

# Holden Beach Awards Contract

BY DOUG RUTTER

With a new dune extending about one third of the way down the island, Holden Beach Commissioners this week chose a contractor to erect sand fencing and to plant beach grass to protect the town's investment.

The board amended the budget and awarded the \$41,000 contract during a 15-minute special meeting Monday morning.

The contract went to low bidder Jason Simmons of Shallotte. His bids were \$21.42 for each 50-foot roll of sand fence and \$37.14 to plant a bundle of 1,000 beach grass sprigs.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich opened bids on the project last Friday morning following another special meeting of the board. The town received four bids for erecting the sand fence and three bids for planting the beach grass. Simmons offered the lowest bid for both projects.

Work should begin after Thanksgiving at the east end of the beach and move west following the contractor building the new dune. Town officials initiated the project following Hurricane Hugo, which wiped out most of the dunes on the island.

Based on estimates of 35,000 feet of sand fence and 700 bundles of beach grass, the town will pay the contractor about \$41,000 for the work. Holden Beach will also spend another estimated \$14,000 to buy the sand fence and \$28,000 for the vegetation, bringing the total cost of the project to approximately \$83,000.

Monday, commissioners revised the fiscal year 1989-90 budget for the second time since Hugo, taking \$41,000 from the fund balance and earmarking it for the dune renourishment project. The total amount budgeted for the project is now at \$286,000.

The sand fence will be installed in a straight line near the crest of the dune along the front slope, and

the beach grass will be planted on top of the dune. Once it is planted, the town will have to fertilize the grass.

The contractor has until Jan. 31, 1990, to erect the sand fence. The beach grass must be planted by March 1, 1990.

Commissioners will meet Monday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m. in town hall to decide if beachfront property owners will be assessed for the dune project. The town board has proposed assessing oceanfront lot owners \$3 per linear foot or \$150 for a 50-foot-wide lot.

### Executive Session

At last Friday's special meeting, the board met in executive session for about 20 minutes to discuss real estate acquisition. No action was taken on the matter.

In addition to the current board of commissioners, commissioners-elect Gloria Barrett, Judy Bryan and Kenner Amos were present for the closed session. Outgoing Commissioner Georgia Langley was absent from both meetings.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

**BULLDOZERS AND SCRAPERS** are parked atop the new frontal dune at Holden Beach Sunday afternoon as workers wait for the next low tide in order to resume construction. Through last week, workers had completed the dune from the east end to the 300 block of Ocean Boulevard West. After the Thanksgiving holidays, a second contract crew is expected to begin erecting sand fence and planting beach grass.

### Town To Recognize Hurricane Helpers

Holden Beach Commissioners will recognize town employees, volunteers and others who assisted the community in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo with a special luncheon next Tuesday at noon.

After considering menu items ranging from hot dogs and hors d'oeuvres to goulash and Brunswick Stew, commissioners decided last week to serve barbecue and slaw. Town officials expect about 200 people to attend the affair at town hall.

Holden Beach will also be giving certificates of appreciation to those who helped out following the Sept. 21 hurricane. The luncheon should cost the town several hundred dollars.

### Extension Offers Christmas Trees

Thanksgiving is just upon us but it's never too early to start thinking about the Christmas holiday just around the corner.

The Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service will be selling live Christmas trees Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the county government center grounds in Bolivia.

County Extension Director Milton Coleman will start cutting trees about 3 p.m. A \$25 donation for each tree will go to the county's 4-H fund.

A limited number of trees are available; orders are being taken now by the extension office.



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