

Holden Hires Company To Dispose Of Shrubs

Holden Beach has hired a local contractor to get rid of hundreds of dead wax myrtle bushes on the island at the expense of property owners. Town commissioners Monday hired Grissett's Landscaping of Supply to get rid of the dead bushes, which cover all or part of 103 lots on Holden Beach.

The shrubs were killed in September 1989 during Hurricane Hugo when salt water washed over the dunes. Officials want to get rid of the shrubs because they are worried the plants could create a fire and health hazard.

Town Manager Blake Proctor said Grissett's Landscaping had the lowest of the three bids that met town specifications. Bushes within 100 feet of any structure will be cut off at ground level and hauled away.

Property owners who have dead bushes on their land can dispose of them on their own or allow the contractor hired by the town to get rid of them. Either way, the property owners will have to pay for the work.

Under the agreement reached with Grissett's Landscaping, the cost for each lot will depend on how much of the lot is filled with dead bushes. The cost will range from \$125 for a lot full of dead shrubs to \$10 for a lot with only 25 percent coverage.

Proctor said letters will be mailed to people who have dead bushes on their property informing them of their options.

In a letter to the town last fall, Thomas Padgett of the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission recommended that the shrubs be cut down with chain saws. He pointed out that it would be hazardous to burn them.

The biologist wrote that removing the dead shrubs would have a minimal impact on wildlife if the work is done before April. Any work after that time would have an impact on nesting birds and mammals that use the areas for habitat.

BEACH GRASS APPROVED

Board OKs Sand Saver Test

Holden Beach officials will allow a small company based in Ohio to use the local beach to test a device designed to stop and reverse the loss of sand dunes.

Saying they have nothing to lose, town commissioners voted Monday night to allow Sand Savers Inc. of Bluffton, Ohio, to try out their contraption on the shores of Holden Beach.

Town Manager Blake Proctor said a representative of the company, William A. Mumaugh, asked that the firm be allowed to experiment with the patented device at no cost to the town.

"There's room up there at the east end to do a lot of experimenting," said Commissioner Kenner Amos, referring to continuing erosion problems in that area of the island.

Proctor said the eight-foot-long device made from recycled plastic is stuck in the beach near the high tide line. It has veins that open when water washes over them and close to trap sand when the water washes back.

"We're willing to try anything to save the island," Mayor John Tandy said.

In another matter relating to the beach, commissioners voted 4-1 Monday to spend up to \$720 to

plant beach grass atop an 800-foot stretch of dune near the west end of the island.

Grass will be planted on the frontal dune between 1049 and 1079 Ocean Boulevard West. The town planted beach grass in that area early last year, but it was pulled up when the town went back later to build the dune higher.

Commissioner Gay Atkins voted against the motion to replace the grass. She said there are other sections of beach that need the grass just as badly as the section targeted for improvement. She argued that it should be up to the homeowners to buy beach grass.

However, other town board members said the original grass died because of a town mistake, not as a result of erosion. They said the town board has to treat everyone fairly.

While Holden Beach is collecting discarded Christmas trees at its recycling station for use at other beaches, the town is not certain it will be allowed by the N.C. Office of Coastal Management to use the trees along its own dune line because of its closeness to the water. If not, the town would be the only beach community in the county not using the trees to rebuild dunes.

Calabash Begins Formal Process Of Annexation

Calabash officials have taken the first step in the formal annexation process just in case state representatives don't grant their request to expand the town limits through legislation.

Town commissioners adopted a resolution of consideration Tuesday night to annex land stretching from the Calabash River and South Carolina state line to U.S. 17 and N.C. 904.

The resolution of consideration must be on record for at least one year before the town can take the next step toward annexation.

If it gets that far, the next step would be a resolution of intent. The large area in the first resolution would be narrowed down to include only areas that qualify for annexation under state statute.

Town Clerk Janet Thomas said Tuesday that a previous town board adopted the same resolution of consideration in March 1988. However, it expired in March 1990 without the town taking any further action.

Since the resolution expired, Mrs. Thomas said the town had to start the process from scratch in order to bring any land into the town limits through the involuntary annexation process.

Commissioner Stu Thom suggested starting the formal annexation process in case State Rep. David Redwine and State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. don't honor the town's request to bring several areas into town through a state act.

Town officials made the request in hopes of filling some unincorporated pockets in the town boundaries that were created when the old town of Calabash merged with the Carolina Shores golf community in 1989.

So far, the state representatives have not indicated whether they will support Calabash's request. However, Redwine said earlier he would prefer the areas be brought into the town limits through the normal an-

nexation process if it can be done that way.

In other business Tuesday, commissioners authorized Mayor Doug Simmons to sign a contract with Chambers of South Carolina for sanitation service. The contract calls for the company to unload dumpsters at the Persimmon Road dump site starting Feb. 1.

Chambers will provide four green boxes at the site and empty them three times per week at a cost of \$109.75 per week. The town plans to hire someone to staff the dump site and recycling center.

Vehicle stickers that will be required for dumping trash at the site starting in February can be picked up at the town hall Jan. 25 through Feb. 2.

Expect Near-Normal Weather

Temperatures across the South Brunswick Islands are expected to return to near normal after reaching a high of 75 Monday.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said he anticipates near-normal temperature and rainfall over the next few days. Temperatures should average from the mid-30s at night into the mid-50s during the daytime, with about a half-inch of rainfall.

For the period Jan. 1-7 he recorded a high of 75 on the 7th and a minimum low of 40 on the 6th.

An average daily high of 60 and an average nightly low of 44 combined for a daily average temperature of 52 degrees, which Canady said was about six degrees above average for this time of year.

He recorded .55 inch of rainfall, which is about normal.

Commissioners Vote To Change Speed Limits

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners voted Monday to raise the speed limit on all town-owned streets, but to reduce the speed limit along a section of Ocean Boulevard West.

Despite some objections from the public, the speed limit for town streets was changed from 20 mph to 25 mph.

The town board also voted to change the limit on Ocean Boulevard west of the Holden Beach Fishing Pier, which is 35 mph during the tourist season and 45 mph the rest of the year.

Commissioners voted to set a year-round speed limit of 35 mph along the entire length of Ocean Boulevard, subject to the approval of the N.C. Department of Transportation. The state owns the street.

Most of the objection to the higher speed limit came from residents of Brunswick Avenue, the longest town-owned street on the island.

They said they are worried about safety of pedestrians and claimed that the 20 mph speed limit had not been enforced.

Residents also said motorists will be able to drive up to 34 mph with a 25 mph speed limit without being ticketed and convicted.

Commissioner Judy Bryan said the state police told her speeding charges don't hold up in court unless the driver is caught exceeding the limit by at least 9 mph.

As part of his motion to change the speed limits, Commissioner Bob Buck called on the police department to use all of the resources it has available to enforce the limit.

Taking a suggestion from the audience, Buck also said the town

should get street signs saying the speed limit is strictly enforced. "It'll intimidate the honest folks," he said.

Although board members approved the speed limit changes, they weren't very receptive to a plan to let police officers issue warning tickets to speeders.

Buck suggested giving policemen the discretion to issue warning tickets in marginal cases, where motorists drive five to eight miles per hour over the limit.

He suggested that warning tickets be used for visitors, not to favor residents or local business people. Warning tickets would be an effective way to enforce the speed limit for 95 percent of the visitors, Buck said.

A couple of residents seated in the audience said giving warning tickets to visitors and not others would be selective enforcement. They said everyone should be treated the same.

Commissioner Bryan and other board members also opposed the plan. She said town police officers have been issuing speeding tickets and drivers are starting to slow down on the island.

Town Manager Blake Proctor said town police officers already have the discretion to warn motorists if they don't want to issue a speeding ticket. Officers just don't have printed warning tickets.

Rules Are Unchanged

A controversial ordinance regulating outside lights at Holden Beach was kicked back and forth Monday night but when the dust settled, the town board decided to make no changes.

Meeting Set About Manager

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The N.C. Open Meetings Law requires that meetings called on less than 48 hours' notice be of an "emergency nature." However, Tandy said the town board wanted to resolve as quickly as

possible "the personnel problem it had got into" during the earlier session. Because of the nature of the matter, he said he preferred to have all board members present.

Several members had left town Tuesday afternoon, but were expected back Wednesday. Commissioner Kenner Amos, who is undergoing a treatment in High Point, was not expected back for the meeting.

Proctor began work as town manager Aug. 6. Selected from among 65 applicants, he had seven prior years of experience in municipal gov-

ernment administration. He has an employment contract with the town that ends June 30, 1993. However, the board retains in the contract the right to dismiss the manager at any time.

Proctor succeeds Gus Ulrich as town manager. Ulrich resigned last July after serving as town manager for less than a year, citing personal reasons.

Ulrich was Holden Beach's first town manager following a vote by residents in May 1989 to switch from a mayor/council to council/manager form of town government.

Seaside Solid Waste Station To Replace Green Box Sites

BY TERRY POPE

A new waste disposal site on N.C. 904 near Seaside will be the first noticeable change in the county's attempt to do away with many of its 67 green box sites.

Brunswick County Engineer Robert Tucker believes that building mini-transfer stations like the one planned for the Seaside area can do away with many of its front loading dumpsters that create an eyesore when they become overloaded.

Tucker addressed Brunswick County Commissioners Monday with his outline to reorganize the county's solid waste collection system. The board agreed with Tucker's plans and voted unanimously to contract work on an \$80,000 green box site on N.C. 904. The land has already been purchased by the county.

The mini-transfer stations will have roll off carts with packers rather than the drop in green dumpsters. The county will eventually have to phase out most of its front loading trucks, replacing them with roll off trucks.

Each mini-transfer station will be staffed by a county landfill employee.

Another station will be constructed later on N.C. 211 between Midway Road and Southport. A third station is scheduled for construction this year in the Winnabow area. Land has not been purchased for that site. The county has budgeted \$80,000 for construction of each of the three sites in the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Tucker said once a contract is signed, the Seaside station would be completed within 90 days, or near budget time in June.

"I believe that we could take a person and assign him full time to that site," Tucker said. "We could keep it a lot cleaner by having someone there full time. They could also separate the items."

Tucker said about nine green box sites in the

Seaside and Ocean Isle Beach area could be eliminated. Persons may have to drive a little further to dispose of their trash but would not have to worry about the green boxes always being full.

Green boxes would still be maintained by the county for non-public uses. Those would include boxes at 11 county schools, parks and Brunswick Community College sites in Supply and Southport.

Tucker said a study he did comparing the solid waste department budget with the amount of waste collected at green box sites brought about the need for reform. It costs more to maintain green box sites than transfer stations, and most of the county's garbage is collected at transfer stations.

According to Tucker's findings, 26 percent of the county's solid waste is collected at transfer stations and 13 percent at green boxes. The Sea Trail and Oxpen Road sites are the busiest, accounting for 18 percent of the waste going into the county landfill in Supply.

According to the solid waste budget, 30 percent of the funds are used to maintain the county's three transfer stations at Ocean Isle, Leland and Southport; 31 percent to the Sea Trail and Oxpen Road stations; and 33 percent to all other green box sites.

"With little or no modification, these new sites can be upgraded so that we can cut down on the number of green box sites," Tucker said.

Last month, commissioners ordered that landfill employees clean up the county green box sites. Trash, debris and appliances were being dumped in and outside of the dumpsters creating an eyesore.

"I'd like to thank the commissioners for having the green boxes cleaned up," said Thomas Yeagle of Sunset Harbor.

Yeagle told the board that the green box sites

looked better than they have in 10 years.

Solid Waste Supervisor Leo Hewett told commissioners Monday that his department could not afford to lose a person to staff the new Seaside station once it is completed. Commissioners agreed to consider, at budget time in June, possibly hiring men to staff the new mini-transfer stations.

Other Business

In other business Monday, the commissioners:
 ■ Gave final contract approval for the \$160,000 Brunswick County Jail expansion project at the county complex in Bolivia. Tucker told the board that all requirements had been met to close out the project.

■ Set a breakfast to discuss legislative issues with State Rep. David Redwine and State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. for Jan. 18 at 8:30 a.m. Commission Chairman Kelly Holden said the board will informally discuss issues that affect the county before the N.C. General Assembly convenes.

■ Welcomed 1991 Miss Brunswick County Lisa Young, who thanked the county for its continuing support of the scholarship pageant.

■ Denied a request from the Brunswick Interagency Transportation System Board, which had asked for a \$20 per diem for meetings.

■ Accepted bids for three trucks from Jones Ford of Shallotte: a 3/4 ton truck, \$16,797; a one ton flat bed, \$20,059; and a one ton truck, \$17,859. The trucks, budgeted for 1990-91, will be used by the county parks and maintenance departments.

■ Accepted bids for 12 sheriff's department patrol cars from Ocean City Chevrolet of Bolivia. Each vehicle will cost \$14,500.37. It was the second call for bids. Both times, only Ocean City submitted the county a bid.

■ Accepted a deed of dedication from Village Point Estates in Shallotte for its water system.

Shallotte Firm Picked To Design Water Lines

Jay Houston and Associates, a Shallotte engineering firm, has been hired by the county to design Phases III and III-A of the Brunswick County water expansion project.

The 1991 expansion projects will route a new trunk line down the U.S. 17 bypass of Shallotte to the Seaside area and lines to the Shallotte Point community. Shallotte Point residents have been asking the county for water for years.

Seventeen engineering firms responded to the county's advertisement seeking a firm with experience in designing water systems. Of those 17, nine were invited to submit proposals, said Interim County Manager David Clegg.

Five firms were chosen for interviews in late December, Clegg said. Those five names were submitted to Brunswick County Commissioners Monday night.

Commissioner Donald Shaw's motion to hire Houston and Associates passed 3-2, with Shaw, Chairman Kelly Holden and Vice Chairman Jerry Jones voting for the Shallotte firm.

Commissioners Gene Pinkerton and Frankie Rabon voted for Ken Dresser and Associates of Wrightsville Beach. Other firms under consideration were Peirson and Whitman of Raleigh, The Wooten Company of Raleigh, and McKim and Creed of Wilmington.

Houston and Associates has been a consulting engineering firm for the county, designing a number of water line extension projects to Special Assessment Districts (SADs), subdivisions where property owners are assessed the cost of running water lines into the developments off of adjacent trunk lines. The firm is presently designing SAD 12A,

which will serve 10 subdivisions between Ocean Isle and Calabash.

Rabon said he would like to see a copy of the proposals from all five engineering firms placed under consideration.

"Has anybody seen the firms' quotes?" Rabon asked.

Clegg responded that the engineering firm chosen would have to negotiate a contract with the county.

"It's not my job to recommend a specific firm," Clegg said.

Phase III of the water extension project will carry a main line from the Shallotte water plant down U.S. 17 and down N.C. 904 at Grissetown to the Seaside area. Growth in the Sunset Beach and Calabash area requires that another main trunk line be installed to help the main line now located on N.C. 179.

Clegg said the project might also

include the design of an elevated water tank on N.C. 904 near Old Georgetown Road, if engineers feel one is needed.

Phase III-A would route water lines from N.C. 179 to the Shallotte Point community, an area plagued by harsh water. That community should be getting water by the end of 1991.

The projects will be financed through the county's bond funds, Clegg said. Water line assessments will help pay back the bonds.

According to a study prepared for the county last year, William Daniels and Associates of Cary estimate the 1991 Phase III project will cost an estimated \$3.8 million, not including land acquisition or legal costs. The elevated water tank would also be additional. The study did not address Phase III-A, the line to Shallotte Point.