

NO TAX HIKE EXPECTED

Shallotte Proposes Higher Utility Rates

BY DOUG RUTTER

Shallotte residents won't pay any more taxes but would pay higher water and sewer rates next fiscal year under a preliminary budget presented this week to the town board.

The tax rate will stay at 47 cents per \$100 of valuation under the \$1.26 million proposal that Town Clerk Mary Eita Hewett passed to the full board of aldermen Tuesday night.

Shallotte's sewer rate would increase 50 cents per 1,000 gallons, and the water rate would be raised by one nickel per 1,000 gallons under the clerk's 1992-93 fiscal year plan.

If the budget is approved, town sewer customers would pay a minimum of \$9 per month. People who produce more than 3,000 gallons of wastewater per month would pay an extra \$2.50 for every 1,000 gallons.

Current sewer rates are \$7.50 per month for up to 3,000 gallons and \$2 per each additional 1,000 gallons, according to Mrs. Hewett.

The budget proposal also calls for an increase in the water rate from \$2.59 to \$2.64 per 1,000 gallons. The minimum monthly fee would increase from \$9.27 to \$9.42, and any water use over 3,000 gallons would cost extra.

Town officials defended the pro-

posed increase in utility rates Tuesday night, saying the cost of town water is still inexpensive.

"Anybody who asks about it should talk to somebody who doesn't have water," Mayor Sarah Tripp said.

Alderman Wilton Harrelson related his experience without town water at the garden supply store he owns south of Shallotte.

"We have a well at the store and the water has so much iron in it you could draw it with a magnet," he joked.

The proposed budget, which must be adopted prior to the start of the new fiscal year on July 1, features a \$755,553 general fund, \$468,523 water and sewer fund and \$40,000 capital project fund.

Major expenses in the general fund are \$249,728 for police, \$120,308 for streets, \$120,000 for sanitation, \$117,620 for administration and \$54,600 for the fire department.

Proposed general fund revenues include \$331,162 in current year taxes, \$48,400 in prior year taxes, \$115,000 in state sales tax, \$66,000 in utility franchise tax and \$36,000 in Powell Bill money.

Besides the 47-cent tax rate, estimated town tax collections next year are based on Shallotte's property valuation of \$74 million and a col-

lection rate of 95 percent.

Aldermen didn't discuss the proposed budget at all Tuesday night. They chose instead to take the 10-page document home for study.

"It's going to take a while to look over," said Alderman David Gause, who suggested the board hold off any review of dollar figures this week.

The town board will hold a budget workshop next Tuesday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. A public hearing has been scheduled for the following Tuesday, June 2, also at 7:30 p.m.

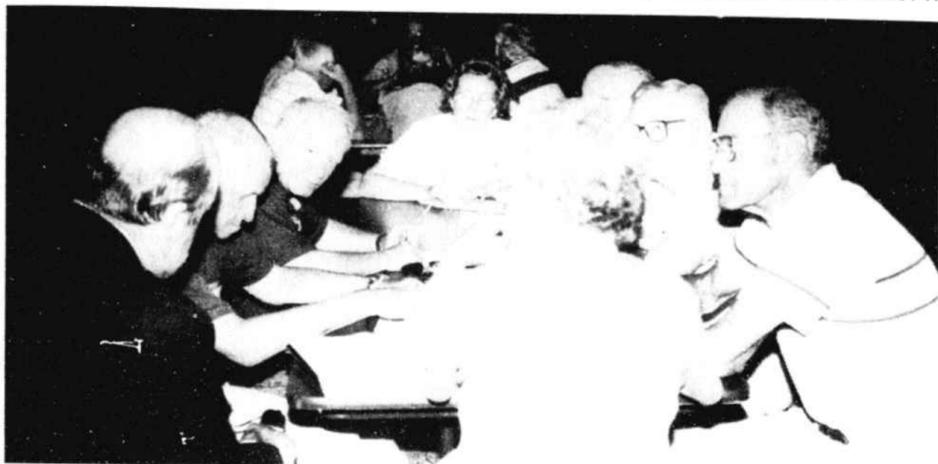
Other Business

In other business Tuesday, aldermen voted unanimously to nominate Maynard Owens for the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission.

Shallotte officials also agreed to send a letter to the N.C. Department of Transportation requesting repair of pot holes on Main Street and more signs at the north end of the U.S. 17 bypass.

The board postponed action on a proposed mutual aid agreement with the Ocean Isle Beach Police Department and a program that allows residents to ride with police officers on patrol.

Aldermen also tabled a property tax refund request. They are waiting for further research by the town tax collector.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

DISCUSSION IS INTENSE at this table group led by planning board member Mary Nell Eaddy (back to camera). Clockwise from left are sewer system consultant Joseph Tombro, Warren "Bud" Knapp, Charles Van Winkle, Marie Summerlin, John Warring, Neil Melvin and Zane Winters.

34 RESIDENTS PRESENT

Sunset Beach Property Owners Talk Policy At Land Use Meeting

BY SUSAN USHER

Thirty-four residents of Sunset Beach and its extraterritorial area talked about key issues affecting the town's future last Thursday night.

At a two-hour public meeting at the fire station on the town's CAMA land use plan update, participants divided into small groups for discussions led by four members of the town's planning board.

Suggestions from the participants will be used by the town planning board and governing council to help shape policies affecting land use in the community over the next five years, consultant Margaret Hayes of Hayes and Associates said.

Five issues identified earlier as important to the town's future were on the agenda: a 35-foot height zoning requirement that may only be changed by referendum, a public sewer system, commercial development, and, more difficult for townspeople to influence, conservation of Bird Island and the future of the bridge to the island.

Preventing high-rise development was the No. 1 issue identified in a survey of property owners both mainland and island, and that was the general sentiment overheard at most tables at Thursday's meeting.

"We were attracted to Sunset Beach by what it is, not what it could become," said Henry Satterwhite in a comment generally reflecting that of many of the retirees at the meeting. Others at the same table nodded in agreement.

The consensus at that table: nothing higher than what the town already allows, which includes 50 feet maximum height for the condominiums in the MR-3 area on the mainland. The 35-foot height limit in force on the island results in a roof peak height of about 50

feet for houses on pilings.

Table discussion turned around the possibility that funds to buy Bird Island might not become available; if that is the case, participants generally agreed that low density development of the island is the alternative choice.

Several speakers expressed concern about zoning a strip along N.C. 179 from the bridge to the N.C. 904 intersection for commercial use, saying the road could not handle the additional traffic.

Opinion varied on the sewer system, with most residents wanting more information on its actual cost and evidence that it is needed.

While views also varied on the bridge and its impact on island residents and visitors, those at one table at least concurred that the state should offer the townspeople some alternative other than a high-rise or the existing bridge, such as a two-lane drawbridge.

Island resident Sue Weddle suggested that the state might be influenced by the pressure of public opinion to change its thinking.

"I think this was great, to see people sit and talk," said Ms. Hayes. "There was good discussion, with typically not one person dominating."

The format of the meeting also pleased Haskell Rhett, a field representative of the N.C. Office of Coastal Management. Rhett said he may recommend use of the technique to other communities.

Sunset Beach has an estimated year-round population of 491, which is expected to increase to at least 511 in five years, then to 1,000 by 2000.

Mrs. Hayes estimated the seasonal population at about 11,383 now, including about 8,970 in the town and 2,416 in the extraterritorial area.

State Post Hopeful Touts Local Control Of Schools

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

Change is the byword of many political candidates this year, but when Vernon Robinson talks change, he has specific plans to back it up.

Robinson, Republican candidate for the office of State Superintendent of Schools, was in Shallotte last week, drumming up last-minute support for his June 2 runoff with Teena Little. If he is successful, he will face Democrat Bobby Etheridge in the fall.

Voters may be more interested in this particular race since the poor showing of North Carolina school students has become increasingly obvious. Brunswick County parents should care, having just received another "report card" from the testing of sixth- and eighth-graders, indicating mediocre writing skills.

Robinson would give those parents a choice of schools for their children. Part of what he means by change is shifting control of school assignments from state and county school boards to individual parents. He explained how it would work:

"A group of teachers would create a school they think parents would choose, like a Montessori middle school, design the curriculum, choose the textbooks themselves, then let the local school board vote it up or down," he said. "If enough parents choose to enroll children in that school, it would be chartered by the state and be a legal entity. Funding would be based on the number of students attending."

This is not exactly the "neighborhood school" concept being demanded by many parents in counties where busing is heavy.

"A neighborhood school is great if you have a good neighborhood, but if you don't it could be terrible," he commented. "I'm not committed to neighborhood schools; choice is what is important."

Robinson, the first black Republican to run for this job, has won support from such prestigious sources as former education secre-

tary William Bennett and the *Wall Street Journal*. The latter admires his audacity and courage in "raising the banner of choice" even though it dismays GOP officeholders who aren't eager for reform.

"He says education in his state can't wait for the public schools to decide to reform; he thinks they need competition now," the *Journal* said in an April 29 editorial.

He does possess considerable bravado for a 37-year-old educational novice. The Winston-Salem man has a B.S. degree from the U.S. Air Force Academy and an MBA from the University of Missouri, and is presently assistant professor of business at Winston-Salem State University. He has dabbled extensively in Republican politics, running twice for the state senate, serving on the state GOP executive committee and being named the 1991

N.C. Young Republican Man of the Year.

His progressive views on education are based on a philosophy of populism and the need he sees for radical reform.

"School is a shared vision between teachers and parents," he said. Other strong planks in his "change" platform are to cut the top-heavy administrative load in state and local school districts and to provide alternative certification for those without teaching degrees who have contributions to make in the classrooms.

Asked if the focus on local control would not eliminate the job he is seeking, Robinson listed three valid functions for the superintendent's office: administering testing, determining how to diffuse technology into all school districts, including the poor rural ones, and serving as a clearinghouse for research.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Local 4-H Fashion Competitors

Two Brunswick County young people have been selected to model garments of their own design during the 4-H Club Congress Fashion Revue in Raleigh July 23.

Amy Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Smith of Supply, and Chris Conner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Conner of Southport, represented the county in senior fashion revue at the 4-H Clothing Camp held May 1-2 at the Betsy-Jeff Penn 4-H Camp in Reidsville. Heather Hilton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Morgan of Holden Beach, was junior fashion revue participant.

As part of the event, senior participants took clothing related classes stressing personal development, ideal silhouette and foreign fashion designs. Junior members created T-shirt designs and took part in "sewing bingo."

Jenkins Earns Degree

Ronnie Jenkins of Leland recently received a master of arts degree from the Fayetteville State University School of Education. The university held its 125th spring commencement May 10 in Fayetteville.

Airlift Participant

The son of a Leland couple recently took part in an airlift to the

former Soviet Union.

U.S. Air Force Tech.Sgt. Paul W. Klutz, son of retired Army Master Sgt. Herman E. and Irene F. Klutz of Rural Route 1 participated in Operation Provide Hope, an exercise to the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Klutz is an Air Force linguist and a 1986 graduate of the University of Maryland military extension in Japan.

His wife Cynthia is the daughter of retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Guy I. and Nancy J. Macey of Fort Walton Beach, Fla.

Brown Graduates

Airman 1st Class Isaac M. Brown of the U.S. Air Force has graduated from the ground radio communications specialist course at Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, Miss.

He learned to install and maintain high-powered ground communications equipment, including transmitters, single- and multi-channel receivers, transceivers and recorders.

Brown is the son of Mozelle B. Campbell of Jamaica, N.Y., and grandson of Beatrice F. Brown of Route 2, Bolivia. He is a 1991 graduate of South Brunswick High School at Boiling Spring Lakes.

Local Items Of Business On CRC Agenda

At least two items of business relating specifically to South Brunswick Islands towns will be on the agenda when the state's Coastal Resources Commission meets May 28 and 29 at Beaufort County Community College in Washington, N.C.

Both an amendment to the Sunset Beach land use plan and an update of the Ocean Isle Beach land use plan will be considered.

The Ocean Isle Beach update was adopted by the town board of commissioners Tuesday morning after several years of work.

Sunset Beach Town Council met Friday to amend its current land use plan. The major change, adopted following a public hearing, reflects the town's interest in pursuing a central sewer system.

Also on the CRC's agenda is a request for a variance, an exception, to allow construction of a 3,200-foot by 70-foot seawall to protect historic Fort Fisher in New Hanover County. Since 1985, the CRC's rules have banned erosion-control structures on the oceanfront.

28 at 4 p.m. concerning amendments to several rules to clarify development guidelines for the estuarine and ocean hazard systems; proposed guidelines for federal agencies to request a declaratory ruling, or interpretation, of a CRC rule or policy as it applies to a publicly-funded project; and a policy to encourage the beneficial disposal of dredge materi-

al so that sand is not removed from the active beach system.

The community college is located on U.S. 264 toward Belhaven, six miles off U.S. 17. Sessions will begin at 8:30 a.m. both days, with concurrent committee meetings Thursday morning and full commission meetings Thursday afternoon and Friday morning.

Family Life Insurance Protection

Life insurance and annuities from Modern Woodmen can give your family future security plus immediate living benefits. Financial security. Living benefits.

MODERN WOODMEN SOLUTIONS

Bringing Families Together

MODERN WOODMEN OF AMERICA

A FRATERNAL LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY
HOME OFFICE • ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS



Glenda J. Barefoot, FIC
P.O. Box 2963,
Shallotte NC 28459
919-579-1550

LIFE • ANNUITIES • IRA'S • FRATERNAL PROGRAMS

Dear Friends,

Over the last 4 1/2 years I have had the pleasure of serving this community as a physician. I brought with me a desire to practice the highest standard of medicine, as a loving and caring human being who was also trained in the specialty of Family Practice.

My philosophy of medicine holds the doctor to be an educator—the true definition of the word doctor. I have attempted in that role of educator to practice preventive medicine, as well as therapeutic intervention. I have an abiding belief in the biblical phrase that tells us it is better to teach a man to fish than to give him a fish.

I have attempted to demonstrate my belief in good health maintenance by practicing that which I preach. There have been occasions in which my alliances have been in discord with this philosophy; projects started that will not be completed. Yes, there are some regrets.

For the most part, it has been extremely gratifying to experience the warm acceptance of what appeared to be in this area at least, a non-traditional medical practice. In the end, it is clear that we all share the same goals of an improved quality of life.

It now becomes necessary for me to move the basis of my practice, and my office in Village Pines will be closing effective July 1, 1992. For the honored patients in my practice who wish to continue with me, I welcome the opportunity to discuss these plans further. Please contact my office or my home at your convenience. For those individuals with whom my association in a patient-doctor relationship shall end, I thank you for the pleasure of that acquaintance. With my most sincere regards...

Marilyn Boehm, MD, PhD