

Schools Asking For \$7.89 Million

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Construction Continues

tion by Doug Baxley, to trim the budget by about \$19,500, starting with cuts in staff travel, to squeeze in a new salary schedule for coaches. With the increases, the schools would pay \$101,900 in coaching supplements this year.

In making his request, Athletic Director Nelson Best said the proposed schedule would compensate coaches based on how long they've received coaching supplements. The scale would remain as is for those with zero to two years of paid experience. For instance, a head football coach with two years' paid experience would receive \$2,500, compared to \$3,250 for someone with 12 years' paid experience. At the other end of the scale, a golf coach could receive from \$300 to \$500.

The coaches' salary schedule has not been adjusted in seven years, Best said. "These guys go out every day after school, weekends and holidays. We need to recognize what they do for these students."

The budget package also includes money for an athletic trainer at North Brunswick High School and \$6,000 in equipment and supplies to start a countywide high school soccer program, building on the two-year-old middle school soccer program and four-year-old recreational league.

Best said a study committee decided it would be feasible for the county schools to begin on a small scale by playing each other four times during the year, if suitable coaches can be identified and a practice and playing field found for West Brunswick High School. Soccer causes high wear and tear on playing fields; the schools' football fields would not be used for matches.

Change In Policy Eyed

The school board could change the way it pays employees shifted to a lower position without a cut in pay so as to avoid actual demotion. Presently those employees receive all pay and supplement increases, but school officials said Monday that's not necessary.

"The attorney general's office says you don't have to do that," said attorney Glen Peterson. "You just have to maintain their same salary."

Freezing those salaries would result in a savings in the local budget, because the state only puts up a portion of the salary cost. The county pays the rest.

"I can't see putting somebody in a lower position and paying them more money than someone else in that position," said Chairman Donna Baxter. "That's not fair."

On a motion by Doug Baxley, the board asked staff to draft a policy amendment and gather figures on the number of positions affected and the potential savings.

Plans to build a new elementary school at Supply and a new cafeteria at Southport Elementary are proceeding on schedule.

The 1991-92 capital outlay budget includes \$2.8 million in carry-over money from this year for the new school, plus another \$2.5 million in new half-cent sales tax revenue. Another \$300,000 of the tax fund would be used to buy furniture for the school.

The budget includes \$343,000 for the cafeteria project, with intentions of also using another \$403,000 from the half-cent sales tax fund. Once the new cafeteria is built, the old space will be remodeled to provide a special education classroom, a regular classroom, a faculty work area and a new resource room.

The commissioners' appropriation is the largest source of local funds for the schools, but not the only one. It also receives \$10,500 for indirect costs, \$10,000 in miscellaneous revenues and \$1,200 from building rental under the community schools program, as well as fines and forfeitures collected through the courts.

Mrs. Fallon had budgeted \$150,000 in fines and forfeitures for next year, but learned Monday night that figure could increase substantially.

District Attorney Rex Gore announced plans to begin levying higher fines as of May 15 for speeding charges that are plea bargained. Instead of judges giving out \$10 fines plus court costs (\$51), the defendant will pay a \$49 fine plus costs when they plead guilty to a lesser charge.

Driver Charged With Manslaughter

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Damage was listed at \$9,000 to the car and \$500 to the drain culvert owned by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

A Bolivia woman was charged with driving left of center early Sunday after the car she was driving ran off the road and struck a mailbox and fence posts.

Aretha Hooper Freeman, 42, was traveling on U.S. 17 about three miles north of Bolivia when the accident occurred, Jones reported.

Ms. Freeman's 1989 Ford ran off the left, struck a mailbox owned by C.V. Walton, and then ran off the right shoulder, hitting a telephone pedestal owned by Atlantic Telephone Corp. and two fence posts owned by DOT.

Damage was listed at \$5,000 to the car and \$250 to the mailbox and posts.

There were no injuries in the 7:35 a.m. accident.



CONVERTED World War II planes, like the DC-4 shown here in 1989, are usually leased each spring by the N.C. Forest Service to drop fire retardant chemicals on area woods fires. Due to state budget cuts, the plane is not available this fire season.

Bomber Cut From Firefighting Budget

BY TERRY POPE

The area's largest firefighter won't be around this fire season.

State budget cuts have forced the N.C. Forest Service to drop its lease of a converted World War II bomber used to dump fire retardant chemicals on area woods fires.

Bombers have been used to combat forest fires in Brunswick County since 1961. This fire season, though the Forest Service must rely only on smaller planes and a helicopter stationed in Kinston to help ground crews battle woods fires by air.

"They don't necessarily take the place of a bomber," said Bob Houseman, District 8 Forester in Whiteville. "You can't take the place of a bomber."

Three smaller "snow" bombers are stationed in Kinston, each capable of dropping 250 gallons of chemicals in one trip. A helicopter equipped with a drop bucket can also perform bucket lifts from a nearby water supply.

However, the larger converted bomber is capable of dropping 2,000 gallons of fire retardant

chemicals at once, or 500 gallons at a time from its under-belly tanks. The four-engine aircraft are usually leased from an air service in Arizona and are used to battle hard-to-reach fires in critical areas.

One bomber is normally stationed at the Bear Pen airstrip in the Green Swamp in Brunswick County, about 10 miles north of Supply. A second plane is usually kept in Kinston.

With the two planes the program costs an estimated \$125,000 to \$150,000 per fire season, which is normally around three months, Houseman said.

"There had been some suggestions, about three or four months ago, of private enterprises stepping in and paying the lease," he added, "but it didn't materialize."

If fire activity increases in Brunswick County, the planes in Kinston may be moved to Bear Pen, Houseman said.

A bomber at Bear Pen was used on six to eight fires last spring, he added. The planes flew 156 missions in 1986, the all-time high for fires in the area.

Since then, the area has experienced light fire seasons. This year, more than 400 acres has burned near Maco while another 600 acres burned in Duplin County. Roughly 2,000 acres have burned in the district during the past two months, Houseman said.

District 8 includes Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, Columbus, Bladen and Duplin counties.

"We certainly would have used it (bomber) had we had one," Houseman said. "We would have used it to suppress the fires and maybe could have cut down on some of the acreage burned."

State budget cuts have also affected the Forest Service in other areas. District 8 employs 60 full-time workers and hires 50 seasonal workers between October and May, Houseman said.

"We have lost some positions and we've lost the ability to replace some equipment that we need," he added. "I'd say it's had an impact on us."

Last week Brunswick County was on Stage 4 in fire readiness, which is normal for this time of year, Houseman said. Stage 7 is the highest level of forest fire alert.

Remaining SADs Listed In Order Of Priority

Approximately 50 subdivisions in need of county water must wait until additional main distribution lines can be completed during the 1991-92 budget year.

Monday night members of the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board (UOB) reviewed a list of remaining special assessment districts (SADs), arranged in order of priority. SADs are areas where property owners are assessed the cost of extending water lines from main distribution lines into neighborhoods.

Since the first SAD was completed in June 1988, the Brunswick County Water Department has installed more than 42 miles of pipe to serve 4,481 parcels in those SADs, said Jerry Webb, director of public utilities.

SADs on the original list that have not yet been served were carried over to the new list, Webb said.

Engineer Jay Houston, of Houston and Associates of Shallotte, told the board Monday that his firm is on schedule with its design of the capital improvements project, which includes lines to serve the Shallotte Point community.

"Everything is looking fairly good, except we perceive some problems at the N.C. 904 intersection," Houston said.

Atlantic Telephone Corp. is burying cable on both side of the roadway there that could inter-

fere with the water pipeline. Easements may be needed from landowners, Houston said.

Designing the project will take about four more months, he added.

The remaining SADs as listed by priority are as follows:

■SAD 16 A-C: Shell Point Recreation Village, Shell Point Acres, Civietown Road, a \$460,800 project to serve 515 homes at \$894 each or 960 parcels at \$480 each.

■SAD 11 A-C: Sea Village, Pier I, II, III, a \$140,000 project to serve 129 homes at \$1,085 each, or 294 parcels at \$476.

■SAD 17 A-H, 18 A-K, 19 A: Tanglewood, Hermoedes Hideaway, Windy Point Park, Shoreline Estates, Oak Haven, Greenwood Acres, Oakyaupon Harbor, Roach-Gore, Robinwood, Bacon Bluff, Driftwood Acres, Ocean Sound, Four Winds, Boone's Neck Road West, Whispering Heights, Boone's Neck Road East, Sandy Shoals, Bivens Run, Gator's Grant and Fisherman's Paradise.

The \$1.4 million project will serve 1,403 homes at an estimated cost of \$1,026 per structure or 2,778 parcels at \$518 each. The area must await the construction of a main line down Mt. Pisgah Church Road.

■Maple Creek, Sandy Bluff and Sea Castle, at a cost of \$259,200, or 147 homes at \$1,763 each, or 460 parcels at \$563 each.

■SAD 29 A&B at Sunset Harbor, at a cost of \$988,320 to serve 640 homes at \$1,544 each, or 1,176 parcels at \$840 each. This project will require a pipe be buried beneath the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway from Oak Island, part of the 1991-92 improvement plan.

■SAD 14 A-H: Shallotte Inlet Park, Wood Crest, Middle Dam Road, Shalamar Estates, Sundown Acres, Hickory Hill, Shady Rest and Riverbend subdivision. This \$1.1 million project will serve an estimated 874 homes at a cost of \$1,318, or 1,100 parcels at \$1,047 each.

■SAD 26 A-C: Siesta Sands, Coastal Retreat and Sandy Bluff, an estimated \$489,600 project to serve 277 homes at \$1,767 each, or 330 parcels at \$1,483 each.

■SAD 15 A-C: River View, Little Shallotte River, Shell Point, a \$336,000 project to serve 147 homes at \$2,285 each, or 238 parcels at \$1,411 each.

■SAD 13 A-C: Marsh Hen Cove, Robert and Sarah Rodgers and Devane Road, a \$124,800 project, serving 12 homes at \$10,400 each, or 161 parcels at \$775 each.

■SAD 27 A-C: Stanley Road and Stanbury Heights, a \$360,000 project to serve 89 homes at \$4,044 each, or 86 parcels at \$4,186 each. This area could possibly be combined with SAD 26 as one SAD.

Warmer Weather To Continue

Temperatures are expected to range slightly above normal over the next few days while rainfall remains near normal, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday.

He said he expects temperatures to average from the mid-50s at night into the mid-70s during the day, with about a half-inch of rain.

For the period April 2-8, Canady

recorded a high of 82 degrees on April 8, and a low of 43 degrees on April 3.

A daily average high of 76 degrees combined with an average nightly low of 52 degrees for a daily average temperature of 64 degrees, which Canady said was about 3 degrees above average.

He recorded no measurable precipitation.

Five New SADs To Get County Water

BY TERRY POPE

Five communities will get county water during the coming fiscal year under a schedule approved Monday by the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board.

Design work will begin on these SADs in the Bolivia, Winnabow and Town Creek areas: Randolphville Road and Piney Grove Road in Bolivia; portions of Zion Church Road and Town Creek Road; portions of Mill Creek Road; part of N.C. 87 to Oak View Estates near Winnabow; and Governor's Road in Winnabow.

"You're talking about a \$1 million worth of water lines," said Jerry Webb, director of public utilities. Because the five SADs are beside existing main transmission lines, they represent areas that the department can begin work on immediately, said County Engineer Robert Tucker.

"We've sort of gotten to the situation where our SAD program has caught up with our capital improvements project," he said.

The five communities appear on a priority list of SADs that UOB

members reviewed Monday. The list of SADs was prioritized based on cost per parcel, cost per structure, health-related ground water problems and petitions received, Webb said.

The 1991-92 capital improvements project is in the design stage now. It will route main transmission lines down the Shallotte U.S. 17 bypass, along N.C. 904 to Seaside, to the Shallotte Point community and down Mt. Pisgah Church Road in Supply.

Project Estimates
UOB members received cost estimates for the five SADs Monday and voted unanimously to proceed with the projects as presented.

The Piney Grove Road, Randolphville Road and Alternative School Road project in Bolivia is expected to serve 104 homes at an estimated cost per structure of \$277, or 121 parcels at a cost of \$238. The project is expected to cost around \$28,800 and can be served from a main transmission line on U.S. 17.

Approximately 166 homes along Zion Church Road, Town Creek Road and Old Town Creek Road will be served by an extension from the U.S. 17 main line, an estimated \$312,000 project. The estimated cost per home is \$1,879, or 263 parcels at \$1,186.

Portions of Mill Creek Road will also be served, the west end from an extension of the U.S. 17 line and the east end from an extension of the N.C. 87 distribution line. Webb said he doesn't know yet if the lines will meet to serve the entire road.

"That's a tough call to make at this point," he said.

The Mill Creek project will serve approximately 91 homes at an estimated cost of \$2,030 per structure, or 137 parcels at \$1,348 each. Webb said this SAD could be combined with other areas to reduce the \$184,800 cost.

A line will also extend down N.C. 87 north to the Oak View Es-

tates subdivision near Winnabow, where it is expected to serve approximately 112 homes at an estimated cost of \$2,335, or 175 parcels at \$1,494 each. The project will cost an estimated \$261,600.

The Governor's Road project will also route lines down a portion of State Road 1406, Cherrytree Road. The \$321,600 project is expected to serve 92 homes at a cost of \$3,495 each, or 112 parcels at \$2,846.

UOB members also instructed attorney Michael Ramos to begin preparing an assessment resolution for the Jennifer subdivision near the Malmo water treatment plant. That community had previously been approved as an SAD project.

Public Concerns

Shallotte Point resident Scott Taylor addressed the board Monday, asking that Gurganus Road be considered for water lines under the capital improvements project, rather than as an SAD.

Taylor also spoke at the March

meeting. He said that of the more than 800 families in the Point community to be served by the upcoming project, the greatest concentration of housing lies along the half-mile Gurganus Road.

Taylor said about 10 percent of all homes in the Point community are on Gurganus Road.

Lines will be installed along main roads in the Point area while other areas will be served by SADs. Taylor said he fears a lapse period will exist between installation of the main lines and those of SADs.

Bob Black of Shell Point also presented more signatures to the board from people in his neighborhood requesting county water.

Board Chairman Al Morrison also told Copas Shores resident Bill Waples that plans for the capital improvements project to Shallotte Point have not been presented to the board. Houston and Associates, the Shallotte engineering firm hired to design the project, is still working on the plans, he said.

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