TOWN MAY HIRE OFFICER FRIDAY

Candidates For Police Chief Welcome Challenge Of New Department

BY TERRY POPE

Both men in the running for the Leland police chief job say they applied because they welcome the challenge of organizing a new department.

The Leland Town Council plans to hire its first police chief at a special meeting Friday, July 26, 5 p.m., at the town hall.

The two candidates are Johnny McCarthy of Wilmington and Franklin Strickland of Durham.

The board met in executive session for an hour last Thursday after interviewing the two men in public, but appeared to have reached no consensus on whom to hire.

Councilwoman Jane Gilbert said she expects the board will hire a chief on a split vote.

"I already have a job," said Strickland, 53. "It's an excellent job, but I'm looking for the challenge of being in a leadership role."

Strickland is a lieutenant with the Durham Police Department and is director of the Durham Police Academy. He is a 20-year veteran of the U.S. Army and has held positions with the Durham police as patrolman, fire supervisor, detective, uniform patrol sergeant, personnel sergeant, recruiter and lieutenant in his 11 years with the department.

He is presently a district lieutenant and supervises four sergeants and 40 patrol officers. At times during the past year, he has worked patrol as watch commander for persons on leave.

"If I'm going to do what I want to do, I need to do it now," said Strickland, who lives in Oxford.

"Durham is a nice place to work, but I wouldn't want to live there; there's too much crime," he joked with board members.

Strickland said he would have no problem living and working in a small town such as Leland. Board members took turns asking the candidates questions from a prepared list.

STRICKLAND MCCARTHY

Strickland holds an advanced law enforcement certificate and a bachelor's degree in business. He grew up on a farm in Columbus County.

"I think it's important that I have experience in areas other than police work," he told the board. "You want to look at what a man puts into a community as well as what he takes from a community."

Strickland said he prides himself on being a manager and leader and stays in physical condition by exercising daily.

"At times in my career I've had to fight, and I like to win," he said.

He practices an adaptive style of leadership, he says, because "there is no one style of leadership that works for all occasions."

The town has budgeted $50,000 for a police department for the 1991-92 fiscal year. The board plans to pay the new chief an annual salary of around $25,000.

Strickland said he would not want to remain a one-man department for a number of years.

"I wouldn't be able to accomplish what I wanted to accomplish," he added.

McCarthy retired four years ago as a lieutenant with the New York City Police Department, having served 27 years. He was head of his department's internal affairs division and headed a staff of 190 officers.

He is presently a consultant for the Wilmington Police Department and is working to renew his police certification.

"I see this as a once in a lifetime opportunity for most people," said McCarthy, "to begin from scratch a police department that will be a model for other departments."

Leland's first police chief should be someone who can relate well with the community and remain flexible while being both firm and sensitive with individuals.

"I don't look at this position as a stepping stone to anything else," he said. "I would expect to be here for as long as you want me to be here."

McCarthy joined the New York police force as a patrol officer and advanced to detective, sergeant, supervisor of detectives, lieutenant and captain in internal affairs.

"I see this as probably the greatest challenge I've ever faced," he told the council. "There's a tremendous amount of work that'll be involved. This is a job that's made for me."

McCarthy said he would remain a one-man department "for as long as it takes."

"You must be flexible," he added. "You must be adaptable. If the money's not out there, you obviously can't spend it."

The transition from New York to a smaller Leland will not be that difficult, he said. New York precincts operate like a number of small departments, he added.

"It's almost like working in a small town," McCarthy said. "It's not so large and impersonal as it may seem. I honestly believe that policing, is policing, is policing, no matter where it is."

McCarthy said he last worked patrol 14 years ago, but added, "That was the best part of my career."

A new chief will still rely on the help of Brunswick County sheriff's deputies, he said.

"It would be a long time coming before we'd be able to tell the sheriff that his services are no longer needed," said McCarthy.

West End Access Group Collecting Legal Funds

BY DOUG RUTTER

The group fighting for public access to Holden Beach's west end started raising money to pay for its five-year court battle when it met Saturday for the first time in more than a year.

Concerned Citizens of Brunswick County has received $319 in donations to help pay the group's $10,540 attorney bill, said Raymond Cope, an original organizer of the group.

"We've got a ways to go," Cope said Monday. "We're asking anyone and everyone who wants beach access to donate."

The organization filed a lawsuit in 1986 against developers of the Holden Beach West subdivision. Holden Beach Enterprises blocked the road leading to Shallotte Inlet and the west-end beach strand in July 1985.

Citing the road's traditional use, Concerned Citizens asked the court in the lawsuit to force the developers to allow the public to continue crossing the tract to get to the west end of the island.

The group won a major legal victory last month when the N.C. Supreme Court reversed a lower court ruling which favored the developers and ordered a new trial.

Cope, who lives in Lexington and resides part-time in the Holden Beach area, said about 30 people came from as far away as Peoria, Ill., to attend a meeting Saturday in Shallotte.

He anticipates a new trial will be scheduled this fall in Brunswick County Superior Court. Jim Maxwell of Durham, who is representing the group in the case, did not attend the meeting.

Vaiden P. Kendrick of Wilmington, one of the lawyers who is representing Holden Beach Enterprises in the case, said he has not appealed the June 12 Supreme Court ruling.

"At this point, nothing new has been filed and that's where the matter stands," Kendrick said Monday. "I don't think I can get into what my clients' intentions are."

Cope said the group has gotten used to waiting during the ongoing court battle. "It's just like it's been for the past six years—just wait and see. We feel real good about it."

He said the main purpose of the meeting Saturday was for members to get reacquainted and hear details of the latest court ruling.

Besides the beach access lawsuit, Cope said the group also talked about contacting the N.C. Department of Transportation about "No Parking" signs along Ocean Boulevard at Holden Beach.

Cope said parking isn't allowed anywhere on the island's main street, even next to public accessways that were built to give people a way of getting to the beach. "It's to the extreme now, really," he said.

Cope said he thinks the public is more concerned about beach access than it was when the Holden Beach West lawsuit was filed five years ago.

He said people are tired of paying state and federal taxes when they are unable to use the public beaches.

Holden Gives $100 As Nolte Memorial

Holden Beach Commissioners voted Monday to give $100 to Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad as a memorial to Charlotte Nolte.

Mrs. Nolte, a long-time resident of the island and former chairperson of the planning and zoning board, died Saturday in Fredericksburg, Va., following an extended illness.

"This beach lost a valuable citizen when they lost her," said Commissioner Kenner Amos.

In other business Monday, commissioners agreed to retain Interim Town Manager Gus Ulrich through Aug. 9.

Ulrich will help orient the new town manager, Gary Parker, who starts work Aug. 5. The town board wants Ulrich to write a lengthy memo to the new manager providing background information on ongoing projects.

Holden Fills Two Board Vacancies

Holden Beach Commissioners last week made appointments to two town boards.

They appointed Crawford Hart as a regular member and Larry Boyte as an alternate on the board of adjustment and Judy Holden to the board of elections.

Hart was promoted from an alternate to regular member to replace Louise Greene, who resigned recently because of a conflict with her job. Boyte takes over Hart's place as an alternate.

Mrs. Holden replaces Norma Swarts, who resigned from the elections board because her husband, Sid Swarts, is running for town commissioner this fall.

Commissioners made the unanimous appointments during a special meeting last Thursday.

Committee Of 100 Names 9 Directors

BY SUSAN USHER

Nine directors representing a cross-section of the area were elected Tuesday by the South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100, a nonprofit group formed to help draw suitable industries to the area.

Bobby Davis, industrial developer with Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. and steering committee member, said he's "anxious to get started."

Serving with Davis will be Dr. Lee Langston, physician; Al Laughinghouse, banker; Carolyn Sweatt, publisher; Davis Milligan, accountant; Michael Cox, lawyer; Joe Stanley, small business owner; Larry Cheek, dentist; and Paula Stanley, small business owner.

By general consensus the membership left it to the directors whether to accept additional recommendations from a nominating committee chaired by Tom Monks, executive director of the Resources Development Commission for Brunswick County, and including David Batten, Larry Cheek and Joe Stanley.

They recommended adding ex officio members to the board as well as creation of five committees.

Batten said the idea behind the ex officio appointments would be to make sure "cornerstone" positions in the county are represented.

These would include the chairmen of the county board of commissioners and board of education; county manager; mayors; president of Brunswick Community College; president and executive director of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce; and president of the Southport-Oak Island Committee of 100.

However, Jim Lowell of Holden Beach questioned whether such a large number of members might impede the board's ability to get its work done. He suggested they might serve better as resource people accessible to the board and its working committees rather than as directors.

The committee also recommended naming Bill Stanley, Paul Dennis, Steve Stanley, Odell Williamson and Alan Holden as ex officio members to serve as "advisors".

Standing committees recommended were finance, sites and buildings, education, government taxation and quality of life.

As of the Tuesday cut-off the Committee of 100 had 117 charter members, but will continue to accept general memberships on a continuing basis, said Davis.

"We don't want to leave anyone out," said Davis after the meeting, commenting on the nominating committee's recommendations and the Committee as a whole. "We want to get as many people involved as possible and to keep them informed and to ensure geographic representation."

Area Democrats Slate Strategy Seminar

The director of training for the North Carolina Democratic Party will conduct a workshop outlining political strategies for Brunswick County area Democrats Thursday, July 25.

The workshop will begin at 7 p.m. at the Brunswick County Democratic Headquarters building on U.S. 17 across from the Brunswick Community College campus. Is is open to all interested party members from the 7th District, which includes Brunswick, Columbus, Cumberland, Robeson and Bladen counties, said Ouida Hewett, ladies president for the 7th District.

The workshop leader has worked on the campaigns of Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan and Harvey Gantt, who challenged Jesse Helms for a seat in the U.S. Senate.

More information is available from Crawford Hart, chairman of the Brunswick County Democratic Party, sponsor of the workshop. He can be reached at 845-2988 (home) or 754-8880 (headquarters).

Sales Resuming

Sales of used lumber and railroad crossties are resuming at Military Ocean Terminal, Sunny Point, said Myrtle D. Meade, spokesman.

A special sale of crossties begins today (Thursday), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is $3 each.

Starting Thursday, Aug. 1, and continuing each Thursday until further notice, scrap lumber that measures 7 feet or under will be sold from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. A cord costs $60.

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