

**SHALLOTTE POINT HEARING SET JAN. 22**

# Winnabow Water Project Cut From Special Assessment District List

BY TERRY POPE

As expected Monday, the Brunswick County Utility Operations Board voted to drop a project that would have routed county water lines into the Winnabow and Town Creek communities.

But a plan approved by Brunswick County Commissioners Monday could make Shallotte Point one giant Special Assessment District so water will be made available to all residents there.

That plan will go before a public hearing Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m., in the Public Assembly Building at the Brunswick County Government Center in Bolivia.

Water plans and requests, from the Northwest community to Shallotte Point, seeped onto the two boards' agendas Monday.

Last week, emotions ran high as two property owners died after they attended a public hearing held to gather input on the Winnabow project.

John Edward Maggard, 55, of Leland died of a heart attack he suffered just minutes into the meeting. Also, Elizabeth Irving, 70, of Winnabow suffered an apparent stroke and left the meeting early. She was transported to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply and later died.

*"My water table is dropping. We're getting concerned."*

—R.C. Eaton,  
Shallotte Point Resident

About 200 people attended the hearing where residents voted unanimously against SAD 19 and the assessment method that had been proposed.

Residents said that although they are for county water, they were against the high cost of running water lines into the mostly rural communities.

**Point Outlined**

The entire Point community will be considered for a single SAD, where residents will be assessed the cost of installing water lines into subdivisions and neighborhoods.

As part of the county's \$7 million capital improvements project, main water distribution lines would be routed to the Point community in 1992.

R.C. Eaton told commissioners Monday that three more wells near his Shallotte Point home went dry last week.

"My water table is dropping," he said. "We're getting concerned."

County Engineer Robert Tucker said plans being drawn for bids are about 80 percent complete. Jan. 27 is the target date for accepting bids, said Tucker, with awarding sometime in February.

A map prepared by the UOB shows the entire Shallotte Point community as one large SAD—bordered by the Shallotte city limits and Village Point Estates on the north, by the Shallotte River on the east and N.C. 179 on the west.

District 2 Commissioner Jerry Jones said making the Point one large SAD would get water to those residents quicker.

**Bid Awarded**

Bryant Electric Co. of High Point will install a portion of the \$7 million main distribution water line to Seaside.

Tucker told commissioners he

was "extremely pleased" with Bryant's \$2.2 million low bid. The line will be placed along Brunswick Electric's easement through Shallotte and down U.S. 17 to Grissettown.

County Manager David Clegg said the entire project must be bid in sections. He expects bids for another section, down N.C. 904 to Seaside, to be for the Dec. 16 meeting.

Other bids received for the first phase included: T.A. Loving, \$2.6 million; R.H. Moore, \$2.7 million; HBS Contractors, \$2.7 million; East Coast Construction, \$2.8 million; Wright and Lopez, \$2.8 million; Yates Construction Co., \$2.9 million; Hall Contracting, \$2.9 million; Mark H. Johnson Inc., \$3.0 million; State Utility Construction, \$3.0 million; Hobby Construction Co., \$3.2 million; Glover Construction Co., \$3.4 million; and Herring Rivenbark, \$4.1 million.

Commissioners gave Clegg authority to negotiate for property, based on fair market appraisals, where an elevated storage tank and pumping station are planned.

**Residents Concerned**

A number of residents from Jennifer Subdivision near Leland,

where emergency water lines are being installed for residents with gas-line contaminated wells, appeared at the commissioners' meeting asking for information.

"We've heard they're charging us \$6 per foot," said resident William Holland.

A line routed from the Northwest Water Treatment Plant on Mt. Misery Road to the subdivision is a capital improvements project, said Tucker. However, the line running into the subdivision will be an SAD, with residents paying an assessment.

The state gave the county a \$20,000 grant to help pay for the emergency water line.

Northwest resident Yvonne Bright asked UOB members if they plan to expand lines in the area for residents along Mt. Misery Road.

"We are within 900 feet of the water line," she said.

Public Utilities Director Jerry Webb said his staff is doing housing counts in that community to determine if an SAD would be feasible. He plans to hold a community meeting there soon.

"How it ends up remains to be seen," said Webb. "But we are looking at it."

## Dead As A Dodo!

BY BILL FAVER

You don't hear many people use this expression anymore, but I can remember my grandfather proclaiming something as "dead as a Dodo!" I think it meant not only "dead," but something long-gone, removed, vanished forever. For the Dodo birds were killed mercilessly until they were all removed from three islands off Madagascar in the Indian Ocean.

Dodos were discovered on these islands in the 16th Century and the fat, flightless birds, weighing up to 50 pounds each, attracted Dutch, English, and French ships. The birds were easy to club to death by the hundreds and to salt down in barrels for transport to market. From the day the islands and their unique birds were discovered to the classification of the Dodo as extinct took only 174 years.

The flightless Great Auk had a similar experience. Fossils in the southern part of Italy prove the Auk was living some 60,000 years ago. They were plentiful on rocky islands along the North Atlantic coasts, from Spain to Scandinavia, and Greenland, Iceland, and the North American east coast. European seamen used shotguns to take these goose-like birds and the last pair was killed off the coast of Iceland in 1844.

Another species as "dead as a Dodo" is the American Passenger Pigeon. Once described as "so numerous as to darken the sky," one flock was estimated at 2 1/2 million birds. In Wisconsin alone, one area claimed 136 million birds in 1871. But by 1901, the species was about extinct, and the last bird died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1914. Birds had been harvested for market and farmers had killed birds interfering with their crops.

Gone also is the Heath Hen and the Carolina Parakeet and the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, larger cousin of our Pileated Woodpecker. Today the California Condor is virtually gone and the Whooping Crane is holding on only because of the extensive and expensive cooperation of our Fish and Wildlife Service and Canada. And, even today, with the publicity and supposed enlightenment of that program, we find a Marble Falls, Texas, hunter, jailed and fined for killing a whooper.

In a way it is a shame we don't hear the phrase "dead as a Dodo" anymore. Maybe it would remind us of our shameful treatment of creatures formed to share this world with us. That we exploited them and brought them to extinction for quick profit and sport ought to cause us guilt, or, at least, ought to remind us we can do better!



FAVER

## Suit Says Ocean Isle Club Still Owes Rent

An Ocean Isle woman says an upstairs renter has left owing her business about \$6,000 in rent and damages.

In a lawsuit filed Nov. 19 in Brunswick County District Court, Betty D. Gore, owner of Ocean Isle Seafood and Grocery on N.C. 179, claims Jesse James Ellis, owner of the former Jesse's Lounge, owes her \$5,886 plus attorney fees.

Alcohol permit applications for Jesse's Lounge were rejected by the State Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission in August. The night club closed shortly afterward.

According to a letter from ABC Commission Assistant Administrator Douglas M. Robinson II, alcohol sales permits were denied because the

lounge did not have an adequate septic system. The upstairs business shared a septic system with the seafood market.

The present condition of the establishment's "septic system would tend to possess a threat to the public health and safety of the surrounding community," Robinson's letter dated Aug. 29 states.

According to Ms. Gore's lawsuit, Ellis entered into a written lease on June 26 to rent the upstairs part of the building as a night club at Hale Beach Road and N.C. 179, where Ocean Isle sewer lines do not extend.

The suit claims Ellis defaulted on lease payments in the amount of \$3,900 and owes \$2,000 in damages. It claims Ellis, of Clarendon, failed

to keep the premises and equipment in good condition.

It also claims that Ellis purchased on credit \$200.45 in goods from the Ocean Isle Seafood and Grocery during June, July and August and has refused to pay.

Filed by Seaside attorney Harry Heilig, the complaint is asking for \$5,886 plus interest and not less than \$1,200 in attorney fees.

Last month, Ms. Gore pleaded no contest to a sewage disposal violation, a charge filed by the Brunswick County Health Department.

She received a prayer for judgment continued in the case, which means that the judgment is suspended provided there are no further violations.

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