



STAFF PHOTO BY BRENDA CLEMMONS

IN THIS SCENE from the annual Shallotte Christmas parade, young girls packed the Dance Connection/Coastal Insurance Company float.

Calabash May Have To Change Plans To Get Sewer Service To Waterfront

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash officials this week received some good news and some bad news concerning a plan to extend sewer service to the waterfront.

The bad news is that they apparently have lost the available sewer treatment capacity they had requested from a private utility company. The good news is there may be another way to get sewer service to the waterfront.

Calabash Commissioners voted last month to request sewer service for the downtown waterfront area from Carolina Blythe Utilities, which already serves the Carolina Shores section of town.

Town officials said the utility had recently gained 66,000 gallons per day of treatment capacity because a subdivision it had been serving switched to a different company.

However, Building Inspector Ed Schaack said at Tuesday's town meeting that the sewage capacity the town had requested from Carolina Blythe was no longer available to the town.

Schaack said Brunswick County developer Odell Williamson has been promised the sewage capacity for a reported price of \$330,000, which is the same amount the town had expected to pay for it.

After hearing the news Tuesday, Commissioner Keith Hardee said Williamson might be trying to get back at the town board for the way it has treated him lately.

Earlier this year, the board of commissioners refused to endorse plans for a marina at Williamson's Ocean Harbour Golf Links property. Plans called for boat slips to extend farther into the Calabash River channel than is usually permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Also, Williamson was one of many area businessmen affected by the town's recent crackdown on violators of the sign ordinance. The developer had to take down several large signs promoting his Ocean Harbour golf course.

Mayor Doug Simmons speculated Tuesday that Williamson may use the sewer service to develop resi-

dential lots at Marsh Harbor Golf Links or along N.C. 179 near the South Carolina state line.

"You don't ever know about him," Simmons said. "He always thinks ahead of time, like he might live 50 more years. He might too."

But the news for Calabash leaders wasn't all bad Tuesday night. Schaack said town officials and area golf course developers are making progress in their effort to get state regulations relaxed so treated wastewater can be sprayed on golf courses.

If that is accomplished, sewage plants could handle more waste and Calabash officials could get sewer lines to the waterfront. Schaack said the town's original goal to get sewer service to the Calabash River in 18 months could still be reached.

Low Bid Accepted

In other business Tuesday, commissioners tentatively agreed to enter into a contract with Chambers of South Carolina for the disposal of garbage left at the dump site on Persimmon Road.

Town officials want a contract that requires the san-

itation contractor to provide four green boxes at the site and empty them three times per week.

The cost to the town will be \$109.75 per week, according to the bid opened Tuesday night. It was the lower of two bids received, and town officials said they were very pleased with the bids.

Brunswick County will continue to empty green boxes at the site through the end of January. Town officials want the contract with Chambers to start Feb. 1, 1991, and run through June 30, 1992.

Commissioners plan to hire somebody to staff the dump site. The person would keep it clean, help with an ongoing recycling program and prevent people who don't live in Calabash from dumping their trash in the green boxes.

Vehicle windshield stickers would be given to all town residents and used to identify people who are allowed to dump trash at the site.

Commissioners will not meet as scheduled Dec. 25 due to Christmas. The next regular meeting will be Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

Commissioners To Expect Policy From UOB Members

Large tracts of land along the routes of future water line extensions are causing headaches for the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board.

A committee of board members will study the best possible way to assess those landowners for future Special Assessment Districts (SAD). SADs are projects in which the property owners are assessed the cost of running water lines from main trunks into adjacent neighborhoods.

In the past, the county has been either assessing the property owners based on highway frontage or based on the square footage of the lot, whichever was determined to be fairer for both parties.

Without a specific policy, the board is often left floating when it comes to deciding who pays what to get county water.

Director of Public Utilities Jerry Webb will work with two members

of the board this week to try to draft that policy. Al Morrison of Sunset Beach and Robert Nubel of Boiling Spring Lakes will try to come up with a solution and present it at the next board meeting in January.

Webb said Monday he anticipates a problem of this kind will again surface in the planning of SAD 12, which is the next water extension project. Ten subdivisions between Ocean Isle and Calabash will be receiving water from SAD 12.

Two long and narrow lots that front N.C. 179 between Ocean Haven and Hester Subdivision measure 100 feet by 1,000 feet each. Board Attorney Michael Ramos said he doesn't think the lots can be subdivided because of their narrow width and state right of way requirements.

The question remains, do you assess such property owners based on the square footage of the lot or on

road frontage alone? Would that unfairly penalize the property owner for keeping just one residence on a large lot?

"We are going to be facing this same situation that we've faced before," Webb warned the board. "It depends on which way you want to go."

Brunswick County Commission Chairman Kelly Holden told the board Monday that commissioners will be expecting the UOB to make recommendations for setting that policy and for dealing with customers who live on the main trunk lines.

"I think we definitely need to look at that," Holden said. "Right now, the commissioners are going to be looking for you to bring these recommendations to us. We're tired of getting hammered at the public hearings that people on the trunk lines didn't have to pay. That's got

to stop."

Engineer Alan Lewis, of Jay Houston and Associates of Shallotte, told the board Monday that SADs 7 and 9, just off the Holden Beach causeway, are about 85 percent complete. They are scheduled for completion Feb. 14.

"We have about 10 weeks left," said Nubel. "If somebody's going to be delayed we're not talking about being delayed for a long period of time."

If contractors are late, they will be fined \$150 a day. Jay Houston told the board he didn't expect any delays.

Webb said the board has received a petition from residents in Shell Point who have requested that their community become the next SAD. Webb said he had been told that Shell Point residents are about 87 percent in favor of being assessed for county water.

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Answers To Your Questions about Common Vision Conditions

- Q. What is nearsightedness?**
A. Nearsightedness (or myopia as it is technically called) is a common vision condition in which a person sees close objects clearly but cannot see distant objects with the same clarity.

Q. What is farsightedness?
A. Farsightedness (technically called hyperopia) is a vision condition in which distant objects are usually seen clearly but close objects are not brought into proper focus.

Q. What is astigmatism?
A. Astigmatism is a common vision condition that occurs when the front surface (cornea) of the eye is slightly irregular in shape. This slight irregularity can result in vision being blurred at all distances.

Q. What is presbyopia?
A. Presbyopia is a vision condition that occurs when the crystalline lens of the eye gradually loses its ability to bring close objects into clear focus. It usually becomes noticeable when people reach their early-to-mid-forties and is a natural part of the aging process.

Q. How are these vision conditions treated?
A. Nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism and presbyopia are all treated by using eyeglasses, contact lenses, and in some cases, vision therapy to correct the vision problem.

Q. What is amblyopia?
A. Amblyopia is the unexplained loss or lack of full development of vision in one eye which is not fully correctable with lenses and is not the result of any identifiable eye health problem. The cause of amblyopia is usually due to conditions such as crossed-eyes or a large difference in refractive error between the two eyes.

Q. How is amblyopia treated?
A. In young children, patching the good eye may help the amblyopic eye to improve. In older children and adults, other vision therapy techniques may be used.

Q. What are crossed-eyes?
A. Strabismus, more commonly known as crossed-eyes, is a vision condition in which the eyes are not properly aligned with each other. One or both eyes may turn in (esotropia), out (exotropia), up (hyperopia), or down (hypotropia).

Q. How are crossed-eyes treated?
A. Treatment of crossed-eyes often includes the use of eyeglasses, prisms, and vision therapy. In extreme cases, surgery may be required.

Q. What is glaucoma?
A. Glaucoma is an eye disease in which the internal pressure of the eyeball rises to a point that the optic nerve becomes damaged. This damage can result in severe vision loss and even blindness.

Q. How is glaucoma treated?
A. Glaucoma can be effectively treated by the use of special eye drops or medicines that reduce the pressure within the eye. In some cases, surgery may be required.

Q. What are cataracts?
A. If the normally clear lens within the eye becomes cloudy, it is called a cataract. As the lens becomes cloudy, vision becomes cloudy and/or blurred.

Q. How are cataracts treated?
A. A cataract generally forms over a long period of time and it may be many years before vision is impaired to the extent that the cataract should be removed. Cataracts are removed during a relatively minor surgical procedure. Glasses, contact lenses, or surgically inserted intraocular lens implants can be used to help restore vision.
- In the interest of better vision from the office of:

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