

County Won't Let Court Delay New Water Authority Contract

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The agreement also requires that the authority secure a binding letter of intent from Cape Industries, on U.S. 421 outside of Wilmington, to purchase water from Brunswick County. Cape has agreed to pay \$900,000 in cash as a down payment to extend water lines to the plant, provided the remainder of the total \$3 million cost for that line is financed by the authority over a period of years.

The authority has also reached agreement with two other major water users, the city of Wilmington and Takeda Industries on U.S. 421. Wilmington must pay its share of the cost for water line extension at the moment water is made available to the city. Takeda is willing to pay \$1.8 million in cash to become a customer.

The extension of water lines to other water users represents Phase II of the water project, a plan that has fallen under the scrutiny of a Special Review Task Force organized by Brunswick County. In the fall of 1988, county commissioners asked that outside consultants study the county's partnership with the authority to make sure the county's interests were being protected.

Presently, Brunswick County is the authority's only customer. A 40-year contract signed with the authority indicated that as long as Brunswick County was the system's only customer the county's operation and maintenance costs would be \$1 per year. At any time the county was no longer the sole customer, the contract would be revised

to reflect the actual operation costs so those figures would be made a part of the rate structure.

Brunswick County was also given the authority to approve of all future customers. The authority had promised to negotiate a rate structure for raw water which takes into account that the county provided, through bonds, about half the cost of the pipeline system, Carlton said. Another \$7 million was obtained by the authority through grants from the N.C. Economic Development Administration.

"I think we've come a long way," said Commission Chairman Kelly Holden.

The system takes water from the Cape Fear River near King's Bluff in Bladen County and pumps it at a maximum capacity of 45 million gallons per day through 14 miles of pipeline to a three million gallon reservoir at the Brunswick County Northwest Water Plant near Malmo.

The county entered into a contract with the authority in August 1982. That contract was amended in August 1989 and the authority agreed to seek revenue bonds to help extend services to three new customers. The authority had negotiated contracts with Takeda, Cape Industries and the city of Wilmington by agreeing to terms on water line extensions, Carlton said.

"By negotiating those contracts," Carlton added, "what in effect happened is the authority initiated a differential rate structure. Each customer is paying for the cost in a way that meets the needs of the individual user. In effect, they can have their cake and eat it, too."



Change Of Command

Flotilla 10-08 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary had a change of command last Wednesday. Bert Cherry (center) was installed as the new flotilla commander. Also pictured (from left) are Stu South, auxiliaryist of the year; Joe Haspiel, division captain; Bill Utter, new vice commander; and Dale Putman, executive officer of the U.S. Coast Guard station at Oak Island.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RITTER

News, Advertising Deadlines Earlier During The Holidays

Because of the Christmas and New Year holidays, there will be earlier news and advertising deadlines for *The Brunswick Beacon's* issues of Dec. 27 and Jan. 3.

Routine news items should be submitted no later than Friday, Dec. 21 for the Dec. 27 edition, and no later than Friday, Dec. 28, for the Jan. 3 edition.

Real estate advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20 for the Dec. 27 edition, and 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27 for the issue of Jan. 3.

Classified and display advertising must be in by noon Monday, Dec. 24 for the Dec. 27 edition and by noon Monday, Dec. 31 for the Jan. 3 issue.

Both issues will be mailed on regular schedule and mail subscribers should receive their copies on the usual delivery day.

The *Beacon* office will be closed Dec. 25 and 26, and Jan. 1 for the holidays.

Wreck Kills Leland Man

A Leland man was killed early Saturday morning following a one-car accident near Navassa.

Steven Allan McNeill, 23, of Route 1, Leland, was traveling south on RPR 1430, Cedar Hill Road, in northern Brunswick County at a high rate of speed when he lost control of his car and ran off the road, State Trooper W.H. Thompson reported.

McNeill's 1980 Ford ran off the road and struck several trees while rounding a curve, Trooper Thompson stated.

He was taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Damage was estimated at \$1,500 to the McNeill vehicle. The accident occurred around 3 a.m.

The fatality was the 15th on Brunswick County highways this year, which exceeds the total of 14 people killed in traffic accidents throughout 1989.

Christmas Trees Can Be Recycled

Christmas trees can serve a purpose long after the twinkling lights have been removed and the holiday has passed.

Keep America Beautiful of Brunswick County and the Brunswick County Recyclers Association are collecting discarded Christmas trees. Trees can be dropped off at any Brunswick County recycling center.

The trees will be used to fight beach erosion and rebuild dunes on the county beaches.

For more information, call the Brunswick County Clean County Department at 754-5099.

School Board Adopts Budget

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Fallon estimates that the current fund balance is approximately \$890,000. About \$225,000 was taken from the fund balance to even out the revenues and expenses in this year's budget.

The total budget of \$40,145,908 includes a state public school fund of about \$24 million, \$7.6 million in the local current expense fund, \$2.1 million in the child nutrition fund and \$1.5 million in federal grants. The school system expects to receive \$6.8 million from the county this year.

Included in the budgeted expenses this fiscal year is \$22,725,005 for instructional programs and \$10,465,790 for support services.

The budget also features a \$4.6 million capital outlay fund. More than \$3.2 million of the fund has been earmarked for a new elementary school at Supply.

County school system officials plan to start construction of the K-5 school early next spring and have it completed by the summer of 1992. It will sit on about 40 acres of land off U.S. 17 at Supply.

Other capital expenses budgeted this year include \$403,000 for a

new cafeteria and classroom renovations at Southport Elementary School, \$80,000 for sewer plant improvements, \$80,000 for stadium bleachers at West Brunswick High School and \$60,000 for carpeting and fences at the schools.

In another matter Monday, the board voted unanimously to have employment contracts prepared for the school system's two assistant superintendents and for Superintendent P. R. Hankins to execute the contracts.

School board member Robert Stockett made the motion regarding the contracts following an hour-long executive session called to discuss personnel and attorney-client matters.

William C. Harrison, assistant superintendent of curriculum, and William R. Turner, assistant superintendent of operations, have been serving without contracts since June.

Stockett said their old contracts expired when the contract of former school superintendent John Kaufhold was not renewed. The new contracts will be the same as the old ones. Stockett said the contracts will be good for a two-year period retroactive to Oct. 1.

Warm Christmas Expected In Brunswick County

Above-average temperatures and near-normal rainfall are expected in the forecast for the Christmas period in the Shallotte area.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the area can expect temperatures to range from the lower 40s at night and in the lower 60s during the daytime, with about a half inch of rainfall.

"The outlook is for temperatures to run average to above normal" for Christmas, Canady said.

For the period Dec. 11-17, Canady recorded a maximum high of 70 degrees on both Dec. 12 and 14. The minimum low of 37 degrees was recorded on the morning of Dec. 12.

An average daily high of 65 degrees combined with an average low of 44 degrees for a daily average temperature of 54 degrees, or about six degrees above normal for this time of year, Canady said.

He recorded .05 inches of rainfall for the period.

Ocean Isle Realtor Cleared

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ance agencies, said Chuck Richards, media coordinator for the FBI office in Charlotte.

"This is a white collar criminal investigation," Richards said, where insurance funds were misused. He labeled it an "ongoing investigation."

The indictment describes allegations of fraud by the now-defunct Cap Staffing of Charlotte, a company that leased employees to more than 120 other firms. The company was to use fees paid by the firms to provide health insurance and other benefits to the workers. The indictment says the company's managers

used the funds themselves.

Ashcraft said incidents like the one involving Cooke are not uncommon. However, when owners can provide documentation to clear the property from the seizure list, "you can expect fairly quick action," he added.

Cooke said his share of the two Starboard condo units has been paid. The Ocean Isle realtor said Tuesday that he had retained an attorney in Charlotte to begin taking legal action against Blackwell for nonpayment on the units even before the indictments were handed down last week.

"We were trying to recoup what he owes me," Cooke said.

Happy Holidays!



from your full service glass company.

Shallotte Auto Glass & Mirror Co.

Red Bug Rd., Shallotte
754-9950/7916



Attention Brunswick County

As of January 1, 1991, The Brunswick Hospital will be a smoke-free facility. Smoking will not be permitted inside the hospital.

The Brunswick Hospital
An Affiliate of HEALTHTRUST INC. The Hospital Company

Hwy. 17, Supply • 754-8121

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
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SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28459

FOR YOURSELF OR FOR A CHRISTMAS GIFT

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RATES BY MAIL:		Sr. Citizen
In Brunswick County		
	□6.30	□5.30
N.C. Sales Tax	.32	.27
Postage Charge	3.68	3.68
TOTAL	10.30	9.25
Elsewhere in North Carolina		
	□6.30	□5.30
N.C. Sales Tax	.32	.27
Postage Charge	8.18	8.18
TOTAL	14.80	13.75
Outside North Carolina		
	□6.30	□5.30
Postage Charge	9.65	9.65
TOTAL	15.95	14.95

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PAVING CONTRACTORS
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We specialize in...

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- Cart Paths • Parking Lots • Streets
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Asphalt Plant—2 miles north of Shallotte on Hwy. 17

Our success is built on the good will of customers like you. Merry Christmas and thanks.

Pelican Building Center
Shallotte Lumber Company