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Branch To Feature Newer Design

The new South Brunswick Branch of the Charlotte Post Office will feature one of the U.S. Postal Service's newest designs, according to Robert G. Snyder, general contractor, with a contract price of just under \$1 million. The project should be completed in about six months, he said, with a Feb. 1 deadline for occupancy. The 13,450-square-foot branch will be located on N.C. 904 between the Grissetown and Seaside communities.

Holden Beach May Increase Tax Rate

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach property owners would have to pay more taxes and more for water service next fiscal year if the town board approves a preliminary budget presented this week.

The tax rate would increase from 18 cents to 19 1/2 cents per \$100 of property valuation under the proposed \$1.2 million budget for 1991-92.

Mayor John Tandy said town officials won't know what the tax rate will be until the time comes to adopt a budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

"To be honest with you, I don't think anybody on the board knows what kind of an increase we'll have, if any," Tandy said. "There's so many things you could leave out."

Tandy said town commissioners reviewed about four pages of the 16-page proposed budget at a work-

"We really haven't got into it good enough to see what we're going to spend."

—Mayor John Tandy
On 1991-92 budget

shop Tuesday morning before recessing until Wednesday afternoon.

"We really haven't got into it good enough to see what we're going to spend," Tandy said following the Tuesday session.

Besides a tax hike, the proposed budget calls for a \$2 increase in the minimum monthly water charge per household. Quarterly water bills would jump from a minimum of \$30 to \$36.

Water customers who use more than 2,000 gallons per month would have to pay \$1.40 for each addition-

al 1,000 gallons. The current rate per extra 1,000 gallons is \$1.20.

Finance Officer Sylvia Bissell said the water rate increases have been proposed to build up the fund balance in the water fund.

General fund revenues in the proposed budget include \$431,962 in property taxes, \$195,000 in occupancy taxes, \$108,000 from the fund balance, \$45,000 in utilities franchise taxes and \$43,450 in street assessments.

Major expenditures in the budget are \$194,386 for the police depart-

ment, \$152,743 for administration, \$152,634 for public buildings and \$131,900 for streets.

The budget includes \$95,014 for sanitation, but that doesn't include money for tipping fees being considered by the county for trash dumped at the landfill. If a tipping fee were imposed, it could cost the town an extra \$58,310 based on estimated tonnage.

Special appropriations include \$90,000 for a new garage and renovations in the existing garage, \$40,000 each for sidewalks and underground utilities and \$14,000 for the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce.

In the water fund, the town expects to collect \$296,013 from users based on the proposed rate increases. Proposed expenses include \$131,250 to buy the water from Brunswick County and \$57,105 in salaries.

Residents Ask DOT For Changes As 10 Road Projects Get Nod

BY TERRY POPE

Some residents traveled down a muddy road Monday evening to get to a public hearing in Bolivia.

"We've been up and down like a yo-yo. We can't even get any consideration" said E.A. Britt, who lives on Dale Street (S.R. 1466), a 1,550-foot road in Leland that is home to 14 families.

Britt and about 30 other people attended a joint public hearing held by the Brunswick County Commissioners and the N.C. Department of Transportation on DOT's proposed road paving projects for the 1991-92 budget year.

DOT plans to pave 12.52 miles of unpaved roads in Brunswick County, using \$1.2 million in gasoline tax funds.

Some residents are angry that the street they live on wasn't included in the list of 10 roads that will either be paved or upgraded if funds hold out.

Andre Herring, of Cedar Grove, said Grisset Road (S.R. 1189) has been a state road since 1965 and remains No. 61 on the current DOT priority list.

District 3 Commissioner Gene Pinkerton said publishing priority lists is a bad idea.

"I think you give a lot of people a lot of false hope by printing these priority lists," Pinkerton told the two members of the DOT board that attended, Marilyn Williams of Wilmington, and Jeff Strickland of Roseboro.

"At least commit yourself to staying to a list, or just give a list of 16 or so that are going to be paved," he added. "It's really a hardship for the board to endorse the program."

The board voted 4-1 to endorse DOT's paving list. District 5 Commissioner Donald Shaw voted no.

"I think the list should be based on the number of years it's been there," said William Woodard, also of Grisset Road. "We want something done."

J.P. Cook, DOT district engineer, said a formula the state uses to determine paving priority does not include the number of years. The current priority list was established in 1989 and is usually updated every two years by the DOT board.

To be accepted by the state for maintenance today, the road must already be paved, he said.

Cletis Clemmons, who lives on Sea Aire Circle (S.R. 1236) said his road was once No. 14 on the list and

has since fallen to No. 18. He said four mirrors on his car have fallen off in recent years because of the bumpy road.

"It's terrible, gentlemen," Clemmons said. "We deserve better than this. At least get us back up to where we were."

Consideration of a road's years of existence in the priority rating has also been raised by other county residents, said Doug Bowers, DOT division engineer.

"It is a statewide issue," Bowers said. "It comes up consistently at these meetings."

Ester Byrd, representing the Tanglewood Property Owners Association, asked if East Tanglewood Drive (S.R. 1261) was in line for paving. Cook told her it will be included in the 1992-93 budget if funding isn't cut.

"We've been working on this project for 12 years," Ms. Byrd said.

The approved list Monday will allow paving of Sea Pines Drive; a portion of Town Creek Road; Culpepper Road at Ocean Isle; Russettown Road; a portion of Royal Oak Road; Ocean Pines Road at Shallotte Point; Brooks Drive at Seaside; Mellaney Lane in Davis Forest; Long Acres Drive; and widening of shoulders and relocation of ditches along Northwest Road.

Correction

The name of a Brunswick County resident who lost his life in the Vietnam conflict was not included in an article in the May 16 issue of *The Brunswick Beacon*.

Olin Jennings Leonard, 23, of Shallotte died March 12, 1970, in Vietnam, according to a niece, Marie Garvin.

His name appears on a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that will be on display May 24-27 at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Wilmington. The name was not included in a news release from the Brunswick County Veterans Service Office about local men who died in the conflict whose names are carved on the memorial.

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Police Chief Not Charged

An article last week incorrectly stated that Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause had been found in contempt of court.

Instead, Brunswick County District Court Judge D. Jack Hooks Jr. issued an order to show cause, an order which sets a hearing date to determine if contempt charges should be filed.

Gause will appear in court May 28 to show cause as to why he should not be found in contempt of court.

The order was filed by Judge Hooks after Gause failed to appear in court after being subpoenaed to testify at a trial April 24.

The Brunswick Beacon regrets the error and any inconveniences it caused.

Water

(Continued From Page 1-A)

work that is outside of their job descriptions.

Other recommendations include: establishing centralized purchasing; a preventive maintenance plan; hiring three part-time summer employees to mow grass at the sites; placing gravel around the water plants to cut down on mowing; build a centralized storage facility; and planning more social functions for employees.

Leaders within the department lack leadership skills and can benefit from staff training, the report notes.

Commissioners did not comment on the report Monday.

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Brunswick Man Drowns At Sea On Commercial Fishing Boat

A local man working his first day on a Southport-based commercial fishing boat drowned last week after being lost overboard near Bald Head Island.

The victim was identified as Ray Lee Kinlaw, 38, of Yaupon Beach, said Brunswick County Coroner Greg White.

The Oak Island Coast Guard Station received a call from the fishing boat last Thursday about 7 p.m. that one of its crew members had gone overboard about 10 miles south of Bald Head Island, said Petty Officer Jeff Blocker.

Using a boat and two helicopters, Blocker said the Coast Guard search-

ed for the man Thursday night and Friday morning.

A helicopter crew found the man Friday at 8:40 a.m. and took him to the Coast Guard station before he was transported to Doshier Memorial Hospital.

The petty officer said he didn't know if the man was dead when he was picked up or how the man went overboard.

Blocker said Kinlaw was working his first day on the *Aimless Lady*, a fishing boat that works out of American Fish Company at Southport. "He had just signed on the day before or that morning."

Holden Beach Manager Resigns

Holden Beach Interim Town Manager Diane Clark will resign her position as of May 31 due to illness in the family.

Mrs. Clark, who has worked nearly two years for the town, said Tuesday she is resigning to care for her husband, Jack. "My husband comes first," she said. "That's the way it should be."

Holden Beach Commissioners appointed Mrs. Clark interim manager Jan. 14 after former manager Blake Proctor resigned under pressure from the board.

Mrs. Clark was deputy town clerk at the time of her promotion and has worked for the town since August 1989. She was among the applicants for a new manager.

The resignation comes in the midst of a search for a manager. Town board members received approximately 100 applications for the post and had narrowed the field to about five people as of last week.

Commissioners interviewed one applicant Saturday and another Tuesday. Mayor John Tandy said he didn't know how many more people the town board would interview before selecting someone or if a manager would be hired by May 31.

"I hope so because you know what that means. That means we'll all have to pitch in and do a little bit of everything," Tandy said. "We've done it before and the town's still here. We'll do it again if we have to."

Seminar Set On Hog Plant

A public educational program on the local impact of the proposed Smithfield Foods hog slaughtering plant in Bladen County will be held next week in Bolivia.

The Brunswick County Cooperative Extension Service is sponsoring the meeting in response to the concerns of some residents and government officials regarding the effect the plant could have on the environment, public health and economy in southeastern North Carolina.

Brunswick County Extension Director Milton Coleman said the seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building.

Four faculty members at N.C. State University will give presentations and serve as a panel that will answer questions from the audience.

Presenters are Terry Coffey, swine specialist; Jim Barker, biological and agricultural engineering specialist; Joe Zublena, soils specialist; and Bob Rubin, biological and agricultural engineering specialist.

They will discuss topics including what the plant would mean for

swine production, water lagoon technology, water quality, waste management and regulations in the food processing industry.

Roger Crickenberger, associate state leader for agriculture and natural resources at N.C. State, will serve as coordinator.

Smithfield Foods is proposing to build a hog slaughtering operation on the Cape Fear River at Tarheel. It would be located about 50 miles upstream of where Brunswick County draws its water from the river.

The N.C. Division of Environmental Management has issued a permit that would allow the plant to discharge 3 million gallons of treated wastewater per day into the river. Other permits are needed prior to construction.

Some county and local municipal officials have voiced concerns about the proposed plant, saying discharged wastewater could contaminate drinking water and threaten marine life.

"Our objective is to present research-based information that will, hopefully, address issues currently being raised," said Coleman.

Warm Temperatures Forecast

Warm temperatures and light rainfall are in the forecast for the South Brunswick Islands area, Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said Tuesday morning.

He anticipates above average temperatures, lows in the mid-60s at night ranging into the mid-80s during the day, with less than a half-inch of rainfall.

For the period May 14-20, he recorded a maximum high tempera-

ture of 80 degrees on May 18 and a minimum low of 61 degrees on May 20.

A daily average high of 83 degrees combined with a nightly average low of 68 degrees for a daily average temperature of 75 degrees, which Canady said was about 4 degrees above average for this time of year.

He measure only .33 inch of rainfall at his Shallotte Point residence.

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