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FISHING BOATS line the waterfront at Calabash, one of five communities chosen for the N.C. Coastal Initiative program. Southport also has been selected for extra attention from the state.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

## Calabash, Southport Picked For N. C. Coastal Initiative

BY DOUG RUTTER

Two local waterfront communities, Calabash and Southport, have been chosen to take part in the N.C. Coastal Initiative, a program that encourages environmentally-sensitive development along the coast.

The local towns are among five communities selected by the governor for inclusion. The Coastal Initiative program is intended to boost protection of ecologically-important waters while promoting boating and stimulating waterfront investment in towns and villages.

Communities applied for the latest round of designations last summer, and members of the Coastal Initiative Blue Ribbon Commission visited and evaluated the towns last fall. Gov. Jim Martin made the final selections, which were announced Tuesday.

Calabash and Southport officials were pleased with the news and said they are looking forward to working with state officials who will lend special assistance to help the towns with various projects.

Towns chosen for the Coastal Initiative receive assistance through six departments of state government: Environment, Health and Natural Resources; Economic and Community Development; Administration; Transportation; Human Resources; and Cultural Resources.

The communities receive special technical help on economic development and environmental questions. A team of experts will be available to help the towns refine projects and locate the resources needed to get them started.

"I think it's a tremendous opportunity to be able to work with experts," Calabash Planning and Zoning Board Chairman Warren "Bud" Knapp said. "If ever there is a need for direction and guidance, it's in these areas that the people in government have expertise."

Knapp said the town needs guidance and assistance from state officials to achieve its goals. They include dredging the Calabash River and rehabilitating the waterfront to better meet the needs of residents and tourists.

When Coastal Initiative Commission members visited Calabash in November, town officials talked about plans to form an historical society and merchants association.

Southport Alderman Mary Louise "Meezie" Childs said she was pleasantly surprised by the designation. "That's real pleasing," she said. "I think it's nice to be recognized when you're trying to improve."

City Manager Rob Hites said officials are working to redevelop the entire city, including downtown and waterfront areas and the Howe Street access area. An urban design team from the American Institute of Architects will come to town next month to develop a master plan for Southport, he said.

Also, Hites pointed out that a public/private corporation known as "Southport 2000" has formed to promote the city's image and businesses and focus more attention on Southport. The organization is getting ready for the community's 200th anniversary celebration in November 1992.

Hites added that a non-profit group is working

with the town to develop plans for a maritime museum. The idea of the museum is to increase Southport's attractiveness as a tourist destination and stopping point for visitors driving to and from the Southport-Oak Island Ferry and area beaches.

Besides the two local towns, Hertford, Elizabeth City and Morehead City also were chosen for the program.

These five communities named by the governor join five pilot communities selected for the program in September 1988. Areas previously chosen are Edenton, Plymouth, Swansboro, Hyde County/Swan Quarter and Tyrrell County/Columbia.

Lorraine Shinn, regional manager for the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources in Washington, N.C., and staff coordinator for Coastal Initiative, said some of the pilot communities have successfully taken advantage of the designation.

"We've managed to accomplish some good things there, and we're hoping to do the same with these new communities," she said. "We hope with the new five selected we can make some good things happen."

Mrs. Shinn said the success of the program in Calabash and Southport will depend to a large extent on the willingness of people in those communities to take initiative and get involved.

The program will work in a community that has an active governing board, merchants association, historic society and chamber of commerce, Mrs. Shinn said.

### PROCTOR FORCED TO RESIGN

## Holden Commissioners Hire Interim Manager

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Commissioners Monday named Deputy Town Clerk Diane Clark as interim town manager in the wake of last week's resignation of town manager Blake Proctor.

Proctor resigned under pressure last week at a meeting characterized by public support for him and charges that elected officials are unwilling to loosen their grip on town administration.

Proctor resigned last Wednesday after five months as town manager and worked his final day last Friday. He is the third chief administrator at Holden Beach to resign in the past two years.

On Monday, commissioners promoted Mrs. Clark to interim town manager near the close of a marathon meeting that lasted from 9 a.m. until 5:10 p.m. The promotion followed a five-hour executive session that was broken only by a brief open session during which the public was told that more closed-door discussion was needed.

Mrs. Clark has worked for the town since August 1989 and previously served as a supervisor with



PROCTOR

*"I don't think this board is capable of accepting a manager that does a good job that is honest and will do the work we ask him to do."*

—Commissioner Judy Bryan

Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Commissioners temporarily increased her annual salary from \$12,190 to \$17,000.

The interim manager will not have the authority to hire or fire any town employees. Commissioners plan to advertise immediately for a new town manager and accept applications for 45 days.

Following Proctor's resignation last week, Mayor John Tandy said most town commissioners had agreed that Proctor should either resign or be fired. Tandy refused to discuss the reasons behind the move to get rid of Proctor or to comment on his performance as town manager.

"There are some things that are very personal that you can't get into, and I am not going to get into those," Tandy said. "When I'm going to hurt somebody's life, I'm not going to do it."

In his letter of resignation, Proctor

said it had become increasingly evident over the last few weeks that the town manager and commissioners could not work effectively together.

"I feel that a great majority of the perceived problems, from standpoints of both administration and governing body, stem from lack of good two-way communications and extreme personality divergences," Proctor wrote.

Following last week's meeting, Proctor said town board members were too involved in administration. He said the commissioners' job should be to set policies and the manager's job should be to implement policies.

As part of the resignation agreement, Proctor will receive four months severance pay, which amounts to \$11,003. Proctor also will keep \$1,500 in relocation allowance and will be allowed to continue living in the apartment over

the police station through Feb. 3 without paying January's rent.

Commissioner Bob Buck cast the only vote against the separation package. He said the employment agreement approved when Proctor was hired last August allowed for only two months severance pay instead of four months.

On Monday, Mayor Tandy assigned various duties to board members to keep the town operating in the absence of a manager. Appointments are temporary, he said, and hopefully won't last more than two weeks.

Tandy said commissioners can't take any action on their own relating to their assignments. The full commission would have to vote before any action is taken. Assignments were as follows:

- 1) Utilities: Tandy and Gloria Barrett.
- 2) Police: Judy Bryan and Buck.
- 3) Access, roads and buildings: Gay Atkins and Buck.
- 4) Finance: Kenner Amos, Barrett and Tandy.
- 5) Sanitation, recycling and maintenance: Atkins and Bryan.
- 6) Personnel: Amos and Barrett.
- 7) Daily operations at town hall: Tandy and Barrett.

**Diluted Authority**  
During an informal discussion following last week's meeting, (See INTERIM, Page 8-A)

### CLEGG APPEARS TO BE FAVORITE

## County Hopes To Hire New Manager Monday

BY TERRY POPE

Following interviews Monday, County Attorney David Clegg appeared the favorite to win the county manager's job he has held on an interim basis since last December.

At least two Brunswick County commissioners indicated they were ready to hire a new county manager following three hours of interviews Monday.

The board interviewed four candidates for the job in open session. However, a decision won't be made until Monday night's regular meeting following a background check on all of the candidates.

"I was ready to hire a county manager," said Commissioner Frankie Rabon following the interviews. "Now, I'm going to let the public decide."

Rabon and Commissioner Gene Pinkerton voted against the background checks because they felt the board should have been prepared to take action Monday.

"There has been plenty of time for that," Pinkerton said when asked why he voted against the background checks.

Commissioner Donald Shaw made the motion to do background checks "to avoid future problems."

Sheriff John Carr Davis will be instructed by the board to do routine checks on each of the four candidates. Chairman Kelly Holden said Sheriff Davis has indicated the checks could be completed prior to Monday's commissioners' meeting.

"How long are we to leave this open?" Pinkerton asked board members.

Vice Chairman Jerry Jones said that he would be ready to make the decision at Monday's meeting. Only four members of the public and four news reporters attended the open interview sessions.

Several commissioners have privately predicted that Interim County Manager David Clegg will get the

job. Clegg, 35, was the last to be interviewed Monday. Others included Charles Mashburn, who has been the Yadkin County manager for four years; William Yelton, executive director for the Region L Council of Governments; and Jimmy Varner, who was recently fired from his job as city manager at Knightdale.

A fifth candidate, Edward Harper of Hillsville, Va., didn't show up for his 1:45 p.m. interview. Board Clerk Regina Alexander said Harper was notified by letter and attempts were also made to contact him by telephone but that no response had been received as of Monday.

Pinkerton said he now regrets voting to hold the sessions in public.

"I think I could have made a decision based on the resumes," Pinkerton said. "I had already narrowed the selections in my mind."

Pinkerton said he was against "airing someone's closet out in the public." He sat quietly throughout most of the interviews while Rabon only asked two questions of one candidate.

"I just don't think that all of the questions that can be asked were asked," Rabon said. "Based on the interviews today, I think we're just prolonging it another week."

Clegg was hired as the Brunswick County attorney in 1984 and has served as interim county manager since December 1989. He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College in 1977 with a degree in government and foreign affairs and received both a master's degree in fine arts and a law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1981.

"The county manager must be a (See MANAGER, Page 2-A)



CLEGG

## Two Beach Towns Expect Dip In Insurance Costs

BY DOUG RUTTER

Homeowners at Holden Beach and Long Beach can expect to pay lower flood insurance premiums starting in October.

Both Brunswick County island communities should be approved for 5-percent reductions in flood insurance premiums, said an official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The neighboring towns have applied for a new program in which insurance costs are cut in communities that go beyond minimum federal flood protection requirements, said Brad Loar, community planner with the FEMA regional office in Atlanta.

Although there won't be any official word until summer, Loar said last week that both communities are in line to be approved for 5-percent premium discounts.

The idea behind the National Flood Insurance Program community rating system is to reward homeowners in towns and counties that do as much as they can to lower the risk of flood damage.

Loar said the amount of the flood insurance discounts in each community will be based on a rating system similar to the one used to rate communities for fire protection.

Communities will be rated in 18 different areas and awarded bonus points for anything they do that goes beyond the federal government's minimum flood protection rules.

In communities approved for the discount, property owners would start paying less when their policies come up for renewal after Oct. 1. The highest possible discount for the first year of the program is 5 percent.

After the first year, communities can apply for even greater discounts on insurance premiums. The highest discount awarded under the program would be 45 percent.

Loar said Holden Beach and Long Beach are the only Brunswick

County towns that have applied for the program. FEMA has received inquiries from Caswell Beach and Southport.

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) in North Carolina will evaluate the applications, add up the points and check documentation before either town is approved. Loar said the local communities should hear by July 1 if they will receive discounts this fall.

If Holden Beach is approved for the reduction, Building Inspector Dwight Carroll said homeowners would save approximately \$20,000 in the first year alone.

Carroll said there are 1,145 federal flood insurance policies on Holden Beach, and property owners now pay \$404,110 in annual premiums. With the discount, homeowners would save \$20,206, or an average of \$17.65 per policy.

Carroll said the town has accumulated points for going above and beyond federal flood protection guidelines. For instance, he said points are awarded for keeping drainage ditches open and keeping elevation and tie-down certificates for all new homes.

The building inspector also said Holden Beach should receive points for having a hurricane evacuation program that is written out, practiced and used in the event of hurricanes.

In the second year of the program, Carroll said he expects the town to receive a 20-percent discount, which would save property owners about \$80,000 per year.

Long Beach Building Inspector David Clemmons said there are 1,352 flood insurance policies in town and property owners pay \$443,820 per year.

With a 5-percent discount starting this fall, Clemmons said the average homeowner would save \$16 in the first year. He also looks for larger discounts after the first year of the program.