

Town of Emerald Isle

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Town Awards Design Contract for New EMS Station

Emergency medical services (EMS) for Emerald Isle residents, property owners, and visitors are provided by the non-profit Emerald Isle EMS, Inc. Emerald Isle EMS, Inc. (EI EMS) is primarily a volunteer organization that is managed by its own governing body but contracted by the Town to provide these services. EI EMS offers paramedic-level care, the highest level care available by an EMS provider. The Town is fortunate to have the high quality service provided by EI EMS, and enjoys a cooperative partnership with them.

EI EMS currently operates out of an older, converted beach house located on the ocean side on Cedar Street. Although the building has served EI EMS well over the years, EI EMS has outgrown the building and is in need of a more modern facility. The Town is committed to helping insure the highest quality EMS services in Emerald Isle, and has partnered with EI EMS on plans for a new EMS station. The Board of Commissioners recently awarded a design contract for a new emergency medical services (EMS) station at its September 12 meeting. The \$48,000 contract was awarded to EDA-Morehead, an architectural and engineering firm based in Morehead City, NC. The Town and EI EMS have agreed to share the design cost equally.

The new EMS station will be located on Town-owned land next to Fire Station #1 at the corner of Live Oak Street and NC 58. Design work will begin soon, and is expected to take 6-9 months. The Town and EI EMS expect to solicit construction bids by mid-2007 and begin construction soon thereafter. The construction of the new station will be financed through a combination of building reserve funds held by EI EMS, proceeds from the sale of the current station, and a minimal Town contribution. It is expected that the new EMS station will be operational in 2008.

Town Announces Agreement to Acquire Bogue Inlet Pier and Remove Ocean Storm Water Outfalls

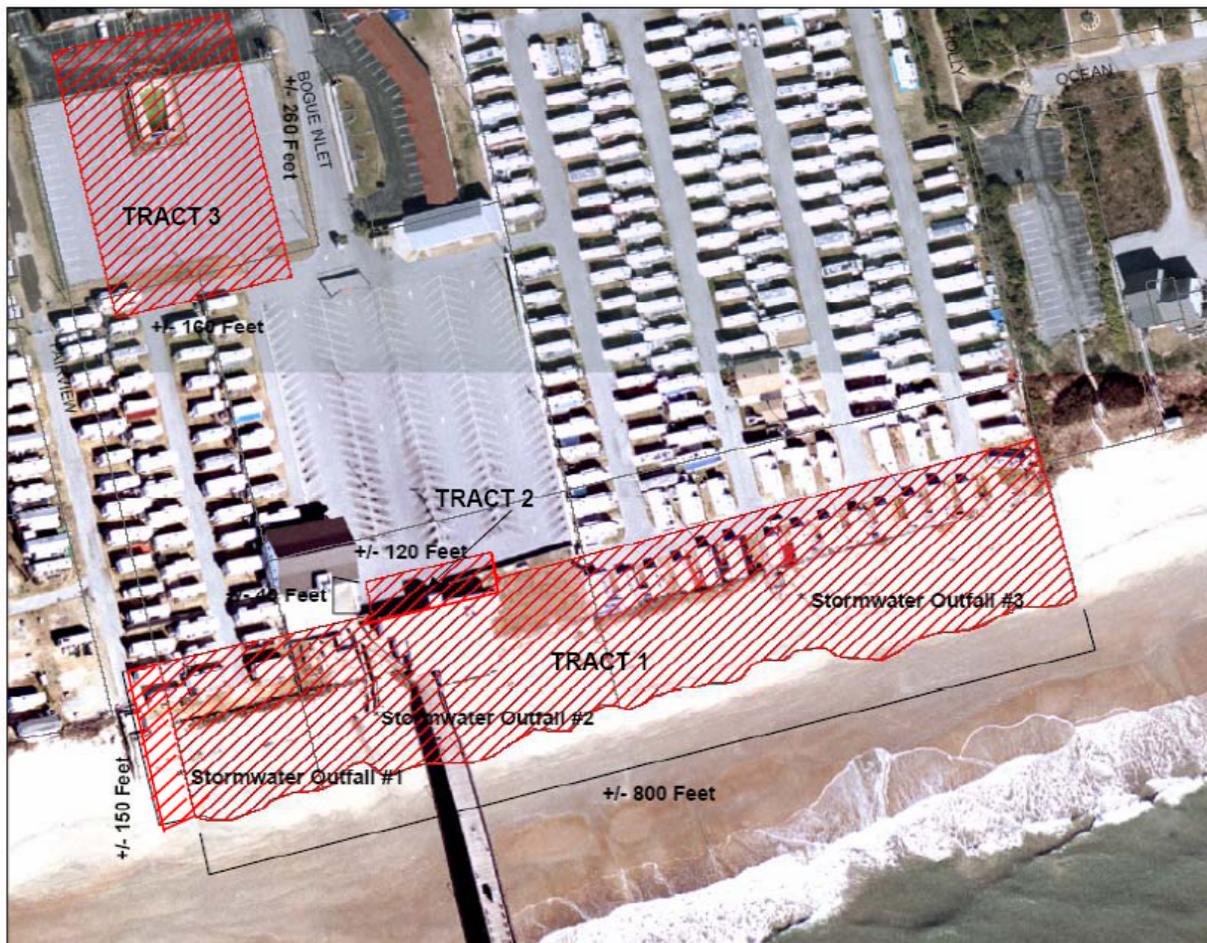
After months of negotiations with the prospective new owner, the Town of Emerald Isle has reached an agreement to acquire Bogue Inlet Pier and remove three ocean storm water outfalls. The Board of Commissioners approved the purchase agreement at its meeting on September 12.

The agreement is between the Town and Mid-Atlantic Real Estate and Development (Raleigh, NC), the group that currently has approximately 18 acres of property around the pier under contract. The agreement calls for the Town to purchase an approximately 150 ft. wide by 800 ft. long strip of oceanfront land that currently includes 3 ocean storm water outfalls that drain vast impervious areas directly to the Atlantic Ocean. The Town would remove the 3 ocean storm water outfalls upon acquisition of the land, helping to achieve an important water quality goal outlined in several State and local plans. The Town would also acquire an additional small tract of land under and adjacent to the existing Bogue Inlet Pier house, and an additional .9 acre tract of land located approximately 500 feet north of Bogue Inlet Pier. The total purchase

price for the three tracts is \$3,000,000, which the Town hopes to secure from the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF).

Under the terms of the agreement, Mid-Atlantic would donate the existing pier house and pier structure to the Town as a charitable contribution. Mid-Atlantic would also construct, at its expense, a new parking deck with 170 public parking spaces that would be located on the .9 acre tract acquired by the Town. The new parking deck would then be owned and operated by the Town in conjunction with the pier and pier house. The agreement also calls for Mid-Atlantic to renovate the existing pier house, and for the Town to reconstruct Bogue Inlet Drive and make significant streetscape and storm water improvements. The goal of the Town and Mid-Atlantic is to create an aesthetically pleasing, pedestrian-friendly entry way from NC 58 to the renovated pier house, the focal point of the area now known as "Village East". The new parking deck will replace the existing parking lot for Bogue Inlet Pier, which will be removed in conjunction with the removal of the existing ocean storm water outfalls.

The agreement is contingent upon the Town receiving a NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for the project. The Town recently amended its grant application to the NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund to request \$3,000,000 to acquire the three tracts of land. The CWMTF Board of Trustees is expected to make final grant funding decisions at their meetings on November 12 and 13, and Town officials remain optimistic about the grant application. If the Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant is approved, and Mid-Atlantic's overall purchase is finalized, the Town expects to close on the acquisition in early 2007. The Town's goal would be to re-open Bogue Inlet Pier in March 2007, and complete renovations and other improvements in a way that keeps the pier open to the public next year.



 Denotes approximate boundaries of area to be acquired by the Town of Emerald Isle

New Village East Zoning Districts In Process

At its meeting on September 25, the Town's Planning Board recommended draft ordinance language to create the new Village East zoning district and the new Village East Conditional Zoning Overlay District. This new ordinance language is based on the vision outlined in the Town's CAMA Land Use Plan and recent public input about the Village East area, and is in anticipation of the upcoming submittal of re-development plans for the Bogue Inlet Pier area. The draft ordinance will be reviewed and considered by the Board of Commissioners at their October 10 meeting.

The proposed ordinance is intended to promote the development of a village-style, mixed-use (both commercial and residential uses) development in the area near Bogue Inlet Pier, with the pier as the focal point of the Village East area. No specific properties will be rezoned to the new Village East zoning districts at this time, and the Town expects to consider rezoning requests to the new Village East districts over the next 6 months or more. The Town is expecting to receive a specific rezoning request to the new Village East districts from the re-developers of the Bogue Inlet Pier area in October, and these rezoning requests may be considered by the Planning Board as early as their October 23 meeting and the Board of Commissioners at their November 14 meeting.

As always, public participation and input is encouraged at both the Planning Board meetings and Board of Commissioners meetings. "We are excited about these efforts, as they represent the potential realization of the vision outlined in the Town's CAMA Land Use Plan for the Village East area. We look forward to quality redevelopment that is consistent with the Town's "small-town" atmosphere, and the proposed new zoning districts will help us insure that this redevelopment is consistent with the Town's CAMA Land Use Plan", noted Mayor Art Schools. "The Town was fortunate to have significant public involvement in the land use plan process, and we welcome additional input as we implement this vision", added Mayor Schools.

For more information, please contact Kevin Reed, Planning Director, at 252-354-3338, or Frank Rush, Town Manager, at 252-354-3424.

Third Rabies Case Confirmed in Emerald Isle – Deer Horn Drive

The Town of Emerald Isle has confirmed its third case of rabies in a raccoon this year. On the afternoon of Saturday, September 23, the Emerald Isle Police Department destroyed an aggressive raccoon and injured feral cat that was attacked by the raccoon in the mid-block of Deer Horn Drive. Both animals were sent to the Carteret County Animal Control Office for testing, and test results received on September 27 indicated that the raccoon did in fact have rabies. The cat was not tested.

Previous confirmed rabies cases occurred in raccoons on March 13 in the area of Fawn Drive, and on Crew Drive near the former Bridgeview Campground on May 12.

Emerald Isle residents are advised to be aware of the presence of a rabid wild animal in Emerald Isle, and to report any suspicious behavior by wild or domestic animals to the Emerald Isle Police Department (354-2021) or the Carteret County Animal Control Office (728-8585). The following tips are offered by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help keep your family and pets safe:

- Keep rabies vaccinations for all cats, dogs, and ferrets up to date.
- Do not let pets roam.
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance.
- Do not approach a stray animal; report it to the Emerald Isle Police Department.
- Seal off holes that can be entryways for animals into your home.
- Keep lids on garbage cans and don't leave pet food outside overnight.
- If bitten by an animal, immediately wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes and get medical help at once. Report the bite to the Carteret County Health Department.

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. Domestic animals account for less than 10% of the reported rabies cases, with cats, cattle, and dogs most often reported rabid.

For more information, please contact the Emerald Isle Police Department or the Carteret County Animal Control Office.

Beach Nourishment Project Planned for Early 2007 to Replace Sand Lost During Hurricane Ophelia

Construction bids are currently being solicited for the Town's upcoming beach nourishment project to replace sand lost during Hurricane Ophelia in September 2005. The project involves the placement of approximately 570,000 cubic yards of sand along two distinct reaches of oceanfront in Emerald Isle. The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program (which funds the repair and reconstruction of public infrastructure) and the NC Division of Emergency Management will fund 100% of the cost of this project.

The areas to be nourished include a 2.6 mile reach from Conch Court to Lee Street, and a 2.7 mile reach from Connie Street to 6th Street. Work will begin in January 2007, and is expected to take approximately 6 weeks to complete. The project is being combined with similar projects in Indian Beach and Pine Knoll Shores, and work in those Towns will occur after Emerald Isle is completed.

Design Work For Coast Guard Road Traffic Improvements Moving Forward

The Town is moving forward with plans for major traffic improvements on Coast Guard Road at the intersection with NC 58. Design work for additional and longer turn lanes is nearly complete, and the Town expects to solicit construction bids in November. The Town is working hard to schedule construction for the January – February 2007 timeframe in order to minimize traffic impacts during construction.

Anonymous Donation for Bike Paths and Sidewalks Includes Challenge For Other Donations

The Town has constructed several new bike path and sidewalk segments in recent years, and these new amenities have been enjoyed by many. Interest in bike paths and sidewalks continues to be high, and the Town recently received an anonymous \$500 donation for future projects. The anonymous donor also committed an additional \$500 if others in the community step up and match the \$500 donation! The Town is most appreciative of this individual's generosity and support for these projects! If you'd like to contribute to this effort, please contact Alesia Sanderson, Parks and Recreation Director, at 252-354-6350.

New Lights Installed on NC 58 Bicycle Path

Carteret Craven Electric Cooperative is currently in the process of installing 16 new decorative street lights along the Town's 2-mile long bicycle path on the south side of NC 58 that runs from Coast Guard Road to Black Skimmer Drive. The new lights are expected to be completely installed by the end of October.

The new lights will improve visibility and safety at night along the bicycle path, and will add another attractive feature to the NC 58 streetscape. The Town has future plans to install similar lights along the sidewalk on the north side of NC 58 and along Bogue Inlet Drive.

Halloween Schedule for Town of Emerald Isle

The Emerald Isle Parks and Recreation's Annual Halloween Carnival will be held on Friday, October 27 from 6 pm – 8 pm at the Community Center. This event promises fun for the whole family, and includes a glow-in-the-dark mural, face painting, liver toss, hanging cookie eating contest, safety booth, fingerprinting by the Emerald Isle Police Department, and more! Admission fee is one bag of candy per child!

Trick-Or-Treating will be held on Tuesday, October 31 from 6 pm – 9 pm! Enjoy the fun, and stay safe!