

Harbor Moves Toward Incorporation

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Sunset Harbor residents are moving forward with plans to incorporate their quiet, waterway community into an official town.

State Rep. David Redwine explained the incorporation process to a group of about 60 permanent and part-time residents who gathered at Sunset Harbor Baptist Church last Friday night.

"I just want to make sure you understand what you're about to do," he told the crowd. "This needs to be a thoughtful process."

Redwine warned the group that the decision of whether to incorporate could become "very emotional."

He said residents would have to decide such issues as town boundaries, taxes, a proposed budget and public services before he would take their request to the N.C. General Assembly.

Redwine also would require registered voters to decide the issue in a referendum as a condition of becoming a town.

The proposed town boundaries would run from the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway and Lockwood Folly River to the edge of River Run Plantation and the old Swan property.

Derwood Landreth, chairman of the incorporation committee, said 181 of approximately 200 permanent residents of Sunset Harbor had signed a petition to incorporate into a town.

The 31 permanent residents who attended the meeting voted unanimously to dissolve the original five-member incorporation committee, forming a new eight-member incorporation committee in its place.

The new committee is made up of volunteers from the group of permanent residents.

Besides Landreth, the committee includes Billy

Nicholson, David Beresoff, Larry Roberts, Tom Yeagle, George Reiner, T.J. Edwards and Miles Edge.

Most of the meeting was spent discussing the reasons for incorporation, taxes, and the rights of approximately 1,500 part-time residents.

Many property owners who are registered to vote in other counties asked Rep. Redwine about their not being able to vote on taxes they must pay on their Sunset Harbor property.

Redwine said every citizen has a constitutional right to vote on taxation, but people can only vote where they are registered.

He explained that if a person owned 50 parcels of land across the state, that person would not have the right to vote 50 times.

"How will incorporation help me if I can't voice my opinion about it?" asked a woman who votes in Raleigh. Another part-time resident asked if they would still have to pay taxes in Sunset Harbor if they couldn't vote there.

Beresoff, member of the new incorporation committee, received applause from the group when he replied that "you vote where your heart is; if your heart's in the Harbor, then you got your vote."

The state legislator said people can change their voting district by establishing a new place of permanent residence. However, individuals can be penalized for falsely reporting their place of residency.

Other residents said that they feared Sunset Harbor was incorporating simply to avoid annexation by Long Beach.

Redwine fielded questions about what would happen if Long Beach tried to annex the community. But he said it didn't look likely that would happen.

Landreth denied that the only reason most residents favored incorporation was to avoid annexation by Long



STATE REP. DAVID REDWINE (left) explains steps involved in incorporating as a town to a group of Sunset Harbor residents Friday night. Also answering questions was Derwood Landreth (background), incorporation committee chairman.

Beach.

He focused on police protection and the betterment of the community through localized government as the major reasons most residents gave for taking action to become a municipality.

The committee chairman also said River Run would not be included in the town boundaries because it was "just a bigger headache."

He said it would be too expensive to maintain and repair the subdivision's roads and provide services and still keep the tax rate low.

Redwine had been asked by members of the River

Run community about the procedures for incorporation more than a year ago, but he said he never heard anything more from them and the idea seems to have been dropped. At that time River Run had made no plans to include Sunset Harbor in its municipal boundaries.

Landreth said he hopes to call another public forum in early December, after the incorporation committee talks with officials from the N.C. Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

Sunset Harbor's request to become a town could not be considered by the N.C. General Assembly until the legislature reconvenes in May 1992.

Voting A Two-Stop Process For Residents Of Two Towns

Residents at Ocean Isle Beach and Holden Beach will need to go to two different locations Tuesday, Nov. 5, in order to vote town and county ballots.

Both towns conduct their own municipal elections rather than contracting with the Brunswick County Board of Elections. Voters in the two towns will go to their respective town hall to vote on candidates for town office.

However, to vote on the two county referendum issues, Ocean Isle Beach residents will go to the Sea Trail Building at Seaside (Oyster Festival grounds).

Holden Beach residents will go to Bellamy's Net Shop off Holden Beach Road.

All polling places open at 6:30 a.m. and remain open until 7:30 p.m. For those voters who will be away on Nov. 5 the last day for one-stop absentee voting in county-run elections is Friday, Nov. 1 at 5 p.m. at the Board of Elections office only at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

Here are the polling places, by precinct:

PRECINCT	POLLING PLACE
Freeland	Myrtle King Building
Ash	Waccamaw Park Community Building
Longwood	Roland Gore Store
Shingletree	Calabash VFD
Grissetown	Sea Trails Bldg., Seaside
Frying Pan	Shallotte National Guard Armory
Shallotte	Shallotte VFD
Secession 1	Tri-Beach VFD
Secession 2	Bellamy's Net Shop
Supply	Supply VFD
Mosquito	Sunset Harbor/Zion Hill VFD
Oak Island 1	Caswell Beach Town Hall
Oak Island 2	Long Beach Recreation Center
Southport 1	Jaycees Building
Southport 2	American Legion Post 213
Boiling Spring Lakes	BSL Rescue Squad Building
Bolivia	Bolivia Town Hall
Town Creek	Town Creek Township Park
Belville	DOT Maintenance Building
Woodburn	Navassa Town Hall
Leland	Leland Community Building
Hood Creek	Hood Creek Community Building

Shell Point Residents Want More 'Responsive' County Commissioners

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Point, who also believes commissioners have overlooked his community's need for county water.

"When they get elected for four years, they know they've got four years," said Chadwick. "They don't have to answer to the people."

Shell Point is located on the east side of the Shallotte River. Residents say that if commissioners can vote to build another water line to the Seaside and Sunset Beach community, then they should be willing to route a line to Shell Point. Increased demand for water south of Shallotte prompted the need for another line there, a major project

that is still under construction. "Seaside gets more," said Black, "but Shell Point has none."

One resident believes she knows why.

"I don't think we have enough prominent developers out here," said Lila Hester of Riverview. "They're (commissioners) not as interested in common, ordinary folks with less influence."

Black said 85 percent of Riverview residents have petitioned the county for water. He believes they share his view on county representation.

"Right now, you can buy the best liquor, beer and wine in the world in Brunswick County," said Black, "but you can't buy good water. I think their (commissioners) priorities are absolutely wrong."

Residents there have asked District 2 Commissioner Jerry Jones for help.

"He (Jones) wasn't very encouraging," said Ms. Hester. "He said that he did understand. Unless you have water problems of your own, you don't understand what people go through."

Chadwick said there are as many homes and voters in Shell Point as there are at Sunset Beach.

"There's enough people here to justify them putting it in," said Chadwick. "I believe my property is valued just as high as that on Sunset Beach."

He said residents there want to know that they are being heard.

Added Ms. Hester, "We have a lot of people in this area. We're going to keep working on it. We're not going to give up. We're taxpayers, too."

Ballot, Exit Poll Asks 5 Sticky Questions

(Continued From Page 1-A)

Residents vote on the candidates countywide.

"What we are doing is, in effect, ensuring the one-man, one-vote principle," said Clegg.

District lines were redrawn last in 1981, based on population counts from the 1980 U.S. Census. At that time, each district contained an average of 7,155 residents.

Residency districts do not have to be confused with electoral districts, where residents do not vote countywide. Residency districts do not affect townships or voting precincts.

"People are concerned that this is going to change their polling place or change what precinct they are in," said Lynda Britt, supervisor of the Brunswick County Board of Elections. "But this is not what is happening."

Based on questions and comments she's received from absentee voters stopping in the office, Mrs. Britt is concerned that there are some county residents who "don't really understand the issues being put before them," she said.

"People are reluctant to ask questions, but they shouldn't be," she said. "That's my greatest concern, that they might not understand."

On the ballot regarding terms for commissioners and school board members, for example, she said voters tend to be confused because they are not being asked a "for" or "against" question.

"You have to be for something—either two-year terms or four-year terms," she said.

Non-Partisan Elections?

When State Rep. E. David Redwine began checking among constituents to see how they felt about changing the terms of school board members from four years to two years, he didn't get a decisive response one way or the other.

But a lot of voters told him—and Brunswick County Commissioners—that they were interested in a vote on returning school board elections to a non-partisan basis. That is when candidates run without having to declare an affiliation with a particular party. It also eliminates the potential of a party primary. County commis-

sioners added it to the list of questions they wanted to poll voters on.

The Brunswick County Board of Education has not taken an official stance on partisan versus non-partisan elections, though individual members have stated their views on the issue.

County school board elections went from non-partisan to partisan in 1982, at the same time the board size was reduced from six to five members.

Only 34 of the 134 school systems in North Carolina conduct non-partisan elections, according to data maintained by the North Carolina School Boards Association.

"To be very honest, I can't tell a great deal of difference between the two," Association Executive Director Gene Causby said in a recent interview.

"I have some tell me that even though the members are elected on a non-partisan basis that we still don't have many non-partisan boards."

Voter Opinions Sought

Voters will be asked on the exit poll if the county should "create five county service districts for the purpose of providing fire protection, ambulance service, rescue service and emergency medical service" to fund volunteer units, effective July 1, 1992.

Commissioners are exploring service districts as a way of alleviating funding woes for many of the county's 31 volunteer fire and rescue units.

In service districts, residents pay an assessment, not to exceed 15 cents per \$100 of property value, that is earmarked for fire and rescue service in their own district.

Presently, the county provides \$13,500 to each unit, regardless of the departments' needs. Also, \$50,000 is budgeted for each of the five residency districts, to be used on an emergency basis.

These questions are listed on a questionnaire that is oversized so as not to fit in the machines that count ballots. Results of the exit poll will be handcounted and will not be available with other election results.

State To Award Last Bid

State Board of Transportation members are expected to award a contract Friday to four-lane the last section of U.S. 17 in Brunswick County.

The board meets Friday at 9 a.m. at the Highway Building in Raleigh. If the contract is awarded, construction could begin any time after Nov. 25 to widen U.S. 17 from just west of Old Shallotte Road (S.R. 1316) to the South Carolina state line.

APAC-Carolina Inc. of Darlington, S.C., submitted the lowest of eight combined bids on the 11.5-mile stretch. The company says it will complete the work for \$10.27 million, which is about \$1 million below what the Department of Transportation had estimated.

If the work is completed on schedule, motorists can mark June 1, 1994, as the first day they can travel from one end of Brunswick County to the other on a four-lane U.S. 17.

The project is part of a larger effort to four-lane U.S. 17 from the Virginia to the South Carolina state line.

SAYS CANADY

More Mild, Dry Weather Ahead

Area residents can expect more mild temperatures and very little rainfall over the next week as the South Brunswick Islands settle into an unseasonably warm fall.

Jackson Canady, weather watcher at Shallotte Point, said the outlook for the area will continue to offer temperatures above normal for this time of year and rainfall slightly less than normal.

Evening lows should be in the low 50s, while the daytime highs should reach the mid 70s, he said.

Less than a quarter inch of rain is expected to fall in the next week, Canady added.

For the period of Oct. 22 through 28, the local area saw a maximum daytime high of 84 degrees, which

Canady recorded on Oct. 23, 25 and 26. The minimum evening low of 53 degrees was recorded on Oct. 22.

The average daytime high for the period was 83 degrees, and the average evening low was 60 degrees, making for an overall daily average of 72 degrees.

These figures are 11 degrees above longterm (normal) average, Canady said. "It has been unseasonably warm for this time of year," he said.

Canady recorded no rainfall at his home in Shallotte Point.

Hurricane Grace Causes Minor Erosion

Hurricane Grace caused only minor beach erosion in the South Brunswick Islands when the storm passed off the North Carolina coast early this week.

Most of the erosion at Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach was at the east end of both islands, town officials said.

Ocean Isle Beach Building Inspector Drued Roberson said high tides and waves from the storm caused erosion at the end of East Second Street, and one public beach access was undermined.

Most of the erosion occurred during Monday afternoon's high tide, but some accretion was also noted. "It brought some sand in in some places," Roberson said.

Holden Beach Building Inspector Dwight Carroll said waves came over the wall of sandbags at the east

end of Ocean Boulevard. He said he wasn't aware of any property damage caused by the storm.

Besides the hurricane's waves, tides were higher than usual because the moon was closer than usual to Earth.

There were no reports of erosion at Sunset Beach, which has a wide strand and rarely has problems with beach erosion.

Long Beach Town Manager David Poston said there was only "minimal" beach erosion and no property damage.

"It wasn't bad at all," Poston said Tuesday. "It looks like we've gained sand in some areas."

Grace was the season's seventh named storm and third hurricane. Hurricane season officially ends Friday.

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