



Waterway Caravan

A trio of boats hauls a long section of pipe on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The caravan passed under the Holden Beach Bridge one recent evening around sunset.

STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach Seeking New Bids On Trash Pickup

BY DOUG RUTTER
On a 3-2 vote, Holden Beach Commissioners decided last week to advertise again for bids for trash pickup and recycling service.

Most commissioners said it was unfair that one of the two bidders had submitted an alternate bid that board members liked but hadn't requested from either company.

In addition to bidding on what the town asked for, Waste Industries of Wilmington turned in an alternate bid that cut \$12,300 from its two-year contract price and made it the low bidder.

The town asked for bids that included twice-a-week trash pickup during the summer. Waste Industries submitted an alternate proposal to revise the summer schedule and pick up each half of the island twice a week.

Chambers of Conway, S.C., the town's current hauler, didn't submit an alternate bid. The company did submit the low bid based on town specifications for a two-year contract.

The specifications didn't ask for alternate bids, but officials said there's no law prohibiting companies from submitting alternates for towns to consider.

Alternate bids may be legal, but a majority of the town board members agreed last Wednesday that accepting the Waste Industries bid wouldn't be ethical or fair to Chambers.

"In my own heart I feel that it's morally not quite right," said board member Sid Swarts, who later made the motion to re-advertise.

Commissioners Gil Bass and David Sandifer supported Swarts' motion. The town will accept bids through April 1, and alternate bids will be welcomed this time around.

Board members Jim Fournier and Gay Atkins voted against Swarts' motion. Fournier said he was glad Waste Industries submitted an alternate bid that could save the town money. He was pre-

pared to award the contract last week. "I take offense that we're being unfair by taking a low bid," Fournier said. "The unfair thing is that we don't give the contract to the person who offered it."

Town Manager Gary Parker said Town Attorney Ken Campbell had recommended the town re-advertise for bids because of the question of fairness.

Holden Beach's contract with Chambers expires March 31, but the company agreed last week to extend its service one month with no change in costs.

Parker said there haven't been many complaints about Chambers, which has served the island the last four years.

But at least one resident thinks the town should change haulers. Randy Edge of Swordfish Drive said he's made 23 complaints about the company in the last year.

"They have mutilated the stand that I've built, and I'm on my third trash can in the last year," he said. "They are very sloppy."

Commissioners plan to award the new contract at their April 6 meeting. They are leaning toward a two-year contract for trash pickup.

Based on discussion last week, most residents and commissioners favor a central recycling station over curbside service.

Both companies could provide a central station for less than \$10,000 a year, while curbside would cost at least \$60,000 a year.

Training Required

Holden Beach police officers will be required to take four training classes from now on.

Commissioners voted 4-1 last week to make use of force, drug awareness, radar and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) classes mandatory for full-time officers.

Police officers will be paid their regular hourly rate for mandatory classes if they take the classes while they're off duty. The four classes combined take 72 hours to complete.

Officers who voluntarily complete the 160-hour emergency medical technician (EMT) course will be paid \$5 per hour during training.

Commissioner David Sandifer voted against the motion. He said the town should only require the classes for senior officers.

But Mayor Pro tem Gil Bass said the town has neglected officer training in the past. He said spending the money could help save a life.

Other Business

In other business last week, commissioners:

- Approved the 1990 land use plan update, after making four revisions. "These are technical changes that do not change the gist of our land use plan," Mayor Wally Ausley said. The plan should receive final approval when the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission meets this week in Wrightsville Beach.

- Adopted an ordinance requiring landowners who remove structures from the oceanfront to also remove concrete, pilings, septic tanks, walkways, decks and erosion-control devices including sandbags and bulkheads. Disturbed areas will have to be grassed or seeded to prevent loss of soil or sand.

- Voted to increase the fee for applying for relocation of a house from \$50 to \$150. Town officials estimate the average cost to the town for handling each application is \$173.

- Granted permission for use of an all-terrain vehicle on the strand for the Holden Beach Turtle Watch program, part of a county-organized project. Approval was given contingent on the county agreeing to hold the town harmless in the event of an accident.

Town Promises Cash Support To Coastline For Equipment

Holden Beach officials have promised to help Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad pay for a new ambulance and other equipment it needs as a result of a recent switch to Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Coastline Chief Kathleen Jacobs asked the town board last Wednesday for a donation to help pay for an ambulance and defibrillator and the cost of switching to a different frequency.

Mrs. Jacobs said the squad has \$52,000, but needs another \$31,000 for the improvements. They're needed as a result of the county-wide switch from Basic Life Support to ALS on March 6.

Coastline needs to raise the money within 90 days. Town officials promised to donate to the rescue squad after they study their budget.

"We want to help you all we can," Commissioner Jim Fournier said. "We will help you to the maximum if at all possible."

Town Manager Gary Parker said a quick review of the budget indicated that the town can afford to give some money.

"I have no doubt we'll be able to satisfy Coastline's request," he said. "The only question is the amount."

Mrs. Jacobs said a new modular ambulance will cost \$67,000 and the switch in frequencies will cost \$6,000. A defibrillator, which is used to shock cardiac patients, costs about \$10,000.

Coastline has \$32,000 of its own to pay for the equipment, and received \$20,000 from the county's contingency fund for fire and rescue squads.

Mrs. Jacobs said the recent move to ALS will allow rescue workers to use more advanced treatment in the field than they have in the past.

Among other things, certified workers will be able to start intravenous fluids and use defibrillators on the way to the hospital.

Mrs. Jacobs said Coastline is the only all-volunteer rescue squad left in the county. All of the other squads have signed contracts with the county to have paid personnel on duty during the day.

"We didn't sign a contract with the county because we're real blessed with volunteers," the chief said. "We're real proud of our rescue squad."

While other squads are begging for help, Mrs. Jacobs said Coastline has 32 emergency medical technicians (EMTs), six trained as EMT-Intermediate and one paramedic.

Items Needed For Coastline's Sale

Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad wants your household items, furniture or appliances that might otherwise end up in the trash after spring cleaning.

The rescue squad is getting ready for its annual Trash and Treasure Sale planned for the Fourth of July weekend and needs donations.

Coastline is in the process of buying a new ambulance and other equipment to better serve the community with Advanced Life Support.

Anyone with items to donate can contact Kathleen Jacobs or Wanda McLeod, co-chairpersons of the sale, at 842-2222.

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Ten Successfully Complete JOBS Life Skills Program

The mother of three had been caught in dead-end jobs with no hope of being able to solely support her family. While she has always wanted to go back to school, funds were not available.

She is one of the first 10 participants in Brunswick County's Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Program (JOBS) who have successfully completed their first course.

The life skills class is part of the Brunswick County Department of Social Services' JOBS program designed to teach necessary skills, such as budgeting or career planning, to persons to help them reach their educational or employment goals.

Because of the aid she received through the JOBS program, the woman with three children is now a student enrolled in the spring quarter at Brunswick Community College.

That's just one of the success stories noted by JOBS Coordinator Ginger DeBerry.

JOBS is a federally-funded program aimed at helping to get welfare recipients off of Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the major state and federal assistance program.

Successful completion of this course represents a milestone for DSS, said Ms. DeBerry.

"If the overall enthusiasm exuberated by these first participants can be used to forecast the success of this program," Ms. DeBerry said, "JOBS will be a winner."

Persons are provided day care and transportation so they can participate in JOBS. DSS held a graduation program for the 10 participants.

Life skills classes were taught by Pearl Stanley and Mary Russ of the Cooperative Extension Program; Susan Gibble and Gloria Yount of the Prescription for Excellence pro-

gram, Brunswick County Schools; Anita Latham from the Services for the Blind; Jim Fournier, personnel consultant; Georgia Tyndall and Pam Clark, Medicaid and AFDC workers at DSS; and Maryanna Womble, nurse at the Brunswick County Health Department.

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