

State Superintendent, Students To Break Ground For New School

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Bobby Etheridge will join three local students and Brunswick County Board of Education members next week in breaking ground for Supply Elementary School.



ETHERIDGE

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 21, said Assistant Superintendent of Schools William Turner, at the 40-acre site of the new school off U.S. 17 pm Benton Road at Supply.

Turner has described the school, which will serve students in grades kindergarten through five, as a "model" facility for the region. Supply Elementary School will draw its approximately 650 students from three overcrowded schools—Shallotte Middle, Union Primary and Southport Elementary.

Each school will be represented at the groundbreaking by one of its students, said Turner.

Low bids will allow the school system to build a 93,000-square-

foot facility for \$5.23 million, or \$56 a square foot instead of the \$65 square-foot cost first projected. The expanded design reflects increased classroom sizes, a larger exceptional children's program area, and bid options that included canopies at two entrances, gym seating, better-quality sound system and related mechanical and electrical systems. Boney & Associates of Wilmington is the architectural firm for the project.

Construction is expected to take 14 months, with occupancy in time for the fall 1992 school term.

The new school will feature 27 classrooms that exceed the state's minimum size, a courtyard, gymnasium, media center with computer lab, 150-seat theaterette, roomy cafeteria and outdoor classroom.

The school will be built with a five-classroom cushion for future growth.

And, following the example of recent work at the three county high schools, it will have a sloped, standing seam coated metal roof.

Once the new school opens, Shallotte Middle School will be reorganized to serve grades six through eight.

Shallotte Police Chief Faces Contempt Charges

BY TERRY POPE

When Shallotte Police Chief Rodney Gause failed to appear in Brunswick County District Court April 24, charges he brought against a suspect in 1989 had to be dropped.

Now Gause has been found in contempt of court by Judge D. Jack Hooks Jr., who wants to know why the police chief ignored his subpoena to testify at a trial.

Gause appeared in District Court last Monday, May 6, to show cause as to why he should not be punished on contempt charges.

However, Judge David G. Wall delayed the case until May 28, stating that since Judge Hooks was the one to issue contempt charges then he should be the one to hear the case.

The unusual twist was added to a case that has been in and out of the courtroom since March 16, 1989.

Anthony Craig Smith, 26, of Route 6, Shallotte, was charged Feb. 7, 1989, by Gause and Shallotte Patrolman Roy Kohler with possession of non-tax paid alcoholic beverages.

According to an arrest warrant on file at the Brunswick County Clerk of Court's office, Smith was accused of having in his possession a half gallon of moonshine whiskey on Feb. 5, 1989.

Smith was released from the Brunswick County Jail under \$300 bond, but three times since then he had also failed to appear for his trial in District Court.

An order for Smith's arrest was issued April 18, 1989, after he failed to appear in court. He also failed

to appear June 7, 1989, and another order for his arrest was issued by Clerk of Superior Court Diana Morgan. Cash bonds of \$600 were set in each instance.

When the case came before the court again Aug. 23, 1989, a dismissal with leave was granted to Assistant District Attorney Napoleon "Poli" Barefoot Jr., the prosecutor of the case, after Smith again failed to appear.

Barefoot's order stated that Smith could not "readily be found" by law officers.

According to Judge Hooks' order, Gause was issued a subpoena on April 1, 1991, ordering him to appear in court to testify in a case against Smith on April 24.

Smith appeared on the court docket to face 17 driving related charges.

He was found guilty of driving while impaired, two counts of driving with a cancelled registration, driving while his license was permanently revoked, owning and operating a vehicle with no insurance, driving while his license was suspended, speeding to elude arrest and resisting and obstructing a police officer. Some of those charges also date back to 1989.

When Gause failed to appear in court as the prosecuting witness on the charge he filed against Smith, Assistant District Attorney Greg Kormegay asked that the case be continued.

Judge Hooks denied Kormegay's motion and issued contempt charges against Gause.

Calabash Continues To Shuffle Boards

BY DOUG RUTTER

Calabash Commissioners continued to shuffle the makeup of the town's two appointed boards this week and trimmed the number of engineering firms being considered for a sewage treatment study from six to four.

Commissioners added two members to the board of adjustment, and they're once again talking about changing membership of the planning board, which was revised less than a month ago.

Following a public hearing Tuesday, the ordinance setting up the board of adjustment was amended to include one regular member and one alternate from the town's extraterritorial area (ETA).

The ETA is an area within a mile of the town limits where Calabash can impose zoning and subdivision regulations and enforce the state building code.

State law requires towns that exercise their rights in the ETA to include residents of that area on the planning board and board of adjustment, which can grant variances from town ordinances.

With the changes approved Tuesday, the Calabash Board of Adjustment now consists of the mayor, four town commissioners and one

ETA resident. Alternates from the town and ETA can sit on the board when there are absences.

The ETA representative on the board can only vote on matters that affect the extraterritorial area.

Brunswick County Commissioners will appoint the residents from the ETA. Calabash Commissioners have recommended Tom Roberts and Bob Crocker.

Public Hearing Set

Commissioners will hold a public hearing next month on another proposal to rearrange the makeup of the planning board, which was changed April 23 when two new members were added.

A hearing on plans to do away with alternate members from both of the town's districts is scheduled for Tuesday, June 11, at 7 p.m.

Planning Board Vice Chairman Pati Lewellyn presented the proposal Tuesday night. With the change, the board would have five members from District II, two from District I and three from the ETA.

"It's not something that we arrived at hastily," she told commissioners. "There was much dis-

ussion about how it would affect our board." Mrs. Lewellyn said the change was proposed because of recurring questions about the role of alternate members and if all three ETA representatives on the board were regular members.

"We just saw a lot of problems with alternates, and we've never had a problem with getting a quorum," she said.

Commissioner Stu Thorn said the planning board also considered making everyone a regular member, which would have increased the board to 12 members, and dissolving the board and starting from scratch.

Firms Selected

In other business Tuesday, commissioners selected four engineering firms as finalists for a wastewater treatment study.

Houston and Associates of Shallotte; The Wooten Company of Raleigh; Powell and Associates of North Myrtle Beach, S.C.; and Robert L. Bellamy and Associates of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; were chosen from six firms that presented written proposals last month.

Each of the four companies will be asked to make a 15-minute presentation to the town board June 11.

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