

Calabash Board Joins Protest Against Salt In Water Supply

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Calabash commissioners plan to launch a complaint campaign with the aim of persuading Carolina-Blythe Utilities to improve the quality of drinking water in the Carolina Shores area.

Jim Deehan, president of the Carolina Shores Property Owners Association, proposed to the board at its regular meeting Tuesday night that Calabash either hook into the county drinking water system, or that Carolina-Blythe, the company that provides Carolina Shores with water service, build a third well in the area to cover the demand presented when the other two wells run into low, saltier levels.

Deehan said he wrote a letter last spring to Roger McDaniel, Ph.D., chief of the Environmental Sciences Section, Lab Services, of the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources in Raleigh, to complain about the high sodium content and brackish, unpleasant taste of water coming from Carolina Shores taps.

He said that his response from McDaniel last July said that the state is not responsible for the smell, taste or color of water as long as it does not present a health risk to the community. The aesthetics of a salty taste do not play into health risk factors concerning water, Deehan said of McDaniel's reply.

Commissioner Jon Sanborn concurred with Deehan's findings, citing his own research. The state does not have standards of allowable limits of sodium content in drinking water, he said.

Sanborn suggested a third solution to the brackish water problem: installation of a reverse osmosis purifying system. This is a "viable alternative" which works, he said, but may cost the customer as much as 40 to 50 cents per gallon to use.

Deehan said that he had recently had a test performed on three different samples of water. One sample came from bottled water purchased at a grocery store, the second was a tap specimen from Little River Water and Sewer Association, and the third was Carolina Shores tap water provided by Carolina-Blythe.

"Why shouldn't this municipality do something to look after its residents, including looking after the quality of the drinking water?"

—Jim Deehan, President, Carolina Shores POA

The Carolina Shores sample had the highest sodium content, Deehan said, showing nearly 200 mg of sodium, where the others showed minimal salt content.

He urged the board of commissioners to "do something" to improve his community's drinking water.

"Why shouldn't this municipality do something to look after its residents, including looking after the quality of the drinking water?" Deehan asked.

Commissioner Ray Card said that he, too, had contacted state environmental officials about the quality of Carolina Shores drinking water and had not received satisfaction.

He did learn, however, that the state was required to respond to every complaint about water quality, and that he believed that a letter-writing or phone call "complaint" campaign would greatly influence the state's position.

The outcome, Card said, might be that the county could extend water service into the Carolina Shores area, or that Carolina-Blythe could be influenced to dig another well to supply the community.

Deehan agreed to ask POA members to follow a suggestion from Card. The commissioner suggested that POA members write letters of concern to the state agency in Raleigh, while commissioners contact the agency as a town.

Deehan also proposed that town commissioners encourage the state Department of Transportation to install a blinking traffic signal at the intersection of Country Club Drive, Carolina Shores Parkway and Carolina Shores Drive.

His proposal came in response to a weekend accident at the intersection that resulted in two deaths and left other three persons injured.

The commissioners took no action on the request at Tuesday's meeting.

Zoning Ordinances

Ed Schaak, town building inspector, had presented three amendments to the town zoning ordinance at the last Planning and Zoning Board meeting, but the proposals were returned to the commissioners unapproved.

Section 9 limits to one week the amount of time allowable to spend inhabiting a recreational vehicle (RV) as a guest of a property owner. Also the property owner must be in residence at the time the RV is inhabited on that property.

Section 13 limits the changes a person can make in their signage without obtaining a permit for such changes.

Section 31 regulates the installation and size of drainage pipes in the town boundaries.

After discussion, commissioners decided the proposed amendments were satisfactory for reconsideration by the Planning Board and agreed to re-submit them.

Public Hearing

Commissioners heard no public comment, but discussed proposed corrections to zoning and building ordinances related to manufactured homes at a public hearing Tuesday night prior to the regular meeting.

Schaak said that the corrections were simply to amend mistakes made in the original versions of the ordinance.

During the regular meeting, the commissioners approved the corrections.

Other Business

In other business, commissioners:

■ Witnessed the swearing in of re-elected commissioners Jon Sanborn and Keith Hardee. Robert Noe, the

only newly elected member, was unable to attend or be sworn in due to illness. He replaces Phyllis Manning, who did not seek re-election.

■ Heard from Card that the recycling station is "working well" and that the town's agreement for recyclable waste pick-up by M & J Plastics in Bolivia seems to be serving the town well.

■ Heard from Commissioner Stuart Thorn regarding a Governor's Coastal Initiative meeting this weekend in Southport. The organization was "pleased with the way we've progressed," Thorn said, but urged Calabash to go ahead and request additional assistance of the state while it can.

He said that since 1992 is an election year, he was told that the town might get more funding from the governor's program for town improvements.

The burial of utility lines underground, which had been planned for 1994, could be accomplished as soon as next year, because the project would not interfere with the proposed installation of a sewer system, Schaak added.

■ Heard from Mayor pro tem George Anderson read a letter stating that the community of Marsh Harbor was withdrawing its previous request for voluntary annexation. No explanation for the action was given in the letter except for the town's slow response in the matter.

■ Discussed ways to enforce compliance with permit regulations concerning yard sales. Town Attorney Mike Ramos recommended that the town simply take out warrants on the offenders and let the police serve the papers, which would hopefully deter future infractions.

■ Learned from Thorn that the county-wide 911 emergency rescue system should be in service by April 1. Also, he said that six Calabash Emergency Medical Technicians are certified as EMT-1s.

■ Went into executive session to receive legal advice before signing two documents. The first was the contract between the town and M & J Plastics for recyclable waste pick-up, and the second involved successor's rights of Kenneth Earnest of Hunter's Trace subdivision to use town drainage ditches.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Local Seniors Advance To Morehead Competition

Seniors Pamela Detrie of West Brunswick High School and Jim Simon of South Brunswick High School will advance to regional competition this month for the John Motley Morehead Scholarship.

The southeast regional competition will be held Dec. 17 in Kenansville.

Selection is based on scholarship, leadership, character and vigor.

Through regional committees, 70 finalists will be selected from 220 county winners across North Carolina to appear for interviews with the Morehead Foundation's central selection committee at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in February. They will join 50 others from across the country to compete for the awards.

A Morehead award provides an all-expense-paid undergraduate education at UNC, worth more than \$39,000. Between 40 and 50 awards are expected to be given this year.

Eight Graduate

Eight students with Brunswick County ties were among the approximately 1,900 graduates to receive degrees and certificates of advanced study at fall commencement Dec. 7 at East Carolina University in Greenville.

Two students received master of science degrees. Sharon Diane Fleugel of Shallotte earned her degree in speech, specializing in language and auditory pathology. Kathi P. Fogelman of Long Beach earned her master's in nursing.

Receiving bachelor of science degrees were Rachel Christine Boling of Bolivia, professional degree in social work; Cary Wayne Clemmons of Southport, professional degree in industrial technology; Tshya James of Greenville, psychology; John Richard Kopp Jr. Route 2, Bolivia, business administration-marketing; Michael Dwight McDowell of Leland, professional in communication, broadcasting; and Mary Elisabeth Russ of Shallotte, elementary education.

Crabtree Advanced

Third Class Petty Officer Richard Crabtree was recently advanced to that paygrade by the U.S. Navy.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Crabtree of Route 1, Supply, he is a machinist's mate stationed aboard the U.S.S. *Sustain*, a floating dry-dock homeported in Norfolk, Va.

A 1985 graduate of West Brunswick High School, Crabtree joined the U.S. Navy in March 1990 after having been employed with the

Carolina Power & Light laboratory.

Also, Crabtree recently received a letter of commendation for repair and reconstruction of "mission essential" equipment.

Attends Conference

Sandy Hewitt, tax collector for the Town of Shallotte, attended a conference on privilege license taxation Nov. 25 and 26 at the N.C. Institute of Government in Chapel Hill.

Appears In Magazine

Shannon Elliott, 14, of Southport, appears in *TEEN* magazine's January issue as a regional semifinalist in the 1992 Great Model Search.

She is competing for 1992 Model Discovery of the Year, which offers \$5,000 in cash as well as a prize package that include modeling opportunities.



ELLIOTT

DEED DISPUTED IN LELAND Hazardous Landfill Buyer Defaults On Loan

BY TERRY POPE

A Wilmington company that bought the old Leland landfill site from International Paper Realty Corp. has apparently defaulted on its \$1.9 million property loan.

Wilmington West Land Co. purchased the landfill in November 1988 from International as part of a large, 1,688-acre tract.

The developers say they plan to file a lawsuit of their own against the paper company for alleged "fraud and material misrepresentation" and also ask for damages and that the deed be rescinded.

At dispute is whether Wilmington West knew when it purchased the tract that it included a former county landfill, which was listed in 1985 as a potential hazardous waste site by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The site was placed on the "Superfund List" of the state's Solid Waste Management Division of the N.C. Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources as a likely hazardous toxic waste site that needed to be inspected and possibly cleaned up because of potential groundwater, surface water and soil contamination.

The Superfund program uses federal funds to identify and to remove contaminated materials from areas where they pose a threat to persons or the environment.

Part of the landfill was operated as an open dump with unrestricted access while asphalt and oil drums were put into the landfill's unlined trenches, the EPA stated.

International filed a lawsuit against Wilmington West in Brunswick County Superior Court Nov. 26, claiming the company has defaulted on a \$1.7 million payment. Wilmington West is headed by J.B. Gerald of Wilmington, who is also the developer of Jackey's Creek Plantation along N.C. 133 and U.S. 17 near Belville.

According to the complaint, Wilmington West bought the large tract between Lanvale Road and U.S. 17 for \$1,929,954. Balance due on Nov. 15, 1991, was \$1,707,002 plus \$444.15 in interest for each day thereafter.

Attorney David Nash of Wilmington filed the complaint on behalf of L.H. Ronnie Jr., president of International Paper Realty Corp. of Delaware.

Nash contends Wilmington West was notified on Nov. 20 that it owed \$1.7 million but that the defendant has failed to pay. The complaint asks that the court foreclose on the property and charge Wilmington West with attorney fees.

With a three-year statute of limitations approaching last month, Wilmington West filed a motion in Brunswick County Superior Court on Nov. 13 to commence civil action against International, allowing the developers more time to prepare a lawsuit.

Attorney John F. Carter III, of

Wilmington, stated in his motion that Wilmington West would be suing International "on the basis of fraud and material misrepresentation." As of last week, that complaint had not been filed in Brunswick County Superior Court.

The deed that records the company's land deal with International Paper does not indicate that part of the land purchased was a former hazardous waste landfill, according to documents on file at the Brunswick County Register of Deeds office.

The county's permit to operate the landfill was officially closed out in July 1984 while the site stopped receiving solid waste in January 1980.

Wilmington West has attempted to sell at least part of the 1,688-acre tract. It filed a preliminary plat with the Brunswick County Planning Department in December 1990 showing plans for a subdivision over the former dumping ground.

Called Between the Creeks, the plat map showed a cul-de-sac and roadway leading to the old landfill site with 13 lots platted on top of the former landfill.

Registered surveyor Jack G. Stocks said the company had planned to sell the lots as garden or recreational space for buyers in the planned subdivision and not as building space. But state and county officials convinced the developer to drop that part of the proposed subdivision.

Saying it was the first time such an issue has ever come up in North Carolina, the state attorney general's office issued a report stemming from the controversial development, in case similar instances should arise in other parts of the state.

A former landfill's surface cannot be disturbed in any way, thus prohibiting the building of roadways and installation of drainage or water lines on the site, said County Engineer Robert Tucker.

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