

Proposed Sewer System Receives Mixed Reviews At Public Hearings

BY DORI COSGROVE GURGANUS

Some residents of Calabash want a sewer system and others don't want anything to do with it. Yet another group insists that water lines be included with the proposed system.

Residents of the waterfront town, which now relies on septic tanks for sewage disposal except in one residential area, met last Thursday night with engineers working on a sewer study for the town. They asked questions and listened, learning how sewer service would most likely affect their wallets.

Town commissioners received a mixed message from the varied opinions voiced.

"Those hearings provided a wide range of divergent opinions on the validity of expanding the sewer system into adjoining communities," said Commissioner Jon Sanborn in a telephone interview Monday. "There seemed to be no consensus as to a firm direction for us to take."

A series of five consecutive public hearings was conducted at the fire station, allowing residents of 10 unsewered areas in Calabash to voice opinions and learn more about receiving sewer service.

The forums were open to property owners in Acreage Estates, Carolina Shores North, Calabash Acres, Calabash Acres East, Bay Point, Carlyle Acres, Hidden Valley, Ocean Forest, Carolina Cove and Hunter's Trace.

Neighborhoods were grouped together in four 30-minute hearing blocks and one 15-minute segment, during which approximately 20 to 30 people from each group showed up to listen and learn.

Engineers Jim Billups and Joe Tombro of Powell Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., requested

the public hearings at recent meetings of the town board.

Such public input is not only helpful in their study, but is also required in order for the town to qualify for some governmental loans, they said.

A study has been conducted within the past year to determine the need for sewer service in Calabash, and the possible options for treatment and collection facilities.

One of the major steps in the process, Billups and Tombro said, is to know if Calabash residents even desire such a change.

"That's why we're here tonight," Billups said to each group, "to learn how you feel about this and to answer your questions."

Gary Fassl of Buffalo, N.Y., who owns a lot in Carolina Shores North, said Thursday he had considered paying \$3,000 to install an alternative system on his property, which according to environmental reports won't perk.

"I'm ready to hold out now," he told the engineers after learning of the money he would save by waiting for sewer system installation.

He said the value of his land is very low because he can't build on it due to inability to put in a serviceable septic tank.

Billups supported Fassl's statement, adding that many septic tanks are failing, especially in the restaurant area, and many new landowners are being prevented by state regulations from building houses on their land.

"We've got condemned land now," Fassl said of the area surrounding the Carolina Shores North condominiums.

A majority of the Carolina Shores North residents present agreed with



ENGINEER JIM BILLUPS talks to residents of unsewered subdivisions in Calabash Thursday night in a series of public hearings. Residents voiced a variety of opinions regarding the proposed installation of a sewer system in their area.

Fassl, and showed support for a municipal sewer system.

But residents of Acreage Estates in Carolina Shores told a different story.

Fred and Hazel Janzen, residents for the past eight years, said they'd never had a problem with their septic tank, and they didn't feel a need to replace it.

Mrs. Janzen said she didn't know how other residents of Acreage Estates feel about adding sewer service, but spoke for the group present that evening.

"Those that are here are totally against it," she told the engineers.

Commissioner George Anderson said he was surprised at the reaction.

"That response puzzled me," he said between hearings. "You'd think they'd want sewers."

Commissioner Sanborn, liaison between the engineers and the town board, said that some residents support having sewer service in their neighborhood, but want county water as part of the deal.

To open discussion at the hearing, the engineers listed examples of

how residents would be billed should sewers be approved for the community.

Billups said residents of sewer areas would be affected by three different charges regarding sewer system implementation.

An impact fee, which would "very likely" be charged to all residents regardless of their desire to accept service, covers the cost of building or purchasing facilities, he explained.

A one time tap-on fee, charged only to those who choose to accept sewer service, pays for connection to the system.

Monthly charges pay off the system debt, pay regular maintenance costs for the facilities and pay for the use of county water, he said.

As an example, Billups demonstrated that residents of Little River, S.C., pay a \$1,400 impact fee, \$700 tap-on fee and \$27.62 in monthly service charges.

Residents of Shallotte, he continued, pay a \$1,600 impact fee, \$2,575 tap-on fee and \$27.79 in monthly service.

Under the current Carolina Blythe Utilities system serving 850 residents of the Carolina Shores subdivision in Calabash, customers pay a \$1,822 impact fee, \$900 tap-on fee and a monthly bill of \$38.10, Billups said.

Carolina Blythe Utilities is also considering a 68 percent rate increase soon, he told the audience.

Two scenarios were developed by Billups and Tombro for the proposed Calabash system, who estimated community populations in REUs (Residential Equivalent Units).

In an area of 1,300 REUs, involving the downtown commercial area

and adjacent residential areas, connection would cost \$1,612 for the impact fee, \$900 for the tap-on fee and \$50.14 for monthly service.

In an area of 1,800 REUs, adding the presently non-sewered areas, connection would cost \$1,167 for the impact fee, \$900 for tap-on and \$42.67 for monthly service.

Billups pointed out to participants in each hearing that the individual cost would go down depending on availability of grant funding to assist the project and the number of customers willing to connect to the system.

He also noted that current figures are not final.

Commissioner Sanborn said he believes the next step is for the town board to meet with the engineers to decide what sort of message was received from residents without sewer service, and then complete the study.

Myrick Joins Local GOP For Reception

Former Charlotte mayor Sue Myrick, a Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate, will join local Republican candidates at a meet-the-voters reception at the Brunswick County GOP Headquarters Saturday, Feb. 29, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The headquarters building is located in U.S. 17 one mile north of Supply. Finger foods will be served.

All Brunswick County voters are invited, according to a GOP news release.

Larry Heustess

Call me!



Jimmy Marshall



5th District: Center Needs Positive Help

BY TERRY POPE

Leland's Fifth District Civic Association says it needs some positive volunteer action to help renovate the old Leland School as a community building.

The association has come under criticism since it received a lease on the building from Brunswick County Commissioners in 1985. Some residents say seven years is a long enough wait for the building to be repaired and are asking that the group return the building to the county.

"The only thing we ask of the people is to let us do our work," said Jimmy Oldham, one of five 5th District board members. Others are C.O. "Hayseed" Thomas, Tommy Morgan, Houston Field and Clarence Brown.

Oldham said 5th District members have actively sought donations from the community to repair the building, but those funds have been slow in coming in. A struggling economy also hasn't helped.

"That building is going to be remodeled for the community," said Thomas. "We've been trying for a number of years. But we've had enough negative reaction. What we need is for the people to put some of their positive energy to use."

5th District members say they hope residents will volunteer to spend some Saturdays at the center to paint and to help make other repairs. The outside and roof has been repaired through funds and labor donated by the town of Belville and the county.

"We've got a lot of stuff to do,"

said Thomas.

The question over control of the building surfaced at the Leland Town Council meeting Feb. 13. Resident Rosemary Long asked the council if it had "decided that the 5th District is not doing the job it should" in renovating the building. She called for a resolution supporting county control of the building.

The Civic Center lies outside the Leland town limits at the Old Leland School park. It is actually a wing of the former Leland School that was not demolished when a new Leland Middle School was built.

Oldham said the 5th District board will now apply for a state grant to complete the building, which needs inside work, wiring and a septic tank.

"We haven't gotten everything finalized," said Oldham, but board members will meet with Brunswick County authorities Monday, March 2, to complete the grant application.

The overall goal is to lease space for Head Start classes during the day to Four-County Community Services of Laurinburg and to schedule the building at night to the community—for weddings, classes and civic meetings.

"The whole area will have access to the building," said Oldham.

Four-County had indicated it

would help seek funding to repair the building in exchange for free use of classrooms. But Oldham said last week that scenario will not legally work. The 5th District group must obtain the grant and make the repairs before an agreement can be signed with Four-County.

Leland Mayor S.L. Doty said he thinks the 5th District's plan to lease space to Head Start would benefit

the community.

"Sure, it's a good thing," said Doty. "We're pushing for that."

Presently, Leland area Head Start students are bused to a center in the Armour community in neighboring Columbus County. Head Start is a federally-funded child development program aimed at helping break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with a comprehensive program to meet their emotional, social, health, nutritional and psychological needs.

Oldham said the center has come a long way from when the county originally budgeted \$2,000 to tear it

Blood Pressure Seminar Takes AIM At Black Men

Black males, shown by statistical data to be prone to high blood pressure, are the target of a seminar and blood pressure screening to be held this Saturday, Feb. 29, in Bolivia.

Sponsored by the Brunswick County Health Department and AIM (Ambassadors Interested in Mankind), the screening is scheduled for 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Public Assembly Building at the Government Center.

Moe Stanley, a member of the target population and the Brunswick County Board of Health, has helped form AIM to work with the department's Adult Health Section in sponsoring this seminar, said Nancy

Leggett, public health nursing supervisor with the health department.

Black males, said Ms. Leggett, will be taught the many causes and treatments of hypertension, known as high blood pressure, and will be offered a free blood pressure screening as well.

AIM is currently made up of 12 to 15 concerned black males from all over Brunswick County who are actively recruiting participants for the seminar, she said.

Persons with questions can call the health department Adult Health Section at 253-4381 in Bolivia, 763-1312 in Leland and 457-5281 in Southport.

COMPLETE INTERIOR DECORATING SERVICE

- Carpet
 - Vinyl
 - Ceramic Tile
 - Window Treatments
 - Wallcoverings
- Ruby Floyd

Ocean Isle Interiors

Hwy. 904, #3 Seaside North
579-6091

© 1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

754-8400

Brunswick Square Hwy. 17 S., Shallotte

ABOUT WOODMEN'S IRA PLANS

WOODMEN of the WORLD LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY Home Office: Omaha, NE

THURSDAY MARCH 5

Haley's

SEAFOOD and STEAK HOUSE

Gourmet Salad Bar • Lounge

RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

NO SMOKING AREA

© 1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

GREEK NIGHT

Full course dinner from 5-9 PM. Show at 9 PM. (Regular menu items available)

Your Hosts: Tom & Marlene Haley • 579-6032

Open 7 Days, Closed Mon. Mar. 2 • Hwy. 17 in Calabash

We cater on or off premises, from basic to elegant

© 1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

THE WILD CHERRY

Featuring:

ELECTRONIC POKER & OTHER GAMES WIN!

Up to \$380 given away in daily and weekly cash drawings! (No Purchase Necessary)

Free Soft Drinks

WIN!

Free Snacks

© 1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

\$10 FREE

\$10 Free Play With This Coupon

Limit One Per Customer

EXPIRES MARCH 31

This offer may be cancelled at anytime

© 1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

1550 Hwy. 17 North, North Myrtle Beach, SC • (803)280-0016

BIG NEWS!!

In the coming weeks, look for your occupation on our discount coupons! A different occupational coupon will appear each week. One coupon per person, per week can be used storewide on total purchase!

THIS WEEK—

TrendSetter, Ltd.

REALTORS

Feb. 26-Mar. 4, 1992

© 1992 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

TrendSetter, Ltd.

"We fit your lifestyle"

Ladies' Apparel, Accessories, Jewelry, Gifts

754-7300 • SHALLOTTE

TWIN CREEK (FOOD LION) PLAZA</