

PUBLIC HEARING SET

Calabash Preparing To Revive Planning Board

BY DOUG RUTTER
Calabash officials are preparing to revive and revamp the town planning board which has been inactive for more than two years.

But before the board starts working again, town commissioners will have to agree on changes in the makeup of the board, with representation from both electoral districts in Calabash.

A public hearing on proposed changes to the ordinance establishing the planning board will be held Tuesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. in town hall.

Town Clerk Janet Thomas said the board was very active about three or four years ago but eventually died. "It was hard to get anyone to serve and come to the meetings," she said.

The recent merger of Calabash and Carolina Shores has renewed interest in the planning board, which has the job of plotting future growth in the area. But the merger has also forced town commissioners to make a decision about representation on the board.

The proposal going to public hearing would have four of the planning board's five members coming from Carolina Shores (District II) and the final member appointed from Calabash (District I). There would also be one alternate member appointed from each district.

When the plan was presented at the commission's Jan. 23 meeting, there was a difference of opinion among some board members concerning the number of appointees from each district.

Commissioner Ed Schaack of Carolina Shores—who has since resigned to take the building inspector's post in Calabash—presented the proposal to the full board of commissioners.

Commissioner George Taubel, also of Carolina Shores, supported the plan, saying that representation should be based on population. There are about 1,200 residents in Carolina Shores and only 200 in Calabash, he said.

However, Commissioner Ed Rice of District I said he favored a three-

to-two split on the planning board to give his district more representation.

Regular and alternate members of the planning board are appointed by the town board of commissioners. The planning board ordinance sets up staggered, three-year terms for all members.

Besides revising the section on membership, another proposed change in the planning board ordinance would set specific attendance rules. Members who fail to attend three consecutive meetings or 75 percent of the meetings in any given time frame could be removed from office.

Also, the official name of the body would be changed from planning board to planning and zoning board.

Representation from the town's extraterritorial area (ETJ) would not be changed under the proposed amendments. Three residents of that area would serve on the board, but would only act on matters concerning the ETJ.

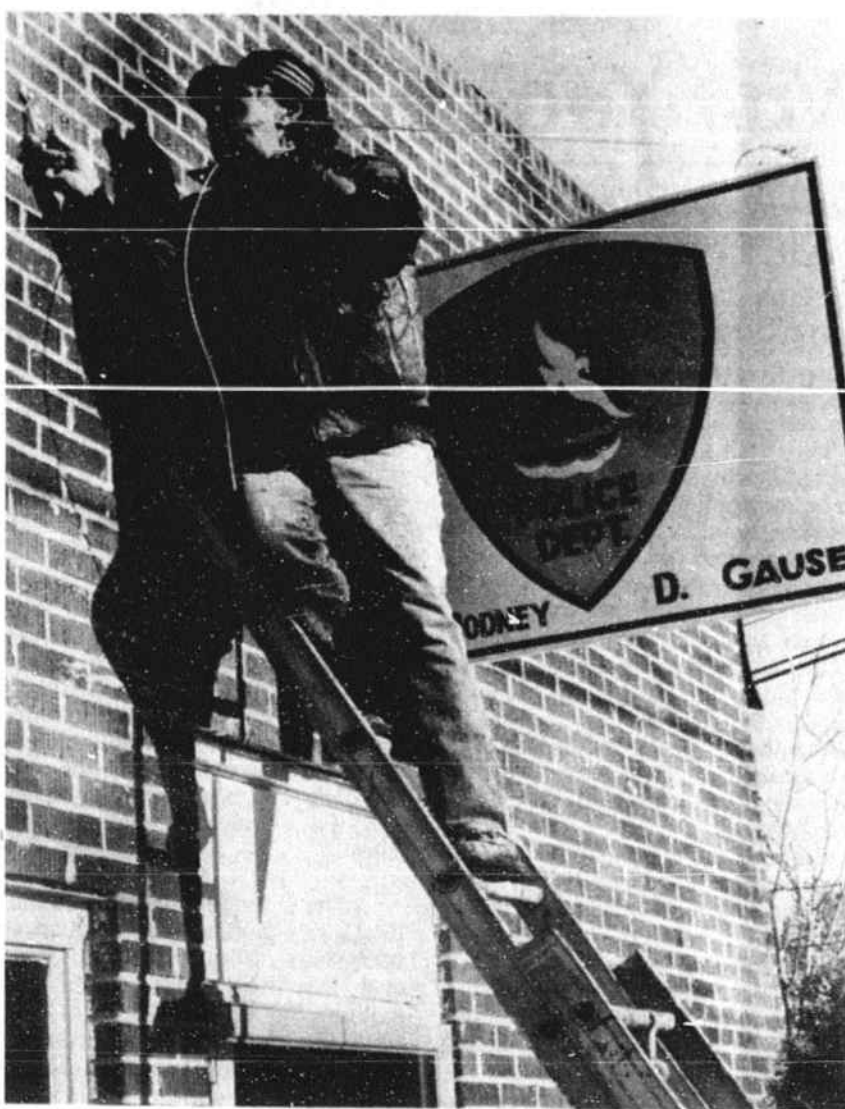
The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners appoint members from the ETJ based on recommendations from the town board of commissioners. Terms are for three years.

The town clerk said Calabash commissioners will likely choose two residents of the ETJ for immediate nomination and appointment to the board. The third would be named when the ETJ is expanded on the north side of U.S. 17 to reflect recent expansion of the town boundaries to include Carolina Shores.

"With the ordinances they're talking about and the new ETJ, you almost need to have a planning board," said Ms. Thomas.

Duties of the planning board include studying areas in and around Calabash, determining development objectives in those areas and preparing and adopting plans for achieving those objectives.

Members of the planning board elect their own officers, including a chairman and any other officers deemed necessary.



STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

Sprucing Up In Shallotte

James Thigpen of South Wind Sign Company battles a stiff breeze to erect a new wooden sign recently outside the Shallotte Police Department. The blue and white sign features a design similar to the patches on the sleeves of police officers' uniforms.

Demos To Build Headquarters

Brunswick County's Democratic Party plans to begin construction immediately of a party headquarters building on U.S. 17 two miles north of Supply.

Plans were announced following a meeting last week of the party's executive committee.

Elizabeth Dameron, publicity director, said the facility should be completed by May 1 at an estimated cost of \$65,000. The general contractor for the project is Raysand Construction.

A groundbreaking ceremony will be held Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m.,

with all Democrats encouraged to attend, she said.

In other executive committee action, Billy Carter of Caswell Beach was elected treasurer, filling the unexpired term of Billy Gibson.

Also, Chairman Glen Peterson appointed Ouida Hewett, former county party chairman, as chairperson of precinct organization and named Kathleen Rich, third vice president, chairperson of voter registration.

Brunswick County Republicans erected a permanent headquarters building last year, also north of Supply on U.S. 17.

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