

Holden Board Getting Antsy About Sidewalk

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach officials are getting antsy about a proposed sidewalk on Ocean Boulevard.

Seven weeks after voting to accept bids for a concrete walkway on the north side of the street, town commissioners still haven't decided exactly where the sidewalk should be built.

Commissioners made no formal decision Monday night after discussing the matter at length during a special meeting. They hope to reach a decision at the regular meeting Oct. 7.

"I don't want to wait two weeks, but if we have to we have to," Mayor John Tandy said at the close of Monday night's debate.

Holden Beach officials have been discussing the need for a sidewalk for years and have included \$40,000 in the budget each of the last three years.

Town Manager Gary Parker said the sidewalk can't be built where most town officials think it's needed the most because Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. (BEMC) hasn't finished an underground wiring project in that area.

"One way or the other, I want to see us spend \$40,000 on sidewalks this year."

—Commissioner Gay Atkins

Commissioners want the sidewalk between High Point Street and Sand Dollar Drive so it would provide access to the Holden Beach Fishing Pier and other businesses and cover the most densely developed part of the island.

However, Parker said BEMC has not yet buried conduit between those two streets which is needed to house electric cables that are going underground so overhead power lines and utility poles can be removed.

Parker said the town can put a sidewalk between Jordan and Sanford Street because Brunswick Electric has completed work in that section of Holden Beach.

Work has not been finished west of Sanford Street, and Parker said BEMC officials don't expect to resume work on the project until January.

Commissioners instructed the town manager Monday to ask BE-

MC to install conduit between Sanford and Greensboro streets as soon as possible. The board also wants conduit from Greensboro Street to Sand Dollar Drive.

"I think this community is really counting on us doing something as soon as we can," Tandy said. "The main reason is safety and the public is looking for it."

At one point Monday, Tandy suggested that the town board meet with Brunswick Electric officials to tell them what they expect.

However, Commissioner Bob Buck said that might be counterproductive. He said the town manager could be just as effective using "friendly persuasion" with BEMC officials.

Buck said conduit can be installed between High Point Street and Sand Dollar Drive and the wire can be pulled through later. He said conduit was buried at his house 18 months ago and the wires still

haven't been pulled.

"They can put the conduit in reality, really fast," Buck said. "They can pull the wire any old time."

If the town can't get what it wants from Brunswick Electric, Commissioner Gay Atkins said a sidewalk should be built from Sanford Street east toward the bridge.

"One way or the other, I want to see us spend \$40,000 on sidewalks this year," she said. "We've been working on this a long time."

Commissioner Judy Bryan urged the town board to do what it can now, saying there's density up and down the beach. "You're going to do the whole beach eventually, so why not do what you can now?"

Mayor Pro Tem Gloria Barrett said it wouldn't do any good to build a sidewalk that didn't provide access to the fishing pier, which is the center of activity for the island.

Mrs. Barrett said she would rather put in \$80,000 worth of sidewalks next year than spend \$40,000 this year on a sidewalk that won't be used.

Town Opts For Metal Garage

Holden Beach Commissioners have decided to build a metal public works garage—rejecting a more attractive masonry design to save money.

Rooks Construction Co. of Whiteville will build the new garage, which will be covered with vinyl siding and cost approximately \$36,500.

The 1,800-square-foot building with four bays will be built east of the town hall facing Davis Street and should be finished before Thanksgiving.

Rooks submitted the lowest of five bids for the metal building. The town also received three bids for a masonry building with the lowest being \$71,380.

At a special meeting Monday, commissioners voted to go with a metal building and accepted the bid from Rooks Construction.

Although town officials agreed that a masonry building would look better than a metal building, they said a metal garage would serve the same purpose and save the town a lot of money.

Holden Beach will save nearly \$35,000 by going with a metal building instead of a masonry building.

"The appearance of the masonry building is probably going to be thought by many to be more attractive," Town Manager Gary Parker said. But he said there is no difference from a functional standpoint.

Town officials hope vinyl siding will improve the appearance of the plain metal building somewhat and help protect it from the salt air.

Commissioner Gay Atkins pointed out that most builders are using vinyl siding on new homes, and people use it when they renovate existing homes.

"I don't want a metal building, but at the same time a metal building will meet the needs of this town," Commissioner Bob Buck said.

Bobby Rooks of Rooks Construction said construction will begin within six weeks, and it won't take more than three weeks to build the structure.

Commissioners plan to award plumbing and electrical contracts at their Oct. 7 meeting.

Woodburn Precinct Move To Leland Gets Delayed

BY TERRY POPE

Woodburn precinct will not be moved from the Navassa Town Hall, at least not for the Nov. 5 election.

The Brunswick County Board of Elections voted unanimously Monday to table the town of Leland's controversial request to move the precinct to the Leland Town Hall.

Leland officials have not prepared a road or parking spaces for voters, as had been promised, said board member Billy Benton of Grissettown.

"There were questions about how much parking was to be put in there," said Benton. "Someone said there was going to be quite a few spaces when they complete their work. That is yet to be seen."



BENTON

The town council adopted a resolution asking the elections board to move the polling place to the Leland Town Hall, stating it was a more convenient location for Woodburn voters. Leland's town hall is presently located in a renovated house on Village Road.

Plans call for the construction of a new town facility adjacent to a site chosen for the new northern branch library. A town road and adjacent parking spaces will accommodate the two, but construction has not yet begun.

Elections board Chairperson Glenda Walker said town officials had indicated at one time they were "ready to jump in and get it taken care of."

Tree stumps still line the site where a new road and parking area are suppose to be built, said Ms. Walker.

She said some town officials told her that they had heard the board was not going to move the precinct, so they delayed work on the road.

"I wonder who they heard that from?" asked Secretary Orie Gore. "They didn't hear that from me."

Benton and Supervisor of Elections Lynda Britt also indicated they had not talked with anyone from Leland about the precinct move.

Leland Town Clerk Joyce Bragg, in a letter addressed to the elections board dated Aug. 22, stated that "citizens of Leland are inquiring when or if the polling place for the Woodburn Precinct will be moved" to the Leland Town Hall. Ms. Bragg noted the council's resolution asking for the move.

The three board members each toured both sites in July. Residents attending a public hearing in Navassa argued both for and against the precinct move.

Residents in Navassa also vote in the Woodburn precinct.

Benton said the matter should be tabled until after the first of the year.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Ten Injured In Four-Car Accident At Grissettown

Ten people were injured Saturday afternoon in a four-car accident on U.S. 17 at Grissettown.

The accident happened as one driver, traveling east on N.C. 904, ran through a stop sign at an estimated 70 mph and collided with another vehicle headed north on U.S. 17. State Trooper C.E. Ward reported.

Freddie Young Jr., 54, of Awendaw, S.C., was charged with driving while impaired and driving with no operator's license, Ward reported.

Young's 1972 Chevrolet ran through the stop sign and was struck in the right side by a 1986 Ford station wagon driven by William Darrell Taylor, 47, of Wilmington, the report stated. Both

drivers were seriously injured in the 2 p.m. accident.

A passenger in Young's car, Alfred Young, and two passengers in the Taylor car, Joseph Stanley Taylor, 16, and Martha Lynn Taylor, 44, were also seriously injured and taken to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

A fourth passenger in the Taylor car, Darryl Wayne Taylor, 21, received class B injuries, which are serious but not incapacitating.

After being struck, Young's vehicle traveled out of control, overturned and landed on top of a 1983 Oldsmobile driven by Cynthia Bryant Stevenson, 32, of Supply.

Ms. Stevenson was stopped for traffic, headed west on N.C. 904 from Seaside, Ward reported. She and a passenger, William Stevenson, 35, received serious injuries and were taken to the hospital.

A third passenger in the Stevenson car, Randy Stevenson, four months, received minor injuries.

According to State Trooper B.D. Barnhardt, who assisted Ward in the report, the Young vehicle then flipped over again, landing on top

of a 1985 Dodge Caravan driven by Sarah Katharine Girard, 50, of Winston-Salem.

The Girard vehicle was stopped behind the Stevenson car on N.C. 904. Ms. Girard received minor injuries, Barnhardt stated.

Several of the victims were transferred Saturday evening to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, reported Barnhardt.

Drivers Injured

Two people were injured Friday afternoon at an accident in Supply, at the intersection of U.S. 17 and N.C. 211, reported State Trooper W.H. Thompson.

Cleoma Staley Jarvis, 73, of Winston-Salem, was charged with failure to yield following the 1:30 p.m. accident, Thompson reported.

According to the report, Ms. Jarvis was traveling east on N.C. 211 when she pulled her 1984 Ford into the path of a 1978 Toyota driven by Tracy Lamar Bethune, 29, of Southport.

Ms. Bethune was traveling south on U.S. 17, Thompson stated.

Seriously injured, both drivers were taken to The Brunswick

Hospital. Damage was estimated at \$2,500 to the Jarvis vehicle and \$1,000 to the Bethune car.

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