

PRIVATE UTILITY MAKES OFFER

Calabash To Seek State Advice On Downtown Sewer Service

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash officials intend to waste no time taking advantage of the N.C. Coastal Initiative program and will ask the state for advice on getting sewer service to the downtown commercial district.

The town planning and zoning board decided this week that it should look to state officials for guidance before it makes any recommendations to town commissioners about sewer service.

As one of five communities recently selected for the Coastal Initiative program, Calabash has free access to assistance through six departments of state government, including environmental and community development divisions that deal with sewer systems.

In the meantime, town planners are considering an offer from the private utility that already provides water and sewer service in the Carolina Shores section of Calabash.

Carolina Blythe Utilities has offered to design and build a plant that would serve Sea Trail Corp. property and the old town of Calabash, according to planning board member Hank Mattutat.

Mattutat said at Monday night's planning board meeting that the town and Sea Trail Corp. would have to put up \$100,000 for engineering fees and \$1.6 million to build the plant. Carolina Blythe would own the plant.

"It is going to be painful. It is going to be expensive. This is bullet-biting time."

—Hank Mattutat, member Calabash Planning Board

The proposal would cost Calabash about \$500,000 for the plant and engineering, plus another \$500,000 to install the collection system.

Mattutat said the cost figures are only estimates. "It is going to be painful. It is going to be expensive," he said. "This is bullet-biting time."

Town officials last fall requested 66,000 gallons per day of available treatment capacity from Carolina Blythe, but later was informed that a local developer had been promised the capacity instead of the town.

Mattutat warned the planning board Monday that it may have to act quickly to get sewer service from Carolina Blythe.

"We've got to move fast or we're going to be left standing in the dust again," he said. "If Calabash wants to stick its head in the sand, so be it."

While they didn't reject the proposal, several planning board members said Monday that they didn't like the idea of the town putting up money for the system but not owning it.

Gordon Ragsdale likened Carolina Blythe's offer to the town giving him \$1 million to build a restaurant. The town wouldn't own the restaurant or make any money from it, he said, but it would be welcome to eat there any time if it paid the going rate.

While town officials are considering sewer service options, Planning Board Chairman Warren "Bud" Knapp said they shouldn't rule out the possibility of constructing and owning their own system. That's where the assistance of state officials could help.

Knapp said getting the state involved in sewer service options would be a boost for the Coastal Initiative program, which some people have criticized for its lack of visible accomplishments in the past.

Planner Ed Schaack, who also is the town building inspector, suggested the town consider approaching the county about establishing a regional sewer authority that could serve Calabash and the surrounding areas.

Future Land Purchase?

In other business Monday, board members talked about the possibility of buying land in the future that could be used for a solid waste and recycling area.

Planning Board Vice Chairman Patricia Lewellyn said a committee has been talking with people who own property around Calabash to see if they might sell land to the town.

She said people have been reluctant to commit to anything without knowing exactly how the town plans to use the property. Property owners are afraid of rats, among other things.

Knapp said the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association, which is leasing the dump site on Persimmon Road to Calabash through the end of the year, won't sell the land to the town without vote of the property owners.

Planning board member Warren Pienack talked about his recent trip to Hampstead, which is located north of Wilmington, to observe the town's solid waste and recycling operation.

A private sanitation company operates the center and uses a trash compactor. Pienack said the whole operation sits on one-half acre of land and serves people who live within five miles of it.

Supply VFD Meets

Supply Volunteer Fire Department will elect directors and conduct other business at its annual meeting set Friday, Feb. 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the fire station on N.C. 211.

Spokesman Dean Chestnut said members will elect nine directors, with nominations taken from the floor.

The meeting is open to the public, though only members are eligible to participate and vote.

Terminal To Sell Lumber

Sunny Point Military Ocean Terminal will sell used lumber at the terminal on Wednesdays and Fridays through Feb. 8. This is a limited resumption of used lumber sales at the installation, announced Myrtle D. Meade, public affairs officer.

Used lumber in various sizes and lengths up to 14 feet is available for sale as is for \$60 a cord.

Sales will be from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays, Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 6, and 8. Customers will be escorted into and out of the installation, with no entry after 8 a.m. All vehicles will be subject to a search and inspection and a photo identification is required for anyone participating in the sale.

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NEWS EDITOR SUSAN USHER (right) shows the Beacon's first place award for appearance and design to typesetters Dorothy Brennan (left) and Tammie Galloway, who execute the newspaper's editorial and advertising design.

Beacon Captures State Awards For Design And Editorial Page

The Brunswick Beacon won first place for appearance and design and third place for its editorial page in the 1990 newspaper contests sponsored by the North Carolina Press Association.

The awards were presented by Gov. Jim Martin last Thursday night at the 66th annual N.C. Newspaper Institute in Chapel Hill. Susan Usher, news editor, accepted the awards on behalf of the newspaper staff.

Over the past 10 years the Beacon has won 42 awards in N.C.

Press Association contests. The newspaper competes in the community newspaper division with other newspapers published once a week.

The 1990 contests were judged by members of the Alabama Press Association.

Judges had this to say about the Beacon's appearance and design:

"This newspaper uses an attractive masthead to capture the reader's eye, and then uses good copy positioning to control the eye. What separates this newspaper from the rest is the ability to keep

the reader's eye upon turning from page one. We found the paper to be neat, easy to read, consistent with a good photography variety."

Judges complimented as "good" the general layout, editorial cartoons and locally-written columns found on the Beacon's editorial page.

Another Brunswick County weekly newspaper, The State Port Pilot, won three awards. It received second place recognition for general excellence and for appearance and design, and third place for use of photographs.

Sheriff's Detectives Under Job Stress

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county's population booms while the number of detectives remains the same, five to work criminal cases and one to work juvenile and sex offenses.

"I could take 25 detectives and not clear up all of the cases in Brunswick County," said Perry.

If everything goes according to plan, the sheriff's department will receive three new detectives in mid-March. The positions were approved last June by county commissioners; however, it was specified that the spots be held open until after September.

Three jailers have since been training to become road deputies. They will fill the spots left vacant by uniformed deputies who will be promoted to the detective division. The wait from June to September, one detective said, set the department back tremendously.

"You can only do so much with what you've got," Perry said. "You can put anybody in that sheriff's office and in this office here, but you can only do so much."

Although he doesn't like losing a veteran detective, Perry said he was happy that Walton was "going to have more time for himself."

"For a man that can leave and make the same amount of money under a less stressful situation, I can't blame him a bit," Perry added. Said Walton, "It'll be a big change to get used to, from a large area to work to a smaller area, but I think I'll like it."

In an attempt to assign an equal number of cases to each of the detectives, the county has been divided into three areas: the northwest Leland area and its N.C. 133 corridor to Southport; from N.C. 211 east to Long Beach; and from N.C. 211 west to Calabash.

"To have good coverage on the south end, as big as it is, we really need to break it down again," Perry said. "We need a minimum of three detectives in each area. You'll never get it."

When the three new detectives are added in March, it will assure each area of at least two detectives.

"Then I may have one floating in areas where I'm getting hit the hardest," Perry added.

A group of Leland residents, concerned about the rise of crime in their community, have planned an informal meeting to discuss how to approach either the town of Leland or the county commissioners for more law enforcement personnel. The town of Leland, which incorporated in 1989, does not have a police department.

Perry said that starting a police department is an expensive operation but that Leland will eventually need to form its own force.

The New Hanover County Sheriff's Department has 16 detectives in its division compared to Brunswick County's six. Two of New Hanover County's detectives are members of the crime scene unit, investigators who respond to a crime scene to take fingerprints, photographs and to gather other clues. For uniformed officers to do the crime scene work, it ties up their patrols, Perry said.

"Our caseload compares to New Hanover County," he added. "I'd say it runs fairly close to the same

thing."

New Hanover County Sheriff's Department serves the unincorporated areas of that county with 11 officers in its vice or drug squad and a secretary, while Brunswick County has three vice detectives and no secretary.

A listing of the New Hanover County Sheriff's Department shows the following breakdown for detectives' investigative assignments: two for crimes against property; two for breaking and entering non-residence; two for juvenile cases; two for breaking and entering residences; two for crimes against persons; two for fraud and auto larceny; one for hit and run; and one for crime stoppers and 911.

"Everybody looks at television and thinks you ought to be able to do it like they do on TV," Perry said. "But you're not given the manpower to work your crimes."

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Clegg Angered

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Clegg said he has had no discussions with black leaders about their concerns. He added that there is nothing unusual about commissioners wishing to discuss departments and ways to improve county services. Last week, the board held an open discussion of the tax department, Clegg said, and no one felt that the department heads there were being unfairly treated.

"I hope that the black people and the white people will realize that's not my job," Clegg added. "It's not black Brunswick County government or white Brunswick County government, it's Brunswick County government."

Clegg listed 11 blacks who are either department heads or assistant administrators in Brunswick County government.

Results of the unannounced inspection of the solid waste sites was compiled into a two-page memo to commissioners. In the report, Clegg lists six sites that were visited including Town Creek and Sea Trail green box sites and transfer stations at Leland, Southport, Oxpen and Hale Swamp.

At the Town Creek site, Clegg noted, "there was some debris located behind the green boxes that should be picked up by hand."

Clegg said he noted both positive and negative points in his report to commissioners, that the report wasn't slanted in any way to affect the job status of Hewett, who also received a copy.

"If he does his job, he remains employed," Clegg said. "It's the same thing for me or for anybody else."

At the Leland transfer station, he noted, "there is a need for directional signage to the site. The site attendant was not responsive to the visit. The attendant's office should be better cleaned and general hand pick up collection of strewn/blown

"It's not black Brunswick County government or white Brunswick County government, it's Brunswick County government."

—David Clegg
County Manager

debris should be enforced at the site."

However, at the Southport transfer station, Clegg noted, the site "looked well kept and operated." The site attendant was "responsive to the visit and made suggestions as to enhanced collection activities." The attendant's office was "acceptable as to appearance."

The Oxpen transfer station also needed signage to the site and that "hand pick up of debris should continue" there, Clegg reported.

The Hale Swamp transfer station was "effectively shut down due to construction of the attendant's office" when Clegg visited. He noted that steps should be taken so that construction activity doesn't shut down the site.

"The attendant was participating in the construction of the office and that is unacceptable since the county is paying a contractor to build the office and for general liability purposes," Clegg noted. "Careful hand pick up around the site is required."

At the Sea Trail green box site, Clegg noted, it has "generally improved in appearance." There was some "residual debris" and the site and one 40-yard green box appeared to be a hazard. There was a separation of the berm from the box.

"It was apparent that there were scavengers at the site awaiting my departure," Clegg noted.

Month Sloshes To Wet Finish

More rainfall is in the forecast for the South Brunswick Islands as January sloshes to a wet finish.

Along with more rain, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the outlook calls for near normal temperatures.

He expects at least three-quarters of an inch of rain, which is less than the 1.13 inches he measured for the period Jan. 22 through 28.

"It's definitely a wet month and I don't think it is going to dry out any time soon," said Canady, noting that rain was in the immediate and

short-range forecasts.

During the next few days, temperatures are expected to range from the mid-30s at night into the mid-50s during the daytime.

For the period ending Monday, Canady recorded a maximum high of 59 degrees on the 28th, and a minimum low of 21 degrees on the 23rd.

A daily average high of 51 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 31 degrees for a daily average temperature of 41 degrees that was about five degrees below normal, said Canady.

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