the idea.

Mayor John Tandy also read letters from three property owners unable to attend the hearing who said they were against annexation. Commissioner Bob Buck read a letter from the Holden Beach Property Owners Association stating that 31 members voted against annexation and 16 voted in favor of some form of annexation at the organization's March 25 meeting.

Most of the mainland property owners and several island residents who spoke Monday night said they're content with the way things are now and don't see a need for change.

Mainland opponents also stressed

that the town has little to offer besides sanitation service and that annexation would put a number of property owners in a financial bind because they cannot afford to pay the additional taxes.

"You're not offering us what we need," said mainland property owner Joe Smith. He said the causeway needs sewer service and sidewalks—things the town does not presently offer.

Also, a number of those opposed to annexation from both sides of the waterway said the town board of commissioners already has enough trouble taking care of the island.

Bill Williamson, a part-time resident of the area proposed for annexation, drew applause when he said, "Before you help others, I think you should help yourself."

Town resident Rick Bryan spoke along the same lines and questioned why board members want the added responsibility that would come with annexation.

"We're not doing a relatively good job here, and we want to extend this across the beach?" he asked. "Bigger is not better."

Responding to a concern of town officials interested in annexation, Jimmy Hobbs, whose family owns and operates three businesses on the causeway, predicted that county zoning would eventually help control development in the unincorporated mainland area.

He opposed the annexation plan (See EXPANSION, Page 2-A)

Volunteers Will Sub In Classrooms While Teachers Lobby For Pay Raise

BY SUSAN USHER

Retired teachers, parents and regular substitutes willing to work a day without their regular pay will take to Brunswick County classrooms next Tuesday.

They will clear the way for as many as 200 classroom teachers and teacher assistants from Brunswick County plan to board charter buses and private vehicles for Raleigh, to lobby in the N.C. General Assembly for better wages and against the Career Ladder Plan advocated by Gov. James Martin.

Monday night Brunswick County Board of Education voted unanimously to waive provisions of the system's substitute policy as a show of support for the teachers. Watching them vote were approximately 30 teachers and teacher assistants.

Tom Simmons, a Union Primary School teacher and District 13 Director of the North Carolina Association of Educators, spoke on behalf of the proposal for the delegates at Mon-

day's night meeting in the Bolivia Elementary School cafeteria.

Of the volunteers he said, "They're willing to come substitute because they support what we're doing and want to help you."

In addition to general lobbying, he said the local delegation will meet with Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., Rep. E. David Redwine, Superintendent of Public Instruction Bob Etheridge and possibly House Speaker Joe Mavretic.

When teachers take personal rather than professional leave, they must usually pay for their own substitute.

Under school board policy, those substitutes must either hold certification or be on an approved substitute list, which reflects that they have taken a special workshop and are approved to serve as substitutes at particular schools.

Next Tuesday, most but not all subs will meet one or the other of the requirements.

However, as approved by the board, names of the substitutes will have been submitted to principals in advance for approval before the employees take leave on April 18.

School board member Donna Baxter's comments were typical of those of other board members: "I do believe we should support the teachers; I think it would be good P.R.—and I like your shirts."

Many of those in the audience at Monday's meeting wore green T-shirts with white lettering. On the front the message read, "Brunswick County Teachers Care." On the back was the message, "Our children's future is in your (hands)."

The "hands" on the shirt are those of Lincoln Primary School third-grader Jodi Henry, who is in the class of shirt designer Jean Case. Jodi's mother, Jane Henry, also teaches.

Jodi's hands first appeared on a poster Lincoln teachers took to Raleigh for "Heart Walk," a lobbying effort in February.

So far 133 shirts have been

distributed; more are on order and are available to anyone, not just teachers or students, Ms. Case said.

In order to keep the issue before state legislators, Simmons said the NCAE is coordinating a grassroots effort to get representatives of a different school system each week to take their turn lobbying in Raleigh.

Gov. Martin has tied proposed pay 5 percent raises for teachers to statewide implementation of the Career Ladder Plan, which is designed to reward excellence in the classroom with merit raises. But the NCAE, arguing that early experimentation shows the program doesn't work, instead supports across-the-board salary increases.

Simmons said the Martin plan would require teachers and administrators to give up their tenure law, which provides a measure of employment protection for teachers and also provides a procedure by which a teacher can be dismissed for any of 18 reasons, with documentation.

Holden Beach Building Permit Policy Reversed

BY DOUG RUTTER

Less than a week after voting to give more discretion to the town's building inspector in issuing permits, Holden Beach Commissioners Monday morning reversed their decision on a 3-2 vote.

Building Inspector Dwight Carroll will go back counting the number of bedrooms and issuing building permits on the basis of what is presented in floor plans.

On April 3 commissioners had voted to drop the controversial procedure and instead follow a state regulation which allows the building inspector to use judgement in determining how a room is to be used.

The latest reversal in town policy came at the close of a special meeting Monday. Commissioners William Williamson, Gay Atkins and Gil Bass voted in favor of rescinding the April 3 vote, while Bob Buck and

Georgia Langley opposed going back to the old policy.

Bass was the only board member to change his mind. He favored the policy change at the board's regular monthly meeting last week, but made the motion this week to reinstate the old policy.

The board agreed to operate under the old policy for 90 days before making a final decision on how plans will be interpreted. Meanwhile, the town is looking for alternative approaches.

Commissioners said they want to meet with the Brunswick County Board of Health sometime over the next three months to discuss coordination of enforcement efforts.



BASS

Holden Beach officials first amended the policy in an attempt to control density and discourage builders from submitting plans that show rooms listed as dens or sewing rooms which are later marketed, sold and used as bedrooms.

Board members agree that a number of homes on the island have four or five bedrooms, but received septic tank permits for only three bedrooms.

After discussing the matter this week with county sanitarian Bruce Withrow, Commissioner Buck suggested that the town and county work together to prevent further abuse of the environment through septic system failure due to overloading. A procedure whereby county health personnel would review house plans before the town issues a building permit was proposed.

Before a group of approximately 30

residents, builders and real estate representatives, Commissioner Bass said this week that he misunderstood how often the amended policy was going to be implemented when he voted in favor of it last week.

He said he was under the impression that the policy was going to be used only sparingly—maybe once or twice a year—in cases where a builder had written bedroom on a set of plans and later crossed it out and wrote den, office or some other use. "I'm very concerned how we're using this policy," he said.

Inspector Carroll said Monday that he had issued two or three permits since the new policy was adopted and had required one house plan to be revised because a hallway door leading to a bathroom was too close to a room listed as an office.

Bass said later that the new policy (See HOLDEN, Page 2-A)



CAUSEWAY MERCHANT Cletis Clemmons was one of about a dozen mainland property owners who opposed a Holden Beach annexation proposal during Monday night's public hearing.