

LOCAL

Grover to create police department

BY ANDIE L. BRYMER
Staff Writer

Grover Town Council voted Monday night four to one to create its own police department.

The town is terminating its contract with the Cleveland County Sheriff's Office to provide Grover a deputy 40 hours per week. The contract ends June 30. That agreement will cost the town \$58,300 by the end of fiscal year 2004-2005, according to Mayor Robert Sides.

Sides says Grover will have to spend \$53,000 the first year to start its own department. The department would start with one officer. Costs will run around \$45,000 annually after that.

Commissioner Bill Willis who cast the lone dissenting vote argued that the town cannot afford its own department. He argued that the town would attract young,

motivated officers who would use the job to gain experience and then move to larger departments. Sides countered that that situation happens in Kings Mountain, Shelby and other cities.

Commissioner Max Rollins argued that currently the town has no one to enforce its ordinances. He cited the junked car ordinance. Nor does the town have anyone to monitor traffic around Grover Elementary.

"If we want police in Grover we are going to have to have our own," Rollins said.

Rollins said he had studied job advertisements in police magazines. Towns around the size of Grover were offering approximately \$28,000 in annual salary for chiefs of police.

Sides advocated a community policing style for the town. "I don't mean anything disre-

spectful. It's not a personal issue. There will be some changes," Sides said.

Sides, who formerly worked as a police officer in Grover, maintains law enforcement certification. He offered to train the new chief.

"If I have to walk the streets with them to show them what to do I will," he said.

Before the vote Lawndale Police Chief John Ruppe talked with the council on how that town formed its own department two years ago. Lawndale is giving Grover a used patrol car. Ruppe explained how the town can access military surplus equipment.

During the public comment period at the close of the meeting, an unidentified member of the audience asked when Grover would approve alcohol sales. She said this would allow more municipal serv-

ices without higher taxes.

Sides said he supported putting the issue before citizens in a referendum. He acknowledged some individuals don't approve of alcohol.

"Just because it's there you don't have to buy it," Sides said.

Willis said alcohol sales were not a big issue because it was available over the South Carolina line which is adjacent to Grover.

Commissioner Jackie Bennett said it could bring nicer restaurants to the town. She said allowing Sunday sales could make up for the revenue Grover has lost to South Carolina. That state does not allow alcohol sales on Sunday.

Commissioners Rollins, Barry Toney and John Harry declined comment.

Council approved a plan to disallow left turns in and out of

Grover Elementary from 7 to 8:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 3:15 p.m. The town now will have to request permission from the state Department of Transportation.

Council members discussed a recent rash of vandalism. An electric meter in the park bathroom has been smashed twice, according to Willis. Cars have been vandalized at the town hall. Items were taken from cars parked at First Baptist Church on Sunday morning.

Willis questioned if terrorism laws could be used in the prosecution. He said the problem is parents not controlling their children. Some progress had been made in finding the offenders, according to Willis.

Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com or 704-739-7496.

BRIEFS

Clean up graves at Mountain Rest

Mountain Rest Cemetery superintendent Dorus Bennett is asking all persons with grave plots to clear them of all old flowers, lights and other accessories immediately so the cemetery can begin preparing for the Easter season.

Hospital officer to speak at church

New Bynum's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 213 North Cansler Street, Kings Mountain, will hold a health awareness program Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Guest speaker is Sheri De Shazo, RN, Vice President/Chief Nurse Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Kings Mountain Hospital. She will speak on the current expansion and future growth of Kings Mountain Hospital. The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information call 739-9586, 739-2606 or 730-0027.

Raiders first in duckpins

Allen's Raiders grabbed the lead on the first night of the fourth quarter in mixed duckpin bowling action Thursday at Dilling Heating. The Raiders swept Tommy's Strike Force 8-0 behind a 136 line and 375 set from Allen Myers. The KM Warriors defeated

Merck's Murderers 6-2. Ed Philbeck led the Warriors with a 118 lie and 340 set and Pernell Byers led the Murderers with a 106 line and 310 set.

BRGS to meet Sunday in Shelby

Kim Wetmore, director of the Genealogy Department of Catawba County Library, will speak on "How to Prove Your Civil War Ancestor" at Sunday's meeting of the Broad River Genealogical Society at 3 p.m. at the Neal Senior Center, H.T. Harris Drive, Shelby.

Cleveland County NC Heritage Books Volume II will be available after the meeting.

Gaston AAUW to have fund raiser

The Gaston Regional Branch of the American Association of University Women is holding its annual Fun For Fellowships Thursday, March 17 at the fellowship hall of First ARP Church, 317 South Chester St., Gastonia.

Dinner will be served at 6:30, followed by a variety of games. Door prizes will be awarded at 9:30.

Tickets are \$10. All profits go to the association's educational foundation, which grants fellowships for women working beyond the master's level.

For more information call 853-2822.

AARP meeting at Patrick Center

The Kings Mountain Chapter of AARP will meet Tuesday, March 15 at 1 p.m. at the Patrick Center, 909 East King Street.

Tammy Patterson and Patti McMurray from Hospice will present a program on Palliative Care. Hospice is celebrating its 20th year in Cleveland County.

The AARP will also meet on Tuesday, April 19 at 1 p.m. Persons ages 55 and over are invited to join.

Diabetic screening set at Patrick Center

Free diabetes blood glucose screenings will be given Tuesday, March 22 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center, 909 East King Street, Kings Mountain.

The event is sponsored by Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

For more information call the Patrick Center at 734-0447.

Legislative breakfast set at Patrick Center

The annual legislative breakfast will be held Friday, April 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the Patrick Center, 909 East King Street, Kings Mountain.

The cost is \$6 per person. Local and state legislators will be on hand to discuss issues involving senior citizens. The public is invited to attend and may ask legisla-

tors questions about any issue. Tickets may be obtained at the Patrick Center or Cleveland county Council on Aging in Shelby. Reservations are necessary by April 1. For more information call The Patrick Center at 734-0447 or Council on Aging at 482-3488.

Income tax help at Patrick Center

AARP volunteers will be at The Patrick Center in Kings Mountain Tuesday, March 15 to help senior citizens with income tax counseling and form preparation. Middle and low income taxpayers age 60 and older may receive the services. The Senior Center also offers a State Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) that helps Medicare beneficiaries and their families make health insurance choices.

For more information call Carolyn Bell, SHIIP counselor, at 734-0447.

Senior Tar Heel cards available

Senior Tar Heel Cards for North Carolinians age 60 and older are available at the Patrick Center, 909 East King Street, Kings Mountain.

Card holders receive discounts at numerous businesses in the state.

To obtain a card, go to the Senior Center. Take identification such as a driver license or social security card.

Senior Games set in Cleveland County

Senior Games for adults 55 year of age and older will be held in Cleveland County April 18-21.

Opening ceremony for the sports competition is April 18 at Gardner-Webb University.

For an entry packet, go by

the Patrick Center, 909 East King Street, Kings Mountain or call 734-0447 for more information.

BRIEFS DEADLINE
Deadline for receiving briefs is 12 noon Monday. Bring them by the Herald, call 739-7496, fax 739-0611 or e mail gstewart@kingsmountainherald.com

Ask A Lawyer

Brought to you by Harris, Ragan, Patterson, & Rodgers

Q: I was in an accident yesterday and before I even got home from the hospital, I had a call from the adjuster wanting to settle my claim asking that I sign a release. What should I do?

A: This has become a hot topic recently with the train accident down in South Carolina. Many insurance companies have developed what are called quick response teams, where they send adjusters to someone in an accident to sign a release right away. They claim that this is to benefit the people in the wreck and to promptly address their claims. However, their goal is the same as it is in almost all facets of their business. To reduce their exposure to claims.

As in the South Carolina train accident cases, you need to read what they are having you sign very carefully. The big problem in South Carolina was that the partial checks issued by the company contained language that they were full releases and represented full settlement of all claims. The company backed away from this language once the press exposed this problem.

Several insurance companies have releases wherein they pay you a certain amount of money for the

release and any medical expenses incurred a year from the accident for related injuries. Others provide for a complete release with a lump sum payment. In either case, the insurance company is attempting to limit their exposure by getting a release prior to you knowing the full extent of your injuries. To be candid, there are times when you do not suffer any injuries and the release and payment are a "good deal for you". On the other hand, most of the time injuries in an accident are not known until the general soreness has worn off or several days after the accident. I cannot tell you at this time which is in your best interest. To be safe, if you are hurt you should be checked out by your family doctor or care giver to determine what your injuries are prior to signing any release.

There are cases where lawyers have been forced to try to "undo" these quick hit releases. This usually occurs where someone has discovered very significant injuries but has signed one of these releases, when an adjuster saw them right after the accident.

As always, you should carefully read anything you sign and if you have any questions or concerns consult with an attorney.

Brent Patterson
Attorney at Law



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VOTING

From 1A

Cleveland County more accessibility." Wells accused the GOP of having earlier fought satellite voting. Westmoreland denied that charge saying a plan submitted by Democrats put polling places in areas with Democrat majorities.

Westmoreland said it would be hard to find

enough poll workers to staff more than three sites. Westmoreland said workers would again be an issue if the voting period was longer than six days.

"There's a very real issue in getting the right person and getting them trained right," he said. "Not everyone can work a poll." Poll workers make around \$10 an hour and are primarily retired individuals.

Elections Director Debra

Blanton said the Kings Mountain voting site would cost between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to operate. Blanton would not offer an opinion on the plan itself.

Ruth Wilson, a Republican member of the county board of elections, called the plan a "good idea."

If the plan is approved, Kings Mountain will act as a pilot during its November city council and mayoral

elections.

The proposed Boiling Springs site is located at the town hall. The third site would be located in Lawndale at the Upper Cleveland Rescue building. Both the mayors of Kings Mountain and Boiling Springs endorsed the plan.

Andie Brymer can be reached at abrymer@kingsmountainherald.com or 704-739-7496.

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