

Slockett: Candidate's Reluctance To Deal Cost Her Superintendency

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick County Board of Education member Robert Slockett says a finalist for county superintendent of schools didn't get the job because she would not promise to hire former board Chairman Dot Worth's husband.

Furthermore, he also questions whether the board followed its own stated procedures in hiring a superintendent to fill the vacancy created by the firing of John A. Kaufhold. While other incomplete applications were rejected, Acting Superintendent P. R. Hankins' application was accepted though required transcripts were not included.

Slockett claims Barbara Rogers, principal of East Wake High School near Raleigh, lost Mrs. Worth's swing vote, and therefore the post, because she wouldn't promise to fire Assistant Superintendent Bill Turner and hire Randy Worth in his place.

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Worth returned The Brunswick Beacon's phone calls Monday. However, Randy Worth has publicly denied the assertion.

Meanwhile, the school board has not acted in regard to Slockett's claim, on the recommendation of its attorney.

"Mr. Slockett is the only person we have heard from," said Donna Baxter, current chairman of the board. "It has not been addressed by the board because it has not been brought to the board (by the party involved)."

Slockett's explanation: "They (Mr. and Mrs. Rogers) have filed an informal complaint in the news. They hope the board will address the matter as a result of that."

Mr. and Mrs. Rogers are Brun-

wick County property owners, having owned a home at Long Beach for seven years.

Slockett said Mrs. Rogers told him she was "shocked" to learn she was not selected as superintendent. "They both (Mr. and Mrs. Rogers) felt there was something wrong in the way it was handled."

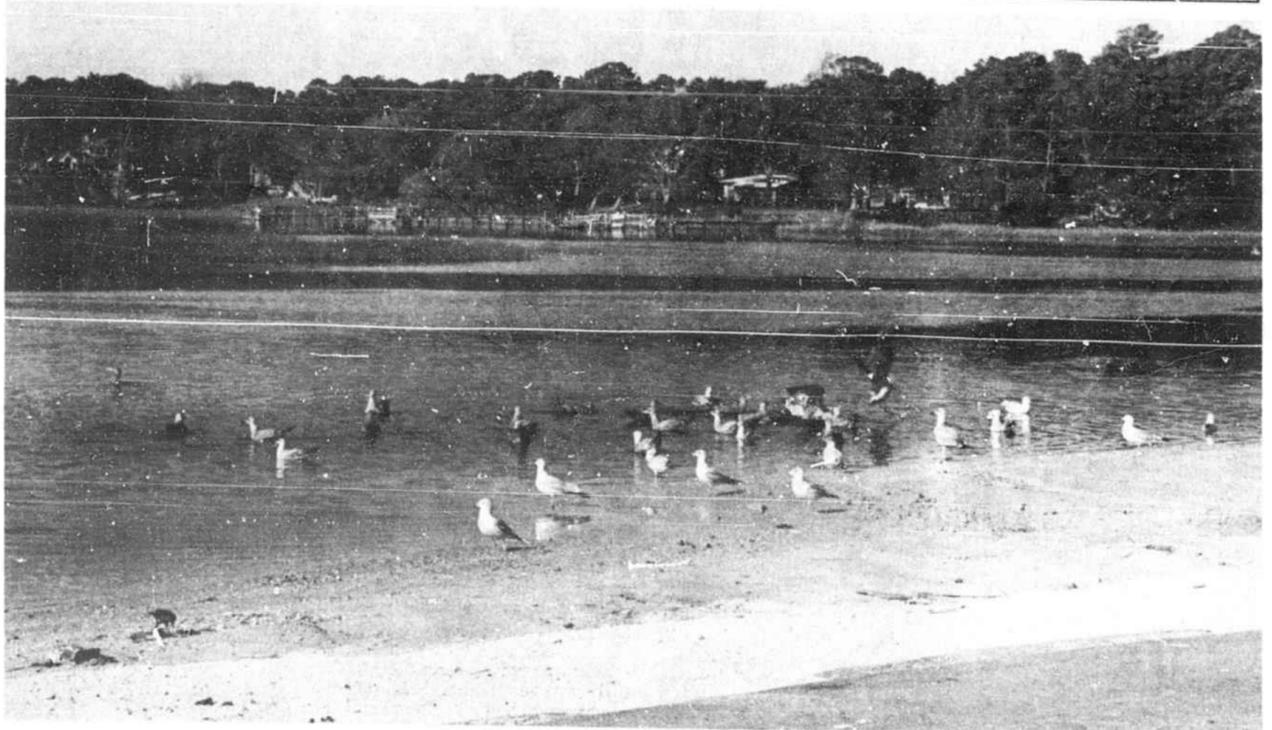
As late as the night the vote was taken, he said she had been assured of having Mrs. Worth's vote. That night, he said Worth asked for extra time during the Sept. 10 executive session to call advisors that included her husband.

Members Donna Baxter and Slockett also supported Rogers for the post. However, after Mrs. Worth's vote gave Hankins the majority needed, Ms. Baxter changed her vote in open session for the sake of board unanimity. Only Slockett voted for Mrs. Rogers.

At the board's Sept. 1 meeting, a majority of members had expressed a readiness to vote on the superintendency. But, after an executive session during which questions were raised regarding an incident in Ms. Rogers' background, the vote was delayed until members could interview the four finalists for a second time on Sept. 10.

At that meeting the board noted that Mrs. Rogers had been suspended from a Wake County post because of a conflict of interest. The school had purchased more than \$4,000 of remedial math materials developed by Mrs. Rogers and sold by a company in which she had an interest.

Monday, Ken Rogers, speaking on behalf of his wife, said he or Slockett plan to ask the Brunswick (See SLOCKETT, Page 2-A)



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Not For Fishermen Only

This unofficial boat landing on the Sunset Beach causeway draws not only recreational and commercial fishermen, but a variety of gulls and seabirds as well.

TAX PAYMENT DEADLINE MONDAY

CP&L Again Leads County Taxpayers' List

BY TERRY POPE

The names are the same but the order has slightly shifted for Brunswick County's "Top 10 Taxpayers" list for 1990.

According to the county tax administration office, there were no new additions to the top 10 list of county property owners in 1990. The list is dominated by businesses and corporations except for one individual, Ocean Isle Beach developer Odell Williamson, who maintained his number six spot on the list again this year.

Once again, Carolina Power and Light Co., with its Brunswick nuclear plant in Southport, heads the list of taxpayers.

Property tax bills state that payments are due Saturday, Jan. 5; however, the actual deadline for paying 1990 taxes is Monday, said Tax Collector Nancy Moore. The office will be closed Saturday.

"Property owners have been given through the 7th since the 5th falls on a Saturday this year," Ms. Moore said. "On the 8th they will owe a penalty."

Payments mailed must be postmarked by the post office on or before Jan. 7. Metered mail received by the office after closing Monday will be subject to the 2 percent penalty.

Business was brisk at the tax office last week. The period following Christmas is the busiest time of the year for the tax collection department. The tax department also mailed 1991 tax listings to property owners Monday. Residents should receive their listing forms in the mail this week and have until Jan. 31 to list personal property subject to taxes.

"We've been pretty steady," Ms. Moore said last Thursday. "The lobby's been full about all morning."

10 Largest Taxpayers For '90

PROPERTY OWNERS	VALUATION	TAX AMOUNT
Carolina Power & Light Co.	\$619,257,210	\$4,485,119.68
E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.	230,829,913	1,581,184.91
N.C. Eastern Municipal Power	196,553,403	1,425,012.17
Pfizer Inc.	56,014,756	406,107.00
Cogentrix	37,634,611	272,850.93
Odell Williamson	39,437,855	189,707.91
Federal Paper Co.	24,626,568	168,458.75
International Paper Co.	23,340,769	158,473.19
Bald Head Limited	21,129,561	153,189.39
Brunswick Electric Membership	20,051,138	138,926.80

SOURCE: BRUNSWICK COUNTY TAX ADMINISTRATION

A drop slot installed in the office lobby at the government complex in Bolivia has helped cut down the long lines and has speeded up tax collections for persons who wish to pay their taxes in person.

Collections are running ahead of last year's pace, too, Ms. Moore said.

"As of Dec. 20 we had collected about 31 percent, or about 3 percent higher than last year," she said.

Annually, about 85 percent of Brunswick County taxpayers pay before the deadline each year. About 15 percent of property owners end up paying a penalty, which increases to 2 3/4 percent in February. The penalty will increase by three fourths percent each month thereafter. The names of delinquent taxpayers are usually published in local newspapers in April.

Approximately 92,326 tax statements were mailed to Brunswick County property owners last July. Those tax bills were a bit higher than in previous years due to a 9-cent increase in tax rates. In June, county commissioners raised the county tax rate to 68.5 cents per \$100 of property value, from a 59.5-cent tax rate in 1989. The 1990

county tax base stands at \$4.27 billion.

At \$619.2 million, CP&L's 1990 valuation dropped by about \$175 million from its 1989 level. The company's tax bill this year dropped by about \$600,000, from \$5.04 million in 1989 to \$4.48 million this year.

Tax Administrator Boyd Williamson said the drop in values by the three public utility companies on the list is due to a scheduled adjustment for public utilities.

By state law, in every first, fourth and seventh year of valuation public utility companies qualify for adjustments based on the percentage of the true market value the county is assessing its property owners. In 1990, Williamson said, the county assessed the utilities 71.5% of the true market value of their property.

Released last week by the tax office, the 1990 Top 10 list also includes: CP&L; E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., a manufacturer of polyester fiber in Leland; the N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency, a consortium of municipalities which owns part of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant's production capacity; Pfizer Inc., a citric acid producer in Southport which sold its plant to Archer-

Daniels-Midland Company of Illinois last month; Cogentrix, a cogeneration plant that sells processed steam to Pfizer and uses surplus steam to make electricity for sale to CP&L; Odell Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach; Federal Paper Board Co., a timber producer; International Paper Co., a timber producer; Bald Head Limited, a Bald Head Island development company; and local power cooperative Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation (BEMC).

The top 10 taxpayers account for approximately \$1.26 billion in property values and \$8.97 million in tax payments, or more than a third of the county's tax base.

The current top 10 list includes some changes from 1989. DuPont moved from third to second as its valuation increased by about \$2 million. The N.C. Eastern Municipal Power Agency slipped to third as its value dropped by about \$32 million. The increase in the county's tax rate is responsible for the increase in taxes owed by individuals and private corporations, Williamson said.

Pfizer, Cogentrix and Odell Williamson held their middle positions while the bottom four companies switched places. Federal Paper moved from ninth to seventh, International Paper moved from 10th to eighth, Bald Head Limited slipped from seventh to ninth and BEMC slipped from eighth to 10th.

Cogentrix will pay more taxes, even though the property valuation is lower than Williamson at number six, because of additional Smithville District taxes for the Doshier Memorial Hospital.

Tax payments for others on the top 10 list also reflect any hospital taxes for which they are responsible.

Municipal Leaders Share Goals For 1991

BY DOUG RUTTER

Municipal leaders in the South Brunswick Islands have a wide variety of goals for their communities in the year ahead.

Based on New Year's Eve interviews, plans for 1991 range from expanding the town boundaries in one community to fixing up a place to run town business in another.

SHALLOTTE

The newest mayor in the South Brunswick Islands said she doesn't have a lot of big changes planned for 1991.

Shalotte Mayor Sarah Tripp, who was appointed in November to take the place

of outgoing mayor Jerry Jones, said she will do her best this year to serve her community.

"I just hope the best for the town," she said. "I hope the residents will feel free to call me and the aldermen and attend our meetings."

SUNSET BEACH

Sunset Beach Mayor Mason Barber has a lot more on his mind going into the new year—including the split in the community over the proposed high-rise bridge to the island.

Barber said he hopes to pull the people who have opposing views on the bridge together in 1991. "We've got a real disagreement between the permanent residents and the seasonal residents," he said.

Also this year, Barber said the town council needs to concentrate on its community facilities plan, which was completed in the summer of 1990 but never discussed.

And although the town council recently annexed golf course and commercial property at Seaside, the mayor said more annexation will be discussed over the next 12 months.

Barber said the town council is ready to consider annexation of more areas including the con-

miniums at Oyster Bay Plantation and the residential areas known as Sugar Sands, Shoreline Woods and the old Sea Trail development.

CALABASH

Down the road in Calabash, goals for 1991 include getting new ordinances in place, figuring out how they will be enforced and getting sewer service to the waterfront.

Mayor Pro tem George Anderson said building a spirit of cooperation

in town will be important in the coming year if the town board is to accomplish its goals. "I still think this town's going to work," he said. "It's going to take a lot of cooperation by a lot of different people."

Calabash Mayor Doug Simmons was hunting Monday and could not be reached for comment.

OCEAN ISLE BEACH

Planning for expansion of the town sewer system will be a top priority in 1991 for officials at Ocean Isle Beach.

Mayor Betty Williamson said the town board will plan for the extension of sewer service to the east end of the island, where dwellings still depend on septic tanks for sewage treatment.

Also this year, Mrs. Williamson said town residents will continue to see progress on a project to put all power, telephone and cable television lines underground.

The mayor said town officials will continue to push for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study of Shalotte Inlet. She said dredging the inlet would help the economy of the entire area and is needed to ensure healthy fishing and tourism industries.

VARNAMTOWN

Varnamtown Mayor Judy Galloway said the biggest objective for the new year is to get the town hall in order.

The town board recently bought a



TRIPP



ANDERSON



BARBER



WILLIAMSON

Money Woes, Redistricting To Dominate 'Tough' 1991 State Legislative Session

BY SUSAN USHER

State budget-slashing and electoral redistricting are expected to make the 1991 session of the North Carolina General Assembly one of the toughest yet, says Rep. David Redwine.

"Legislative staff members say it is going to be the toughest since the Great Depression because of the money or lack thereof," said Redwine, a Brunswick County native who first took office in 1983. In private life, the Seaside area resident is involved in an insurance and real estate business.

House appointments for the next term have not been made, but he has asked to serve on the appropriations committee again and on the

"We can no longer afford to be sugar daddy to everybody."

—Rep. David Redwine
 On state budget woes



redistricting committee. Redwine has told Dan Blue that he is willing to do whatever the Speaker-elect would like for him to do.

Redwine made a bid during the December Democrat caucus for the speaker pro-tem post this term, but lacking two votes, withdrew from

the race, he said.

Redwine has received few requests for local legislation to date. Key among those he has received is a resolution asking him to re-establish two-year terms for county commissioners. The Brunswick County Democratic Party adopted the reso-

lution at its last convention, and Republicans are expected to consider the measure at their convention this spring. So far, said Redwine, support for the proposed change has been strong and bipartisan.

He has not been approached with any formal request to change the way school board members are elected. Redwine said he has received some informal comment supporting non-partisan school board elections.

Money Woes Top List

When the legislator convenes in Raleigh on Jan. 30, it must deal with an expected \$250 million shortfall in funds for the current year, plus a projected \$1 billion-plus shortfall for the next two-year (See MONEY, Page 2-A)