

AT HOLDEN BEACH

Loan Amount Remains Undecided

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials know where the dollars will come from but don't know how many dollars they will borrow to purchase a lot and house and make improvements to the town hall.

The loan that officials hope will relieve overcrowding in town hall was the major topic of discussion when commissioners met for nearly three hours last Thursday to continue a special meeting held March 19.

Although no vote has been taken, board members have agreed informally to borrow \$100,000 to purchase property at the corner of Brunswick Avenue and Davis Street. After voting March 1 to condemn the property, the board changed its mind a week later and decided to buy the lot and house from Lynda Thomas of Oakland, N.J. for \$100,000.

Beyond that, however, town officials haven't decided how much more money they will borrow to make improvements to town hall. Holden Beach plans to borrow from Southern National Leasing of Charlotte, the company that offered the low interest rate of 7.3 percent of the firms contacted.

While discussing town hall improvements last week, Mayor John Tandy said, "You must start with what you need, not what you'd like to have."

Town Manager Gus Ulrich said needs include more space for the police, public works and finance departments and a larger office for the manager. He estimated it would cost between \$30,000 and \$35,000 to relocate walls in the town hall and add two open bays to the garage area.

Commissioner Bob Buck, however, said the town also needs to up-

grade its fuel facility, fence in the storage area outside town hall and pave in front of the new bays. He estimated the town will spend at least \$50,000 making the improvements.

Before commissioners decide how much money they will borrow for town hall renovations, the town will pay \$425 to Brunswick Surveying of Holden Beach for a site plan of the town hall and three lots surrounding the town hall.

With the site plan in hand, Commissioner Buck will work with the town manager and public works director on a set of expansion plans.

On two occasions during last week's discussion, Mayor Tandy left the room to call the lending institution and clear up questions about the borrowing process. The town may take out two separate loans—one to purchase the Davis Street property and another for town hall improvements.

In any event, the town will need a close estimate of the total loan amount within the next few days for the loan to be approved at the N.C. Local Government Commission meeting April 3. The Local Government Commission must approve the loan before the town can borrow the money.

At its regular monthly meeting April 2, the town board will hold a

public hearing on plans to enter into an installment purchase contract to buy the Davis Street property and improve town hall. The meeting starts at 7 p.m.

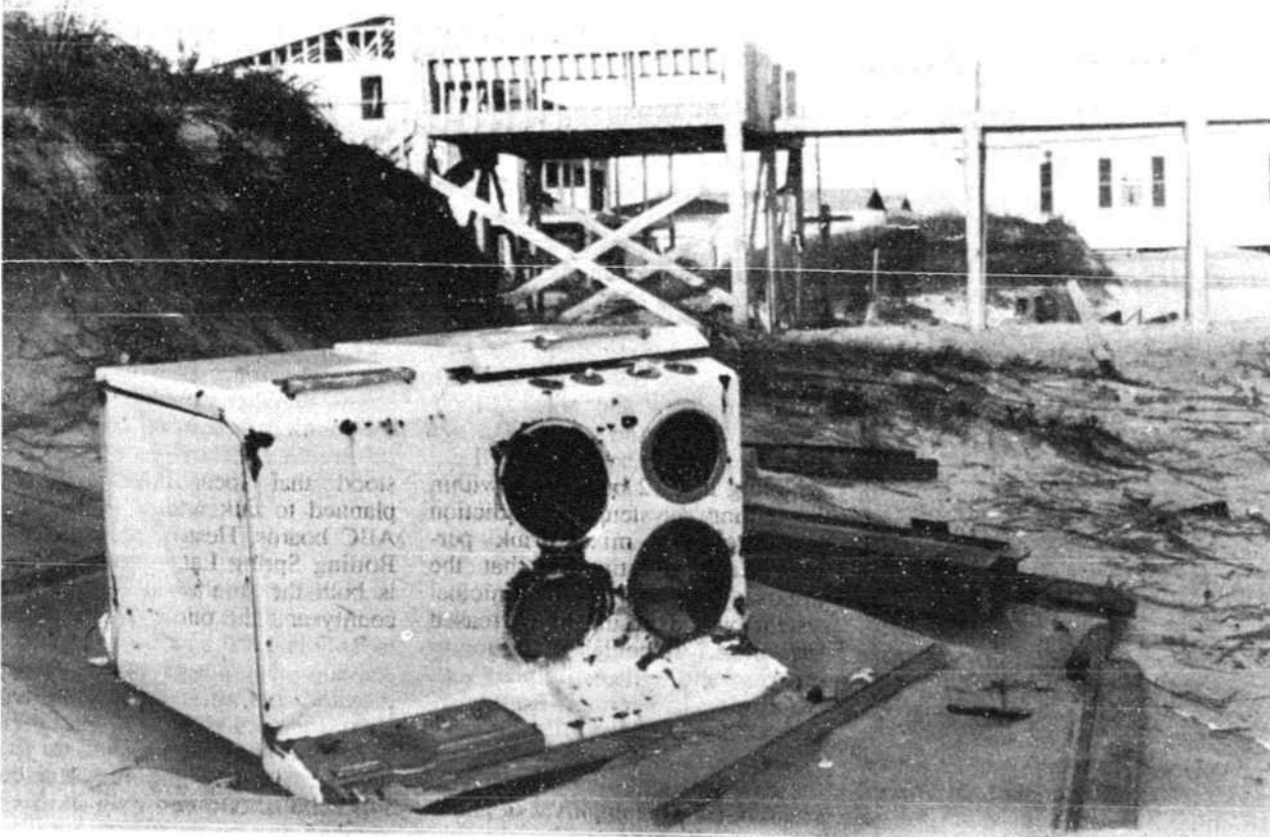
Other Business
In other business last week, commissioners:

—Asked the town manager to set up a special meeting in April with the town board and representatives from the utility companies burying lines on the island. Town officials want a report on the status of the ongoing project.

—Talked about several cases where people have built wooden walkways that do not cross the town's new oceanfront berm. Starting April 1, anyone who crosses the frontal dune or the new berm without using a walkway can be fined \$50.

—Received a budget calendar from the town manager. Commissioners should receive a proposed budget for fiscal year 1990-91 on May 7 and adopt a budget June 11.

—Talked about one spot on the island where the new berm is not as high as it is at other locations. The berm was apparently constructed lower in the vicinity of 1047 Ocean Blvd. West because the contractor had to work around two small cutages in that area, according to last week's discussion.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

HOLDEN BEACH OFFICIALS are cracking down on littered lots like this one on Ocean Boulevard West. The old stove and scrap lumber have been on the lot more than six months, since Hurricane Hugo swept across the state.

Holden Beach Cracking Down On Trashy Lots

BY DOUG RUTTER

Lots on Holden Beach covered with noxious weeds, trash or junk that threatens the health and safety of the public won't stay that way for long if town officials have their way.

The town mailed notices last week to 43 island property owners giving them 15 days in which to get their lots cleaned up. If they don't comply, the town will hire a contractor to clean up the lot and bill the property owner.

At least 10 more property owners will receive identical letters in the near future and more lots are being investigated, said Diane Clark, deputy town clerk.

Shortly after Hurricane Hugo last September, the town mailed notices to 23 property owners asking that storm-related debris be cleaned up. Some people responded to that request and others didn't.

In February, the town board adopted an ordinance giving the town the power to have lots cleaned up at the expense of the property owner.

The ordinance outlaws noxious weeds and grass over 12 inches high and lets the town do away with any conditions detrimental to the public health that violate county health department rules.

Also, the town can order lots with any accumulation of rubbish, trash, junk or animal or vegetable matter that may endanger public health to be cleaned up.

At a town meeting last Thursday, commissioners agreed that if the town is forced to clean up a lot and the bill for that clean-up isn't paid within 30 days, a lien will be placed on the property. If the bill still isn't paid after another 90 days, the town will start foreclosure proceedings.

Commissioners rejected the town

manager's proposal that town employees clean up the lots for \$25 an hour with the minimum charge being \$25.

Town board member Bob Buck recommended the town hire independent contractors to clean up lots. Referring to the proposal to charge \$25, he said, "They'll let you clean up every lot on this island for that price."

In related action last week, commissioners asked town staff to work on getting fences, shrubs, trash can bins and other items out of the right-of-way of every street in town.

Holden Beach started on the project last year as contractors working on the underground utilities project moved along Ocean Boulevard. Commissioners indicated they hope to see the right-of-way along every street can be cleared before the end of the year.



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EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FRIDAY

- 2:00-2:30 Fire Ant Control
- 3:00-3:30 Beach Planting After Hugo
- 4:00-4:30 Building A Brickwalk & Patio
- 5:00-5:30 Using Fresh Herbs
- 6:00-7:00 Tree Care In The Landscape
- 7:00-7:30 Disposal Of Household Hazardous Waste

SATURDAY

- 10:00-10:30 Plant Care After The Winter of 1989
- 11:00-11:30 Using Fresh Herbs
- 12:00-12:30 Brighten Your Landscape W/Color (Using Annuals and Perennials)
- 1:00-1:30 Plant Care After The Winter of 1989
- 2:00-2:30 Understanding Soil Samples
- 3:00-3:30 Care of Bedding Plants
- 4:00-4:30 Turf Fertilization
- 5:00-5:30 Pesticides In The Landscape-What Are The Risks?

SUNDAY

- 1:00-1:30 Building A Brickwalk & Patio
- 2:00-2:30 Fire Ant Control
- 2:30-3:00 Beach Planting After Hugo

SHOW EXHIBITORS

- Indigo Farms
- Milliken Home Center
- Williams Plantworks
- Seaworthy Systems
- Shelton's Herb Farm
- Simmons Rental Center
- Wintergreen Nursery
- Carolina Gardener
- Brunswick Agricultural Extension Service
- Shady Oak Garden & Gift
- Andy's Condo & Landscape Service
- Friendly Sales & Service For Plants Nursery
- Brunswick Turf, Inc. • Hughes Garden Center
- Phillips Nursery • Sand Box Greenhouse
- Bridgers Small Engines (Southport)
- Lowe's of Southport • Harrelson Farm and Garden
- Steve's Lawn Care • Monsanto
- Wonderful Wicker • Brunswick Storage Building Co.
- Garden Clubs of Long Bay, Sunset Sands & Oak Island Beautification

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