

1                                   **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**  
2                                   **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
3                                   **TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.**  
4                                   **TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**

5  
6  
7    **1. Call to Order**

8  
9    The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to order by  
10 Mayor Eddie Barber at 6:00 PM in the Town Board Meeting Room.  
11

12   **2. Roll Call**

13  
14 Present for the meeting: Mayor Eddie Barber, Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer, Commissioners  
15 Candace Dooley, Steve Finch, Jim Normile, and Maripat Wright.  
16

17 Also, present during the regular meeting: Town Manager Frank Rush, Attorney Richard Stanley,  
18 Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee, Finance Director Laura Rotchford, Town Planner Josh Edmondson,  
19 Police Chief Tony Reese, and Fire Captain Bill Matthias.  
20

21   **3. Opening Prayer**

22  
23 Mayor Barber offered the Opening Prayer.  
24

25   **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

26  
27 Mayor Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
28

29   **5. Adoption of Agenda**

30  
31 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to adopt the Agenda excluding Item 12. The***  
32 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***  
33

34   **6. Introduction of Employees**

35  
36       **a. Hannah Taylor, Summer Intern**  
37

38 Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee introduced Summer Intern Hannah Taylor. Town Clerk Ferebee  
39 noted that Hannah grew up in Reidsville, NC but had lived in Emerald Isle for the past 11 years.  
40 Town Clerk Ferebee stated that Hannah was a 2015 Croatan High School graduate, currently  
41 attending ECU where she was studying Communications with a concentration in Journalism and  
42 Public Relations. It was further noted that Hannah’s current internship with the Town was her  
43 fourth internship so far having also interned with Carteret County News-Times, a marketing  
44 group in Elkin, NC and College Fashionista, an online lifestyle website based out of New York, as

1 well as maintaining a website for Taylor Farms, a family owned company in Virginia. Town Clerk  
2 Ferebee said that in the fall Hannah planned to apply for a copy editor position for an ECU  
3 publication and hoped to continue to gain further knowledge in the field of communications.  
4 Town Clerk Ferebee stated that since the beginning of July Hannah had been assisting the Town  
5 with public information efforts through digital media – our website, app, and social media,  
6 adding that she was doing an awesome job and we were pleased to have her onboard. The  
7 Board and public applauded and welcomed Hannah.

8  
9 **7. Proclamation / Public Announcements**

10  
11 Mayor Barber noted the following announcements for the public:

- 12  
13 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Thursday, July 13 – 6:30 pm – Western Ocean Regional Access –**  
14 **Now & Then**
- 15 • **Friday Free Flick – Friday, July 14 – 7 pm – Community Center**
- 16 • **Police Educating the Public (PEP) – Tuesday, July 18 – 10 am – Town Board Meeting**  
17 **Room**
- 18 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Thursday, July 20 – 6:30 pm – Western Ocean Regional Access –**  
19 **Bobby Webb & Co.**
- 20 • **Planning Board Regular Meeting – Monday, July 24 – 6 pm – Town Board Meeting**  
21 **Room**
- 22 • **Coffee With a Cop – Thursday, July 27 – 9 am – Stir It Up**
- 23 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Thursday, July 27 – 6:30 pm – Western Ocean Regional Access –**  
24 **Big Drink**
- 25 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Thursday, August 3 – 6:30 pm – Western Ocean Regional Access**  
26 **– Pure T Mommicked**
- 27 • **Do It For Drew Color run – Saturday, Aug 5 – 7:30 am – Emerald Club**
- 28 • **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – Tuesday, August 8 – 6 pm – Town Board**  
29 **Meeting Room**

30  
31 **8. Public Comment**

32  
33 **Brief Summary:** The public will have the opportunity to address the Board about any items of  
34 concern not on the agenda.

35  
36 Karen Crockett, 9100 Reed Drive, asked Commissioner Normile who had served on the Steering  
37 Committee, about a comment made by Town Manager Frank Rush that they needed to push  
38 forward for the event center because that was what had been picked on the Land Use survey.  
39 Ms. Crockett also questioned who got the survey – registered voters, residents, and where they  
40 could get the results from that survey.  
41

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 3 of 20

1 Commissioner Normile responded that he was Chairman of the Land Use Plan Steering  
2 Committee last year and that if Ms. Crockett would provide her contact information he would  
3 be happy to email those survey results. Commissioner Normile stated that the final product he  
4 didn't think was on the website but the survey responses were working copies that they used  
5 on the Committee during the open public sessions. Commissioner Normile said the survey was  
6 no longer active as it had been used throughout the year, and it was made available through  
7 the Town's website, and advertised in the newspaper. Commissioner Normile noted at the  
8 time, each municipality in Carteret County was working on their own Economic Development  
9 plans and Emerald Isle received the highest response rate from the community surveys with  
10 over 1,000 respondents just from the survey and not including those that attended the monthly  
11 meetings or the few hundred that came to the big group forum that was held in the Recreation  
12 center.

13  
14 Town Manager Frank Rush added that the final Board adopted version of the Land Use Plan was  
15 on the Town website, labeled "draft" only because it was still being reviewed by the State.  
16 Town Manager Rush said the survey was done electronically and publicized through the Town's  
17 website, email newsletter, twitter, Facebook, etc., receiving about 1,500 responses, and the  
18 survey was incorporated into the Land Use Plan.

19  
20 Commissioner Normile also pointed out to Ms. Crockett's comment that the Town Manager  
21 had stated that "we had to do whatever X was ..." and noted that all direction given to Town  
22 Manager Frank Rush came from the Board of Commissioners so it wasn't Town Manager Rush's  
23 initiative to do anything but it was Commissioner directive to follow whatever X equaled.  
24 Commissioner Normile said that right, wrong or indifferent with what the Board did it was  
25 based upon the direction of the Board of Commissioners to Town Manager Rush.

26  
27 Elton Matheson, 7008 Sound Drive, commented that when they built their house 35 years ago,  
28 at least half of the beach was open to public access and now he and his wife couldn't find a  
29 place for parking where they could get to the beach and they were both handicapped. Mr.  
30 Matheson said the Watson bailout maneuver was going to make it impossible, and as he  
31 understood it they used beach nourishment trust money to finance the purchase and that was  
32 not tax money, it was for the purpose of rebuilding the beach. Mr. Matheson questioned their  
33 morals, knowing they could make it legal but asked why they had to do it and what was the  
34 rush. Mr. Matheson said he understood the parking lot would have to move inland, and there  
35 would probably be no handicapped parking, and if there was it would be too far from the  
36 beach, and if they succeeded in building a hotel, which he doubted they were able to do, they  
37 would siphon rental money and retail money from the rest of the island. He wanted to see  
38 details of how they could make this work financially. Mr. Matheson spoke of his and his wife's  
39 knowledge and experience with these types of projects, doubting they could make it on rental  
40 or convention money. Mr. Matheson also mentioned the baseball diamond that the Town  
41 thought was justified because they had 400 kids and thought that was anecdotal evidence, as

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 4 of 20

1 they wouldn't get 400 kids to stand out there in the afternoon sun being bitten by flies and  
2 trying to play baseball. Mr. Matheson said why not build a skateboard park, and why not  
3 preserve the forest. Mr. Matheson also mentioned the legal issue, the Nies case, and what  
4 would happen if the Town lost.

5  
6 Town Manager Rush stated that he and Mr. Matheson had traded many emails over the years  
7 on these topics and others and he was always happy to talk to him about anything he would  
8 like. Mr. Matheson said he had never been able to get a definitive answer and asked to get a  
9 copy of a plot plan and a marketing forecast.

10  
11 Mayor Barber suggested Mr. Matheson contact him and he would be happy to sit down and  
12 talk with him.

13  
14 Nick Markham, 9100 Reed Drive, Unit 1106, wanted to know what percentage the 1,500 Land  
15 Use Plan surveys was in relation to the number sent out.

16  
17 Town Manager Frank Rush stated that the survey was done completely electronically online,  
18 advertised multiple times on the Town's email newsletter, as well as website and Facebook,  
19 etc. and so it was difficult to determine a response rate but it was broken down by permanent  
20 residents, second home owners, visitors, and all of that was in the report.

21  
22 Mr. Markham said you normally got a percentage rate to tell how effective the survey was as he  
23 used to do a lot of surveys and that was how they gauged things. Mr. Markham also asked the  
24 Board if they knew prior to the proposed event center being discussed now that the 250-person  
25 event center would be put in the Islander, and if so, since the Board provided the directives to  
26 the Town Manager, would they consider another directive if they just found out about it when  
27 it was built.

28  
29 Commissioner Normile responded that this was public comment time and very respectfully not  
30 the time to discuss or debate, and he would be happy to stay after the meeting and dialogue  
31 with anyone, and he was sure others would as well, but thanked Mr. Markham for his public  
32 comment.

33  
34 Mr. Markham said that he was guessing that if the Board had known about the event center at  
35 the Islander prior to that they might not have considered this event center at this point.

36  
37 Joan Pate, 9100 Reed Drive, Unit 4301, stated that for the last 16 years she had owned and  
38 operated a dental app, and over the years she had attended countless ADA conferences and  
39 traveled to continuing education events and taught them, always staying where the event was  
40 held. Ms. Pate said not once did she go to a Food Lion, a Publix, an ice cream shop, K-9's &  
41 Coffee, Elly's, a beachwear store, she stayed at the event usually for 3-4 days. Ms. Pate said

1 that Town Manager Frank Rush in his response to Mr. Markham's letter said the business  
2 community wanted this and she wondered what businesses would be helped besides the hotel  
3 that would be on top and a restaurant or two, adding that the biggest restaurants closed for 6-8  
4 weeks every winter. She thought if it was really about the shoulder season, which she didn't  
5 think it was, she thought it was all about an oceanfront hotel, that they couldn't take any more  
6 traffic or any more people in the summer. Ms. Pate said if they wanted to close it down for the  
7 summer and it just be for the shoulder season that might work.

8  
9 Mayor Barber stated that this was a public comment period and not the time to debate or  
10 answer questions but to hear comments from the public so they could hear the concerns of the  
11 citizens.

12  
13 Town Manager Rush also suggested, as Commissioner Normile had made the offer to speak  
14 after the meeting, that anyone with questions about anything was welcome to come by the  
15 Town Administration Building, to call or email, and he was happy to meet with anybody at any  
16 time about anything, and that was a better forum to get into the details of the various issues  
17 dealt with by the Town.

18  
19 **9. Consent Agenda**

- 20  
21 a. **Order Directing 2017 Tax Levy and Collections**  
22 b. **Minutes – June 6, 2017 Special Meeting**  
23 c. **Budget Amendment – Beach Music Festival Fund**  
24 d. **Resolution Authorizing Pre-Positioned Emergency Generator Rental Contract**  
25 (17-07-11/R1)

26  
27 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The***  
28 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

29  
30 **Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 17-07-11/R1 and all other Consent Agenda items as noted above are incorporated herein**  
31 **by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.**

32  
33 **10. Resolution of Intent to Close a Segment of 10<sup>th</sup> Street (17-07-11/R2)**

34  
35 Town Planner Josh Edmondson addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The  
36 following excerpt from his memo to the Town Manager is provided for additional background:

37  
38 The Town has been approached by the adjacent parcel owners of 10<sup>th</sup> Street to close 185 linear feet of 10<sup>th</sup> Street between  
39 Bogue Sound and Emerald Drive. Mr. William Proctor owns 912 Emerald Drive and Mr. Charles Jordan owns 1002 Emerald  
40 Drive. Initially the request was to close the entire segment of 10<sup>th</sup> Street from Bogue Sound Drive to Emerald Drive.  
41 However, doing this would have created a nonconforming lot because Mr. Jordan owns two lots to the west of 10<sup>th</sup> street and  
42 the rear lot would not have had the minimum necessary frontage in a subdivision of 30' has required. In fact, this lot would  
43 have been land locked.  
44

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 6 of 20

1 Therefore, the request is to close that portion of 10<sup>th</sup> Street starting at Bogue Sound and running south 185 linear feet. This  
2 will allow Mr. Jordan's property to remain compliant with subdivision standards not creating a nonconforming lot. A 10' public  
3 access easement will remain on that portion of 10<sup>th</sup> Street that is requesting to be closed. I have attached several items to  
4 this memo. The first is a letter from both owner requesting the closure and understanding that a 10' public access easement  
5 will remain on the closed portion. You will also find an excerpt from the Town's Powell Bill map and another map showing the  
6 portion to be closed. Lastly, are the street closing procedures outlined in NCGS 160A-299.  
7

8 Town Planner Edmondson presented the details of the proposed Resolution of Intent to Close a  
9 Segment of 10<sup>th</sup> Street as further outlined in him memo above as requested by the adjacent  
10 owners. Town Planner Edmondson noted that this was a 25' wide right-of-way, not improved,  
11 and the only portion closed was a 185 linear foot portion of the rear of 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Town  
12 Planner Edmondson stated that if approved by the Board he was prepared to meet the public  
13 notice requirements as outlined in NCGS 160A-299.  
14

15 A question was posed from the audience about whether the Town could make parking for  
16 people there instead of giving up the Town's sound access. Town Planner Edmondson there  
17 would remain a 10' public access easement and people could continue to use the access to walk  
18 to the sound as they currently did.  
19

20 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the Resolution of Intent to Close a***  
21 ***Segment of 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***  
22

23 **Clerks Note:** A copy of Resolution 17-07-11/R2 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part  
24 of these minutes.  
25

26 **11. Town of Emerald Isle Civilian / Employee Commendation Program**  
27

28 Police Chief Tony Reese and Fire Captain Bill Matthias addressed the Board concerning this  
29 Agenda item. The following excerpt from Town Manager Frank Rush's memo to the Board is  
30 provided for additional background:  
31

32 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the establishment of a formal "Civilian / Employee  
33 Commendation Program" to provide a framework for recognizing extraordinary acts, outstanding contributions,  
34 and excellent service in Emerald Isle. The proposed program was drafted by Police Chief Tony Reese and Fire  
35 Captain Bill Matthias, and they will present the program to the Board at the July 11 meeting.  
36

37 The proposed program would create several categories of awards, and any member of the Emerald Isle community  
38 - including residents, property owners, business owners, those employed by Town businesses, visitors, Town  
39 employees, and others - would be eligible for these awards. A total of 15 different awards are proposed across  
40 three groups - civilians and general Town employees, Police personnel, and Fire personnel. A total of 5 different  
41 award classifications are proposed for each group ranging from a "Certificate of Appreciation" for excellent service  
42 all the way up to a "Medal of Honor" or "Medal of Valor" for extraordinary heroism, bravery, and courage.  
43

44 Under the proposed program, any Emerald Isle citizen or employee may request a commendation for a particular  
45 individual or group of individuals, and a draft request form is attached. Commendation requests would be  
46 reviewed by a "Commendation Review Committee" that would consist of the Mayor, one Town Commissioner, the

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 7 of 20

1 Town Manager, the Police Chief, and Fire Chief, and this committee would meet as needed (but not more than  
2 once per month) to review commendation requests, gather additional information, and determine the appropriate  
3 award, if warranted. The decision to bestow an award would be made by the committee only if there is  
4 unanimous agreement among the 5 members. Individuals or groups selected for an award would be publicly  
5 recognized by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners at a Town meeting, and an appropriate press release would  
6 be issued to honor the individual or group.

7  
8 As noted, there are a total of 5 different award classifications proposed for each group, and we expect to award  
9 actual medals for the most significant awards (i.e, Medal of Honor, Emerald Medal, etc.), and utilize attractive  
10 desktop awards, plaques, and certificates for the other awards (i.e, Civic Achievement Award, Certificate of  
11 Commendation, Certificate of Appreciation, etc.). The "Medal of Honor" represents the highest civilian and Town  
12 employee award, and may be awarded for a significant lifesaving act by a civilian or Town employee (i.e., rescuing  
13 a potential drowning victim, etc.). The "Medal of Valor" represents the highest Police and Fire award, and may be  
14 awarded for a heroic effort in the performance of life safety duties (i.e, a heroic act in a burning building, saving  
15 the life of another from a dangerous individual or situation, etc.). The other award classifications are aimed at  
16 honoring significant volunteer efforts, charitable contributions, or exceptional service provided to others in our  
17 community.

18  
19 The Town has not previously offered a formal recognition program, and the proposed "Civilian / Employee  
20 Commendation Program" is an effort to more appropriately recognize the everyday heroes in Emerald Isle and  
21 foster a greater sense of community pride and awareness. The proposed program is modeled after existing  
22 activities in the Police and Fire Department, with consideration of other communities' similar programs and our  
23 goals in Emerald Isle. Although it is difficult to predict, I would not envision more than a few such awards each  
24 year, if that many, as the goal of the program is to recognize the most exemplary contributions to others and to  
25 Emerald Isle.

26  
27 Chief Reese, Captain Matthias, and I look forward to discussing the proposed program with the Board at the July  
28 11 meeting.

29  
30 Police Chief Reese recognized and thanked Fire Captain Matthias for his hard work in  
31 researching, organizing and designing the proposed program for the community. Chief Reese  
32 stated that the Town of Emerald Isle Civilian /Employee Commendation Program was designed  
33 to afford citizens or employees with a means of recommending to the Town that they recognize  
34 an individual, group, or employees who had performed heroic, life-savings, charitable, or other  
35 commendable acts that were of great service and benefit to the Town and the community.  
36 Chief Reese noted the program was modeled after existing programs in both Police and Fire  
37 departments, and similar civilian programs in other communities this program was designed to  
38 put in place a standardized review and reward process by which each recommendation was  
39 reviewed by a committee, investigated, voted on, and awards presented in a public setting to  
40 honor the recipient and extend the communities appreciation for their actions. Chief Reese  
41 believed the process outlined in the policy presented for review would protect the integrity and  
42 meaning of awards presented by the Town and ensure there was consistency for the types of  
43 acts and the manner in which awards and commendation decisions were made.

44

1 Commissioner Wright asked Chief Reese how often they would expect to present awards per  
2 year. Chief Reese thought there may be some years where there were no awards, maybe one  
3 or two a year at the most.

4  
5 Commissioner Normile noted from his discussion with the Fire Chief that lifeguards were  
6 included which he thought was great.

7  
8 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to adopt the Town of Emerald Isle Civilian /***  
9 ***Employee Commendation Program. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion***  
10 ***carried.***

11  
12 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to designate Commissioner Finch to serve on the***  
13 ***Commendation Review Committee. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion***  
14 ***carried.***

15  
16 **~~12. Archers Creek West Stream Restoration Project- Item 12 Removed from Agenda~~**

- 17  
18 **~~a. Resolution Accepting Water Resources Development Grant~~**  
19 **~~b. Budget Amendment – General Fund~~**

20  
21 **13. Resolution Authorizing Funding Request to NC Shallow Draft Navigation Channel**  
22 **Dredging and Lake Maintenance Fund for Bogue Inlet Navigation Dredging (17-07-11/R3)**

23  
24 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following  
25 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

26  
27 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the attached resolution authorizing a new State-local funding  
28 partnership that seeks to generate a total of \$300,000 for future navigation maintenance dredging in Bogue Inlet.  
29 The proposed share for Emerald Isle is \$10,000, with \$200,000 provided by the State and \$90,000 by other  
30 Carteret-Onslow area local governments. This new partnership is necessary because there is no Federal funding  
31 available for dredging, and all funds remaining from previous State-local funding partnerships have been  
32 exhausted.

33  
34 **Background and Recent History**

35 The US Army Corps of Engineers (“the Corps”) has historically maintained the Bogue Inlet connecting channel (“the  
36 connecting channel”) and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway in our area (“the Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing”), and  
37 these navigable waterways are enjoyed by many area businesses, residents, property owners, and visitors. It is  
38 important to understand that these are actually two separate projects for the Corps, and that they are dredged  
39 with different types of dredges and funded with different appropriations.

40  
41 **The Bogue Inlet Connecting Channel**

42 The Bogue Inlet connecting channel is the approximately 15,000 linear ft. channel that leads from the AIWW south  
43 to the Atlantic Ocean, and includes the ocean bar. Prior to June, the connecting channel included a more western  
44 route along Dudley Island, but was redesignated to a more central route due to significant shoaling in the western  
45 route in recent years, the presence of more naturally deep water in the central route, and as part of our ongoing



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 JULY 11, 2017  
 Page 9 of 20

1 efforts to promote a more stable channel location. (Maps indicating the new, central route of the connecting  
 2 channel are attached, and the US Coast Guard has re-installed aids to navigation along this route.)  
 3

4 The connecting channel has shifted around the Bogue Inlet complex over time, and has been historically  
 5 maintained by the Corps with government-owned sidecast dredges that simply dredge the material from the  
 6 bottom and cast it approximately 100 – 150 ft. to the side in shallow water. The sidecast dredge does not have the  
 7 capability to place dredged material on the beach, and is intended solely to provide short-term navigation benefits  
 8 with an expectation that repeated dredging will be necessary to keep the channel open when shoaling occurs. The  
 9 authorized depth of the connecting channel is 6 - 8 ft. at mean low water.

10  
 11 The Corps has historically dredged the connecting channel multiple times per year as needed, depending on  
 12 shoaling conditions and the availability of the government-owned sidecast dredges. It is important to note that  
 13 the entire 15,000 linear ft. channel is not dredged during each dredging cycle or even each year. In fact, some  
 14 areas of the connecting channel have likely been dredged very infrequently, as shoaling conditions in certain areas  
 15 of the connecting channel are minimal and do not require significant dredging. Historically, most sidecast dredging  
 16 in the connecting channel has occurred across the ocean bar and at a few troublesome locations between the  
 17 AIWW and the ocean bar.  
 18

19 Prior to the mid-2000s, Federal funding (approximately \$300,000 - \$400,000 annually, and sometimes more) was  
 20 routinely appropriated for dredging in Bogue Inlet. With the exception of special hurricane-relief appropriations,  
 21 Congress has not appropriated funding for the dredging of the Bogue Inlet connecting channel since the mid-  
 22 2000s. Due to ongoing Federal budget challenges, it is unlikely that new annual appropriations are forthcoming.  
 23 Due to the absence of reliable Federal appropriations, the Town of Emerald Isle led efforts in 2006, 2011, 2014,  
 24 and 2016 to assemble State and local funding for Bogue Inlet dredging. The 2006 effort provided a total of  
 25 \$380,000 from the following:  
 26

<u>2006 State-Local Partnership</u>		
State of North Carolina	\$ 285,000	75%
Carteret-Onslow area local governments		25%
Onslow County	30,000	
Town of Swansboro	8,000	
Carteret County	30,000	
Town of Emerald Isle	15,000	
Town of Cape Carteret	6,000	
Town of Cedar Point	<u>6,000</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 380,000	

27  
 28  
 29  
 30  
 31  
 32  
 33  
 34  
 35  
 36  
 37  
 38  
 39 These funds were used to fund various dredging efforts between 2006 and 2013, and were supplemented by  
 40 special hurricane-relief appropriations (Ophelia, Irene, etc.) by Congress. These supplemental appropriations  
 41 essentially enabled the Corps to reserve the 2006 State-local funding, and the 2006 State-local funding was used  
 42 after all hurricane-relief appropriations were exhausted.  
 43

44 In 2011, just before Hurricane Irene hit in August, there was concern that the 2006 State-local funding would soon  
 45 be exhausted, and a new State-local funding partnership provided a total of \$182,000 from the following:  
 46

<u>2011 State-Local Partnership</u>		
State of North Carolina	\$ 91,000	50%
Carteret-Onslow area local governments		50%
Onslow County	30,000	

50

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 JULY 11, 2017  
 Page 10 of 20

1	Town of Swansboro	6,000
2	Carteret County	30,000
3	Town of Emerald Isle	16,000
4	Town of Cape Carteret	3,000
5	Town of Cedar Point	<u>6,000</u>
6		
7	TOTAL	\$ 182,000

8  
 9 After Hurricane Irene, Congress again appropriated hurricane-relief funds for Bogue Inlet dredging, and that  
 10 appropriation enabled the Corps to reserve the remaining 2006 State-local funds and the new 2011 funds for  
 11 future dredging efforts. The 2006 and 2011 State-local funds were eventually exhausted by 2014, and another  
 12 new State-local partnership sought a total of \$320,000, however, only \$280,000 was made available due to Onslow  
 13 County not providing the full amount requested (which also reduced the State contribution – by formula), as  
 14 follows:

15			
16	<u>2014 State-Local Partnership</u>		
17	State of North Carolina		
18	\$160,000 expected, but actual amount was	\$ 140,000	50%
19	Carteret-Onslow area local governments		50%
20	Onslow County		
21	\$75,000 requested, but actual amount was	55,000	
22	Town of Swansboro	5,000	
23	Carteret County	55,000	
24	Town of Emerald Isle	15,000	
25	Town of Cape Carteret	5,000	
26	Town of Cedar Point	<u>5,000</u>	
27			
28	TOTAL	\$ 280,000	

29  
 30 By mid-2016, the 2014 State-local funds were nearly exhausted, and another State-local partnership was  
 31 assembled. By this time, the State had increased its cost-share for dredging from 50% to 67%, which made it more  
 32 affordable for area local governments. The 2016 State-local partnership sought a total of \$300,000, however, only  
 33 \$262,500 was made available due to Onslow County not providing the full amount requested (which also reduced  
 34 the State contribution - by formula), as follows:

35			
36	<u>2016 State-Local Partnership</u>		
37	State of North Carolina		
38	\$200,000 expected, but actual amount was	\$ 175,000	67%
39	Carteret-Onslow area local governments		33%
40	Onslow County		
41	\$47,500 requested, but actual amount was	35,000	
42	Town of Swansboro	2,500	
43	Carteret County	35,000	
44	Town of Emerald Isle	10,000	
45	Town of Cape Carteret	2,500	
46	Town of Cedar Point	<u>2,500</u>	
47			
48	TOTAL	\$ 262,500	

49

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 11 of 20

1 The 2016 State-local partnership funds were supplemented by approximately \$6,000 of remaining funds, and  
2 resulted in a total of approximately \$268,500 available for 2017 dredging activities. These funds were used for  
3 dredging activities in April and June, and were exhausted by early June. Due to the need for additional emergency  
4 dredging in order to enable the US Coast Guard to restore the aids to navigation in Bogue Inlet, the Town  
5 committed an additional \$20,000 that was matched with \$40,000 from the State, and additional dredging was  
6 completed (along with re-installation of the aids to navigation) in mid-June. In reality, only approximately half this  
7 amount was necessary (approximately \$30,000), and the Town remitted \$10,000 in June (that was matched with  
8 \$20,000 from the State).  
9

10 Thus, as noted, all previous State-local partnership funds have been exhausted, and no maintenance dredging will  
11 occur in Bogue Inlet until additional funds can be identified.  
12

13 The Bogue Inlet AIWW Crossing

14 The Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing is an approximately 5,000 linear ft. segment of the AIWW located adjacent to  
15 Cedar Point at its intersection with the Bogue Inlet connecting channel. (The Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing is also  
16 depicted on the attached map as "Section 1, Tangent G" near Cedar Point.) The Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing is one  
17 of 8 AIWW crossings in North Carolina maintained every 3-4 years by the Corps, and is usually dredged with a  
18 privately-owned pipeline dredge that is under contract to the Corps. The pipeline dredge uses suction to remove  
19 dredge spoils and then pumps the spoils away to a designated disposal site on the beach at or near The Point. The  
20 Corps usually groups the work at several AIWW crossings into one competitively-bid contract to achieve an  
21 economy of scale and minimize expensive dredge mobilization costs. As such, when the Bogue Inlet AIWW  
22 crossing is dredged it is usually part of a much larger, state-wide contract. The authorized depth of the Bogue Inlet  
23 AIWW crossing is 12 ft. at mean low water.  
24

25 Appropriations for the Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing are usually included in a larger Federal appropriation for the  
26 entire AIWW in North Carolina, and are not typically budgeted separately (due to the interdependent grouping of  
27 multiple AIWW crossings into one contract). In recent years, the Corps has utilized anywhere from \$3 million - \$6  
28 million annually to dredge multiple AIWW crossings in North Carolina. Assuming a proportional distribution of the  
29 dredge mobilization costs, and the estimated quantity of material to be dredged every 3-4 years (usually anywhere  
30 from 30,000 – 80,000 cubic yards of material), the estimated cost of the Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing work per  
31 dredging event is approximately \$500,000 - \$1,000,000.  
32  
33

34 The Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing was last dredged in January 2014, and approximately 48,000 cubic yards of sand  
35 was placed on the beach at The Point. This work was funded 100% by the Corps. The Bogue Inlet AIWW crossing  
36 remains in a safe condition, and will likely not need dredging again until 2018 or 2019. As of now, we expect  
37 Federal funding to be available at that time for the AIWW in North Carolina, however, it would not be surprising if  
38 continuing Federal budget challenges impact the AIWW in the future also. As such, the dredging of the Bogue Inlet  
39 AIWW crossing is not within the scope of this agenda item.  
40

41 **Resolution Authorizing Funding Request to NC Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Lake**  
42 **Maintenance Fund for Bogue Inlet Navigation Dredging**

43 The attached resolution formally authorizes a new State-local funding partnership for Bogue Inlet connecting  
44 channel dredging in 2017. The attached resolution authorizes a State funding request in the amount of \$200,000  
45 (67%), and also authorizes the Town Manager to coordinate with other area local governments to provide the  
46 required 33% local match (\$100,000).  
47

48 The total amount of State-local funding, if approved by all parties, would be \$300,000, and this amount is expected  
49 to be sufficient to fund approximately 17 days of dredging. This amount is expected to be sufficient to fund only  
50 one or two dredging activities over the next year, and we are hopeful that the channel will remain in a relatively

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
 JULY 11, 2017  
 Page 12 of 20

1 safe condition during that time. If a new, dedicated funding source for future navigation dredging is not identified  
 2 in the meantime, it is likely that another State-local funding partnership will be contemplated sometime in 2018,  
 3 and likely each year thereafter.  
 4

5 If the Board approves the attached resolution, the Town (with assistance from the Carteret County Shore  
 6 Protection Office) will present formal requests to Carteret-Onslow area local governments and to the NC Shallow  
 7 Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Lake Maintenance Fund. The proposed cost-sharing in the attached  
 8 resolution is as follows:  
 9

<u>Proposed 2017 State-Local Partnership</u>		
State of North Carolina	\$ 200,000	67%
Carteret-Onslow area local governments		33%
Onslow County	47,500	
Town of Swansboro	2,500	
Carteret County	35,000	
Town of Emerald Isle	10,000	
Town of Cape Carteret	2,500	
Town of Cedar Point	<u>2,500</u>	
TOTAL	\$ 300,000	

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11  
12  
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14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22 The amount requested from each of the Carteret-Onslow area local governments is identical to the amount  
 23 requested in 2016, and I am hopeful that all of the Carteret-Onslow area local governments (including Onslow  
 24 County) will provide the requested amount. The proposed cost-sharing is intended to keep the amounts provided  
 25 by the area municipalities at a manageable and realistic amount that is consistent with recent history (and their  
 26 annual budgets), and also reflects the fact that the municipalities are also part of each county.  
 27

28 The proposal again seeks to split the local government cost-share equally between Onslow County and Carteret  
 29 County -- \$50,000 each between each county and its municipalities. The towns of Swansboro, Cape Carteret, and  
 30 Cedar Point are all similar in size, and these towns have historically made a similar contribution to Bogue Inlet  
 31 dredging costs. Emerald Isle's share is larger than the other municipalities due to our larger size and tax base. If  
 32 the Board approves the attached resolution, I envision the Town and/or the Carteret County Shore Protection  
 33 Office sending a formal funding request to each of the area local governments for their formal consideration in the  
 34 coming weeks.  
 35

36 As noted, the Town previously remitted \$10,000 for emergency dredging in June in order to enable the re-  
 37 installation of aids to navigation. In the interest of (relative) simplicity, goodwill toward our other local  
 38 government partners (in particular Onslow County, as part of our efforts to persuade them to remit the full  
 39 amount requested), and maximizing the amount available for future dredging activities, I am recommending that  
 40 the Town simply absorb this expense and not seek a "credit" for this contribution. If the Board disagrees with this  
 41 approach, I will factor in the appropriate "credit" for Emerald Isle in the 2017 State-local partnership, which would  
 42 reduce the total amount available from \$300,000 to \$270,000 (essentially, in that scenario the \$30,000 would have  
 43 been "pre-paid" by the Town and the State in June).  
 44

45 The Town of Emerald Isle's recommended contribution for the 2017 State-local partnership is (a new) \$10,000, and  
 46 these funds are included in the FY 17-18 budget approved by the Board. It is also important to note that Carteret  
 47 County's contribution will need to come from the County's General Fund, as this dredging does not involve sand  
 48 placement and is therefore not an eligible expense for the Carteret County Beach Commission.  
 49  
 50

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 13 of 20

1 **Potential Future Dredging Strategy for Bogue Inlet Connecting Channel**

2 As noted in previous correspondence with the Board, the Town has been issued a new permit to also conduct  
3 navigation dredging activities in the Bogue Inlet connecting channel. The new permit is nearly identical to the  
4 existing permit held by the Corps, and was obtained in case the Corps eventually abdicates its dredging  
5 responsibility in Bogue Inlet. The new permit will enable the Town to contract with a private dredging company to  
6 maintain the Bogue Inlet connecting channel in the future, and could potentially enable the Town to utilize a  
7 pipeline dredge with the capability of depositing material on the beach in Emerald Isle rather than simply "casting  
8 it to the side" of the navigation channel.  
9

10 This approach may be very beneficial in the future, as it has the potential to provide a more consistent deep(er)  
11 water channel and allow for beneficial use of the sand (i.e., to strengthen The Point). Although this approach is  
12 more expensive per event, I believe that the costs will be lower over the long-term, the Bogue Inlet connecting  
13 channel will be better defined and safer, additional nourishment benefits would be realized, and that it would  
14 promote a more central location for the main ebb channel in Bogue Inlet (away from Emerald Isle). We plan to  
15 further evaluate this option in the future. If additional evaluation suggests this is a prudent approach, and  
16 sufficient local funds can be identified, we may present a recommendation to the Board and the Beach  
17 Commission for such an effort in the future. Additionally, I believe that such a project would be funded 67% by the  
18 State, 22% by the Beach Commission, and 11% by the Town (from the Future Beach Nourishment Fund). This  
19 approach may ultimately prove to greatly extend the duration between the Town's major Bogue Inlet channel  
20 realignment projects in the future.  
21

22 **Long-Term Funding for the Bogue Inlet Connecting Channel?**

23 As noted above, the funding proposal included in the attached resolution would result in a total of \$300,000 (or  
24 approximately 17 days' worth) for maintenance dredging of the Bogue Inlet connecting channel. Based on  
25 historical trends, I am hopeful that this amount will be sufficient to meet dredging needs through 2017 and into  
26 mid-2018. This funding proposal obviously only addresses the short-term, and it remains important for Emerald  
27 Isle, other local governments, and others concerned about maintenance dredging to work on a long-term solution.  
28

29 I look forward to discussing this issue with the Board at the July 11 meeting.  
30

31 Town Manager Frank Rush discussed this issue with the Board as outlined in detail in his memo  
32 provided above. Town Manager Rush noted that there had been no Federal money for  
33 navigation maintenance dredging in Bogue Inlet for more than a decade, and the Town had  
34 several times in the past put together a State / Local funding partnership. He stated that  
35 fortunately the last couple of times the State had contributed two-thirds of the dredging cost in  
36 Bogue Inlet, and the Locals had put in one-third. Town Manager Rush said a year ago he was  
37 before the Board and they generated a total of \$262,500 in State and Local funds for Bogue  
38 Inlet dredging, those funds were absolutely necessary and actually funded the recent dredging  
39 that occurred in Bogue Inlet in April and later in June resulting in a slightly relocated channel in  
40 that area. Town Manager Rush said the proposal the Board was asked to consider authorized a  
41 \$200,000 request to the State for dredging funds for Fiscal 17-18 to be matched with \$100,000  
42 from the various communities.  
43

44 Commissioner Wright commented that she felt this was something they just had to do, there  
45 was no choice.  
46

1 **Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to approve the Resolution Authorizing Funding**  
2 **Request to NC Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging and Lake Maintenance Fund for**  
3 **Bogue Inlet Navigation Dredging. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.**

4  
5 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 17-07-11/R3 as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part  
6 of these minutes.

7  
8 **14. Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 – Miscellaneous Provisions – of the Code of Ordinances**  
9 **To Allow The Sale of Alcoholic Beverages Before Noon on Sundays (17-07-11/O1)**

10  
11 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following  
12 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

13  
14 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider an ordinance amending Chapter 12 – Miscellaneous  
15 Provisions - of the Code of Ordinances to specifically allow alcohol sales by Emerald Isle businesses as early as 10  
16 am on Sundays. The attached ordinance amendment was requested by a local restaurant (Caribsea) in response to  
17 recent changes to alcoholic beverage laws by the NC General Assembly.

18  
19 North Carolina law currently prohibits alcohol sales earlier than 12 noon on Sundays, however, the recently  
20 enacted legislation allows a city or county to specifically allow alcohol sales as early as 10 am on Sundays. The new  
21 legislation is aimed at allowing alcohol sales at permitted restaurants and retail establishments earlier in the day to  
22 better serve customers and generate additional sales activity. Caribsea and several other restaurants and retail  
23 establishments in Emerald Isle would likely benefit from the expanded sales hours.

24  
25 If the Board adopts the attached ordinance amendment, any restaurant, hotel, or retail establishment holding the  
26 appropriate ABC permit in Emerald Isle will be permitted to sell malt beverages (beer), unfortified wine, fortified  
27 wine, and mixed beverages as early as 10 am on Sunday. The ordinance amendment (and the new legislation)  
28 applies to restaurants and retail establishments only, and does not impact the Emerald Isle ABC Store.

29  
30 If the Board adopts the attached ordinance amendment, it would be effective immediately and apply beginning  
31 Sunday, July 16.

32  
33 I look forward to discussing the proposed ordinance amendment with the Board at the July 11 meeting.

34  
35 Town Manager Rush outlined the provisions of the proposed Ordinance Amendment to allow  
36 the sale of alcoholic beverages before noon on Sundays in Emerald Isle. Town Manager Rush  
37 stated that the NC Legislature had recently approved new laws that allowed a local community  
38 to allow permitted alcohol establishments to sell beer, wine, mixed drinks between the hours of  
39 10am and 12noon in the future if approved by the local municipality. Town Manager Rush  
40 noted the Ordinance for the Board’s consideration essentially would allow restaurants and  
41 retail outlets in Emerald Isle to sell earlier than 12noon. Town Manager Rush said he had  
42 received a request from Caribsea, Rucker Johns and also the Emerald Isle Beach and Pool Club  
43 for the Board to consider this ordinance.

44

1 Town Manager Rush in response to a question from Commissioner Messer about this ordinance  
2 just following the State noted that the State gave the opportunity for the local communities to  
3 decide for each individual community, so if the Board felt it was beneficial they had that  
4 authority, and if they were not interested they were under no obligation to approve.

5  
6 Mayor Barber asked for comments from the public.

7  
8 Town Manager Rush and the Board discussed and fielded several questions from the floor.  
9 There were comments made suggesting the Town do a survey, one comment that they were  
10 opposed as we were more family oriented, and there were comments made in favor based on  
11 the fact that surrounding communities had already approved this ordinance and Emerald Isle  
12 citizens would just go to the next community if they wanted to purchase beer or wine between  
13 10am and 12noon.

14  
15 Commissioner Finch commented that at 12:01pm you could buy the same beer or wine, so  
16 whether it was 10:01 am or 12:01 pm.

17  
18 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 –***  
19 ***Miscellaneous Provisions – of the Code of Ordinances to Allow the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages***  
20 ***Before Noon on Sundays.***

21  
22 Commissioner Wright said it seemed that the Town was following what had been decided by  
23 the State.

24  
25 Commissioner Dooley echoed the comment made by Commissioner Finch that many times she  
26 would go to the grocery store to buy bread or chips to go out in the boat, and she would see a  
27 lot of people standing in line with beer and they had to wait until noon.

28  
29 Following this discussion, ***the Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

30  
31 **Clerks Note: A copy of Ordinance Amendment 17-07-11/O1 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby**  
32 **made a part of these minutes.**

33  
34 **15. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and Town Manager**

35  
36 There were no comments from the Town Clerk or the Town Attorney.

37  
38 Town Manager Frank Rush stated that he had attended a meeting earlier in the day with  
39 NCDOT and their contractor and that NCDOT had awarded a \$15 million contract for additional  
40 work on the Emerald Isle bridge, and also the Atlantic Beach bridge. Town Manager Rush said  
41 part of the work would include the installation of guardrails on the Emerald Isle bridge; metal  
42 railings installed above the existing concrete walls on the bridge right now. Town Manager

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 16 of 20

1 Rush learned that it was a 2-3 year project and the contractor would begin on the Atlantic  
2 Beach bridge around September 1 of this year, and they wouldn't start on the Emerald Isle  
3 bridge until probably September 2018. Town Manager Rush said most work would be done on  
4 the underside of the bridge so no significant traffic impacts, and they would minimize lane  
5 closures as best they could with most lane closures occurring only when installing the railing  
6 itself. Town Manager Rush said they would have no lane closures between 7am - 9am and 3pm  
7 - 6pm, with hopes of no lane closures needed at all.

8  
9 Additionally, Town Manager Rush said Town Planner Josh Edmondson had received plans for a  
10 new 25-room boutique hotel at the corner of Islander Drive and Reed Drive where the  
11 Lighthouse Golf was located. Town Manager Rush said this would go to the Planning Board and  
12 potentially to the Board of Commissioners at their August meeting.

13  
14 Town Manager Rush also pointed out that the Town was moving ahead well on the 30-acre  
15 acquisition behind Town Hall, and there was money from the State included in the State budget  
16 thanks to Representative McElraft, and he continued to have very positive discussions as well  
17 with the military.

18  
19 The following is an excerpt from the Town Manager Comments memo to the Board providing  
20 additional background information for all items of importance:

21  
22 **Plans Submitted for New Hotel**

23 The Planning Board is scheduled to review plans for a new, 25-room hotel at its July 24 meeting. The planned  
24 hotel is proposed for the current site of the Lighthouse Mini-Golf course at the corner of NC 58 / Islander Drive /  
25 Reed Drive. Site and building plans may appear on the Board of Commissioners' August 8 meeting agenda.

26  
27 **Comprehensive Land Use Plan Review**

28 The Town's consultant and Town Planner Josh Edmondson are currently working with NC Division of Coastal  
29 Management staff to address concerns with the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and we expect to finalize  
30 the plan later in July. The final version of the plan, which is not expected to include any substantive policy changes  
31 from the version approved by the Board earlier this year, may appear on the Board of Commissioners' August 8  
32 meeting agenda.

33  
34 **Text Message Alert System**

35 As of July 7, a total of 583 people have signed up for the Town's new text message alert system. We will continue  
36 to publicize this new, simple way for our residents, property owners, and visitors to remain informed about the  
37 Town.

38  
39 **Abandoned Go-Kart / Bumper Boat Facility Clean-Up**

40 The Town's contractor, Watson's Land Clearing, has nearly completed the removal of all concrete from the  
41 property. Remaining work includes removal of "straggler" concrete pieces (to be raked), final grading, and  
42 seeding. I expect this work to be complete in the coming days.

43  
44 I continue to explore various ideas for the potential future development of a new "meeting and events center" at  
45 this location, and hope to schedule a Board work session sometime in the next few months to discuss these ideas.



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 17 of 20

1 In response to concerns expressed by property owners in Queens Court, I continue to work toward scenarios that  
2 do not negatively impact Queens Court.  
3

4 **Funding Included in State Budget for Islander Drive Improvements**

5 Thanks to the efforts of Rep. McElraft, the recently approved State budget includes a provision awarding \$100,000  
6 to the Town for revitalization efforts on Islander Drive. These funds may be used for any beneficial purpose in the  
7 Islander Drive area, including expenses associated with the potential future development of a new “meeting and  
8 events center”.  
9

10 **Surfside Realty Tract Acquisition**

11 Also thanks to the efforts of Rep. McElraft, the recently approved State budget includes a provision whereby the  
12 Town’s Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant application (\$545,000) and Parks and Recreation Trust Fund  
13 grant application (\$500,000) are awarded, providing a total of \$1,045,000 toward the \$3 million land purchase.  
14 With the Town’s \$455,000 committed by the Board, the Town now has half of the necessary funding committed. I  
15 continue to work with officials at MCAS Cherry Point on the requested \$1.5 million, and I remain optimistic that  
16 these funds will be formally committed prior to October. Thus far, we appear to be on track to close on the land  
17 purchase in late October.  
18

19 **Trump Administration Re-Considering Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling in the Atlantic Ocean**

20 The Trump Administration recently announced efforts to develop a new leasing program that could include  
21 offshore areas in the Atlantic Ocean. The Atlantic Ocean was excluded from the current 2017-2022 plan, however,  
22 the Trump Administration is now developing a new leasing program that would replace this plan, and cover the  
23 2019-2024 time period. The Trump Administration has indicated that the Atlantic Ocean may be included in the  
24 new 2019-2024 plan. As you know, the Board of Commissioners went on record formally opposing offshore oil and  
25 gas drilling in October 2015, and I’ve attached a copy of that resolution for your information.  
26

27 **Potential Olde Cove Bicycle Path**

28 Olde Cove Road is located approximately 300 feet from the closest cross-street, and it is not legally possible to  
29 travel by golf cart from that subdivision to other locations. I am currently working with residents in that  
30 subdivision to explore the possibility of constructing a short, golf-cart-only path on the north side of the NC 58  
31 right of way between Olde Cove Road and Whitewater Drive. I am awaiting confirmation from NCDOT that this  
32 new path would be permitted by NCDOT, and may discuss this idea further with the Board in the coming months.  
33

34 The estimated cost of this improvement is approximately \$15,000, and I have been contemplating a scenario  
35 whereby the Town would fund 50% and the residents in the subdivision would fund 50% of the cost of this  
36 improvement. This approach could essentially serve as a “pilot project” that could potentially be applied to other  
37 areas of Emerald Isle in the future.  
38

39 **Draft EIS for Bogue Banks Master Beach Nourishment Project (Local 50-Year Permit)**

40 The public comment period for the draft EIS closed on May 30, and there do not appear to be any overly significant  
41 comments that cannot be addressed by the towns and the County. The County’s consultants are currently working  
42 to respond to the comments and prepare the Final EIS, which will hopefully be released later this year or early next  
43 year, with the actual permit authorization (hopefully) granted in early 2018.  
44

45 As you know, the Town is working toward a winter 2018-2019 beach nourishment project in eastern Emerald Isle,  
46 and I am hopeful that the 50-year permit authorization will be issued in time to enable the Town to proceed with  
47 the planned beach nourishment project in winter 2018-2019. Ideally, the 50-year permit authorization will be  
48 granted in early 2018, the project scope and detailed design work can be finalized in spring 2018, and construction  
49 bids can be solicited in summer 2018, with work beginning in late 2018 or early 2019.  
50

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 18 of 20

1 **New All-Terrain Vehicle Loaned to EIFD at No Cost**

2 Tractor Country, an ATV dealer based in Dover, NC, has loaned the Town a brand new ATV (at no cost) for the  
3 Town's lifeguard program to use for the remainder of the summer. The Town greatly appreciates the generosity  
4 and public service commitment of Jonathan Macklin, an Emerald Isle property owner who made this ATV available  
5 to the Town.  
6

7 **Fire Department Personnel Grant**

8 As you know, the Town has requested Federal grant funding for 3 new firefighter positions, and the anticipated  
9 grant funds (\$122,158) and required local match (\$40,679) are included in the FY 17-18 budget. We have not yet  
10 received a decision on this grant request, however, we expect a decision sometime this summer. We remain  
11 optimistic that the requested grant funds will be awarded to the Town, and this will enable the Town to expand  
12 Fire Department staffing from 4 personnel per shift to 5 personnel.  
13

14 **Police Department Implements New Crime Mapping Program**

15 The Police Department has implemented a new crime mapping program that identifies crimes that have occurred  
16 in Emerald Isle in recent weeks. The new program is part of the Town's continuing efforts to keep our residents  
17 and property owners well-informed. To access the maps, please visit  
18 <https://www.emeraldisle-nc.org/crime-mapping-program->, or follow the links from the Police Department page  
19 on the Town's website.  
20

21 **Senate Bill 126 (Sales Tax Redistribution) Not Approved Prior to General Assembly Adjournment**

22 Thankfully, this bill was not approved by the NC House prior to adjournment, and these provisions were not  
23 included in the approved State budget. Thus, we are confident that any changes will not impact the Town's FY 17-  
24 18 budget. The General Assembly will reconvene in August, however, and we will be monitoring that status of  
25 S126 during that special session.  
26

27 **Current School Calendar Law Remains Unchanged**

28 Thankfully, the General Assembly did not approve any changes to the current school calendar law during the  
29 recently concluded 2017 long session. The General Assembly will reconvene in August, however, and we will be  
30 monitoring any school calendar bills during that special session.  
31

32 **Coastal Storm Damage Prevention Fund On Hold**

33 Despite the fact that both the NC Senate and NC House versions of the State budget included the creation of a new  
34 Coastal Storm Damage Prevention Fund, it was not ultimately included in the final, approved State budget. There  
35 is language in a few outstanding bills that would create this new State fund that would theoretically provide future  
36 State funding to assist local communities with beach nourishment, and these outstanding bills may be considered  
37 when the General Assembly reconvenes for a special session in August.  
38

39 **New Beach Swing at Western Ocean Regional Access**

40 The new "beach swing" installed at the base of the dunes at the Western Ocean Regional Access has been well-  
41 received, and enjoys frequent use. The Town has been informed by NC Division of Coastal Management staff,  
42 however, that the new beach swing is technically not permitted, and advised the Town to either seek a variance or  
43 a rule change from the NC Coastal Resources Commission before installing additional beach swings. I will be  
44 working with NC Division of Coastal Management staff in the coming weeks to request a rule change, and hope to  
45 present the rule change for CRC consideration in the coming months. In the meantime, NC DCM staff has  
46 indicated that the new "beach swing" may remain until this issue is resolved.  
47

48 Alesia Sanderson, Parks and Recreation Director, has received several requests from Emerald Isle property owners  
49 interested in sponsoring additional "beach swings", and we have placed these requests on hold until we can  
50 resolve the permit issue.

1  
2 **Planning Board Considering “Commercial Village” Zoning Concept**

3 Town Planner Josh Edmondson is currently working with the Planning Board to develop the “Commercial Village”  
4 zoning concept that was recommended in the new Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This concept would apply to the  
5 areas along NC 58 currently zoned “Business”, and would likely allow complementary residential uses above  
6 commercial uses in this zone in the future. The Planning Board will continue its work in July and August, and a  
7 potential ordinance amendment may be presented to the Board at the September 12 meeting.  
8

9 **EMS Transition to Town Department**

10 I have tentatively scheduled a Joint EMS Committee meeting for September 18 to begin planning for the transition  
11 of EI EMS, Inc. to a Town department no later than March 1, 2018. I don’t expect the logistics of this transition to  
12 be difficult, and expect EI EMS, Inc. to become part of the Town organization no later than March 1, 2018.  
13

14 **Nies v. Emerald Isle**

15 The US Supreme Court is currently considering the Nies’ petition to hear the case, and the Town’s attorneys are  
16 currently working on the Town’s official response. The Washington, DC law firm of Deutsch Hunt PLLC is assisting  
17 the Town’s attorney, Brian Edes, with this response. We expect to receive the US Supreme Court’s decision on  
18 whether or not they will hear the case sometime this fall.  
19

20 **Golf Cart Ordinance Enforcement**

21 In response to increasing concerns about unregistered golf carts, underage golf cart operation, illegal golf cart  
22 parking, and other violations, the Police Department is currently placing additional emphasis on enforcement of  
23 golf cart violations.  
24

25 In the case of unregistered golf carts, individuals receiving a citation can have the citation voided if they simply  
26 register the golf cart in a timely manner. A total of 820 golf carts were registered in Emerald Isle during FY 16-17.  
27

28 **Cape Emerald Pond Bulkhead**

29 I will be working with the Cape Emerald homeowners association this fall to install the new, 2-ft. high bulkhead  
30 along the south side of the Cape Emerald pond. All adjacent property owners have expressed support for this  
31 approach, with the exception of one, and the bulkhead may “skip” this property if the owner does not wish to  
32 participate in the project.  
33

34 **New Flood Map Appeals Process Set to Begin**

35 As you know, new flood insurance maps were released for Carteret County in 2016, and include many beneficial  
36 changes for Emerald Isle property owners. There are however, a relatively small number of Emerald Isle property  
37 owners who may be negatively impacted, and the official 90-day appeal period is expected to begin in late July or  
38 August. I have attached an information sheet about the appeals process, and Town Planner Josh Edmondson is  
39 available to assist any Emerald Isle property owners who are interested in filing an appeal.  
40

41 **Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival – Saturday, September 30**

42 Detailed planning is currently underway for the 2017 Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival, which we expect to be  
43 produced in a similar fashion as the 2016 event.  
44

45 The new “dune” stage, constructed last year, will soon be expanded by an additional 200 sq. ft., along with a small  
46 cover. We expect to have this work complete in time for the festival on September 30.  
47

48 **Unified Development Ordinance Simplification**

49 Josh Edmondson and I will be working on a significantly simplified UDO to present to the Planning Board and Board  
50 of Commissioners in the coming months. My goal is to eliminate all unnecessary regulations and confusing

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JULY 11, 2017  
Page 20 of 20

1 language, and create a simple, reader-friendly ordinance that achieves the Town’s most important development  
2 policy goals.  
3

4 **Emerald Isle Commercial**

5 I hope to meet with TDA officials in the coming weeks to pursue the airing of the new “Emerald Isle commercial”  
6 video in strategic markets. I remain hopeful that the TDA will embrace this idea and help to better promote  
7 Emerald Isle as a tourism destination.  
8

9 **16. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor**

10  
11 Commissioner Dooley pointed out the new text message alert system just initiated by the Town  
12 to receive text message alerts from the Town about rip current, hurricane information, and if  
13 someone didn’t have power, were not watching TV or checking email it was something they  
14 should sign up for. Town Manager Rush noted people could sign-up by going to the Town’s  
15 website in the top right corner and click on Join Text Alerts.  
16

17 Commissioner Normile said he spoke to the Fire Chief about a week ago noting that June had  
18 been a tough month in the water with the lifeguards pulling about 79 people out of the water.  
19 Commissioner Normile said the lifeguards had done a great service and he understood the Fire  
20 Department planned a special meal to serve them, pat them on the back, let them know what a  
21 great job they were doing and then most would be heading back to college. Commissioner  
22 Normile thought they had done a great job and thanked the Chief for taking care of them.  
23

24 **17. Adjourn**

25  
26 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted***  
27 ***unanimously in favor. Motion carried.***

28  
29 ***The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.***  
30

31 Respectfully submitted:  
32  
33  
34

35 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC  
36 Town Clerk  
37  
38