

1 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING  
2 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
3 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005 – 6:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL  
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6 The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was  
7 called to order by Mayor Art Schools at 6:00 P.M.  
8

9 Present for the meeting: Mayor Art Schools, Commissioners Pete Allen, Robert  
10 Isenhour, Floyd Messer, and John Wootten.  
11

12 Absent for the meeting: Commissioner Nita Hedreen.  
13

14 Others present: Town Attorney Richard Stanley, Town Manager Frank Rush,  
15 Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee, Police Chief Bill Hargett, Planning Director Kevin  
16 Reed, Parks and Recreation Director Alesia Sanderson.  
17

18 After roll call all who were present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.  
19

20 **4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**  
21

22 *Motion was made by Commissioner Isenhour to adopt the Agenda. The*  
23 *Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.*  
24

25 **5. PROCLAMATIONS / PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
26

27 Mayor Art Schools noted the following proclamations and announcements for the  
28 public:  
29

- 30 • **Firefighter Appreciation Month - (05-09-13/P1)**
- 31 • **Stepfamily Day – (05-09-13/P2)**
- 32 • **Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Community Center –**  
33 **Monday, September 19 at 6:00 pm**
- 34 • **Beach Jive After Five – Western Ocean Regional Access – Thursday,**  
35 **September 15 at 5:30 pm**
- 36 • **Planning Board – Town Hall – Monday, September 26 at 6:00 pm**
- 37 • **Town Board – Town Hall – Tuesday, October 11 at 6:00 pm**
- 38 • **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Emerald Isle Triathlon – Eastern Ocean Regional Access –**  
39 **Saturday, October 15 at 8:00 am**  
40

41  
42 **Note: A copy of Proclamations 05-09-13/P1 and 05-09-13/P2 are incorporated herein by reference**  
43 **and hereby made a part of these minutes.)**  
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2 Mayor Schools made note of two events the previous week, one being the car  
3 wash to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims; a joint effort between the Coast Guard  
4 and the Parks & Recreation Department along with other town employees and  
5 officials. They raised \$7,129 between the hours of 11-6. Mayor Schools also  
6 mentioned the ALS Walk held on Saturday, September 10 which raised in excess  
7 of \$150,000, very well attended and a great time.

8  
9 **6. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 10  
11 a. Minutes – August 9 Regular Meeting  
12 b. Tax Refunds / Releases

13  
14 *Motion was made by Commissioner Allen to approve the items on the*  
15 *Consent Agenda. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion*  
16 *carried.*

17  
18 **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

19  
20 There were no comments from the public.

21  
22 **8. OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW POLICE CHIEF BILL HARGETT**

23  
24 Mayor Schools formally administered the Oath of Office to new Police Chief Bill  
25 Hargett which was followed by a standing ovation in recognition and appreciation  
26 of Chief Hargett.

27  
28 **9. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – EMERALD ISLE BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

29  
30 Karen Preston, President of the Emerald Isle Business Association currently  
31 consisting of 115 company members located in Emerald Isle and surrounding  
32 communities, stated that their mission is to promote Emerald Isle, Carteret  
33 County and the businesses in this area. Ms. Preston stated that earlier in the  
34 year the Emerald Isle Business Association applied for a grant from the Tourism  
35 Development Authority. Ms. Preston said they were so successful they received  
36 a \$15,000 grant and were pleased tonight to present to the Town one of their  
37 major projects. She said they felt there needed to be a way to identify the  
38 business members and they had produced a caricature map of Emerald Isle  
39 identifying the businesses, and also including other information such as the St.  
40 Patrick's Day Festival, Triathlon and Holiday Parade. Ms. Preston then  
41 presented to the Board the very first of the Emerald Isle maps. Ms. Preston  
42 stated that these maps would be distributed through the North Carolina Welcome  
43 Centers, AAA Offices, and individual businesses. She said they plan to reprint  
44 every year with an update of members of the Emerald Isle Business Association.  
45

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1  
2 Ms. Preston added that the Emerald Isle Business Association will be having the  
3 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Triathlon this year on October 15. Ms. Preston said another part of  
4 the grant money has been used to invest in billboards; one of those billboards will  
5 be placed near Kinston on Highway 70 for one year. The wording on the  
6 billboard is "Experience Emerald Isle" with pictures in the letters, adding that this  
7 art will be used in other projects as well.

8  
9 **10. DEMONSTRATION – NEW TOWN WEBSITE**

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11 Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee provided a brief demonstration of the Town's new  
12 website. Under the direction of Rhonda, the old Town website was redesigned  
13 with the professional web design services provided by NC Coast  
14 Communications located in Morehead City. The new site went "live" in August  
15 and includes many of the features of the old website while greatly improving the  
16 appearance, format, content, and navigability of the site. The public is  
17 encouraged to rely on the Town's website for information about the Town's  
18 issues, services, and programs.

19  
20 The Board congratulated Rhonda on the look of the new web site.

21  
22 **11. 17.85 ACRE OCEANFRONT TRACT LAND USE ISSUES – (05-09-13/R1)**

23  
24 Kevin Reed, Planning Director addressed the Board concerning this agenda  
25 item. The following excerpt from Planning Director Kevin Reed's memo to the  
26 Town Manager is provided as background:

27  
28 A rezoning request has been received from Frank W. Erwin on behalf of the Emerald Isle Land to rezone  
29 approximately 17.85 acres from Business-3 (B-3) to Residential-2 (R-2). The property is located on the  
30 south side of Reed Drive immediately east of the Ocean Crest Subdivision (Heverly Drive) and is currently  
31 undeveloped. If the property is rezoned to R-2, then development of the tract would be limited to one and  
32 two-family dwellings. The property has approximately 550 feet of frontage along Reed Drive.

33  
34 The Planning Board discussed this request at its meeting held on August 22, 2005. During that discussion,  
35 it was noted that the Town's 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan, specifically the Future Land Use Map, projects the  
36 property as being a part of the Village-West Commercial Area. Therefore, in addition to the rezoning  
37 request, the Planning Board also considered a possible amendment to the land use plan when it discussed  
38 the rezoning.

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40  
41 At its August 22, 2005, meeting, the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of  
42 Commissioners that the Future Land Use Map be amended to reflect this property as Single/Dual Family  
43 Residential rather than its current designation as Village-West Commercial. In making this recommendation,  
44 the Board noted that the tract was in excess of 17 acres and that the neighborhoods located immediately  
45 east and west of this parcel have previously been developed for one and two-family residences. The  
46 Planning Board then discussed the rezoning request and voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of  
47 Commissioners that the property be rezoned from B-3 to R-2.

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2 **Motion was made by Commissioner Allen to open the Public Hearing for**  
3 **the proposed CAMA Land Use Plan amendment. The Board voted**  
4 **unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.**

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6 There were no comments from the public.

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8 **Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to close the Public Hearing.**  
9 **The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.**

10  
11 **Motion was made by Commissioner Wootten to adopt the Resolution**  
12 **Authorizing CAMA Land Use Plan amendment. The Board voted**  
13 **unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.**

14  
15 Note: A copy of Resolution 05-09-13/R1 is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part  
16 of these minutes.)

17  
18 **Motion was made by Commissioner Wootten to open the Public Hearing for**  
19 **the proposed rezoning from B-3 to R-2. The Board voted unanimously 4-0**  
20 **in favor. Motion carried.**

21  
22 There were no comments from the public.

23  
24 **Motion was made by Commissioner Isenhour to close the Public Hearing.**  
25 **The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.**

26  
27 **Motion was made by Commissioner Isenhour to approve the rezoning of**  
28 **the 17.85 acre oceanfront tract on Reed Drive from B-3 to R-2. The Board**  
29 **voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.**

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31  
32 **12. UPDATE – PRESERVATION OF THE EMERALD ISLE “GATEWAY”**

33  
34 Town Manager Frank Rush provided an update on the status of efforts to secure  
35 a conservation easement along the east side of NC 58 from the Cameron  
36 Langston Bridge to an area near Coast Guard Road known as the “Gateway”.  
37 Mr. Rush said he had been working with the property owners for the past two  
38 months, the hurricane prevented his most recent meeting with the owners,  
39 therefore he didn’t have anything new to add at this time other than to say they  
40 are still working on it and hope to bring action items to the Board at their October  
41 Town Board meeting.

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2 **13. DISCUSSION – COAST GUARD ROAD SPEED LIMIT**  
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4 Town Manager Frank Rush discussed the issue of the possibility of reducing the  
5 speed limit on a segment of Coast Guard Road. An excerpt from Town Manager  
6 Rush's memo to the Board is provided as background:  
7

8 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to discuss the possibility of reducing the speed limit on a  
9 segment of Coast Guard Road at the September 13 meeting. The Town has received several requests from  
10 residents and property owners in the area to reduce the speed limit along Coast Guard Road between Ring  
11 Street and Inlet Drive from 35 mph to 25 mph.  
12  
13

14 The Town's current ordinance regarding speed limits appears to be slightly out of date, however, the Town's  
15 existing speed limits are easily summarized. There is a 25 mph speed limit on all streets in Town, with the  
16 exception of Emerald Drive (NC 58), which is governed by the NC Department of Transportation, and the  
17 entire stretch of Coast Guard Road, which is a Town-maintained street. The speed limit on Emerald Drive  
18 (NC 58) is 45 mph through most of Town, with the exception of the segment between East Seaview Drive  
19 and Loblolly Street, which is 35 mph. (As you know, the Town recently requested that NCDOT reduce the  
20 speed limit on Emerald Drive on the segment from Loblolly Street to Lee Street from 45 mph to 35 mph, and  
21 NCDOT staff is currently reviewing that request.) The entire segment of Coast Guard Road, from its  
22 intersection at Emerald Drive (NC 58) west to its terminus at Inlet Drive is 35 mph. The request presented  
23 for discussion purposes is for the segment of Coast Guard Road between Ring Street and Inlet Drive, the  
24 western-most segment of Coast Guard Road.  
25

26 This segment of Coast Guard Road serves as a main route for pedestrians and bicyclists along this segment  
27 of Coast Guard Road, Island Circle, and portions of Station Street, Parker Street, and Wyndtree Drive to  
28 access the beach strand. It is also a main route for people utilizing the new Station Street public parking  
29 area to access the beach. Much of this segment of Coast Guard Road includes significant storm water  
30 ditches on both sides of the road, and there is little room available for pedestrians and bicyclists. There is  
31 an alternate route to the beach strand on Channel Drive, however, many people choose to use Coast Guard  
32 Road because it is closer.  
33

34 Although this area can be an uncomfortable place for pedestrians and bicyclists, and the potential exists for  
35 an accident, Chief Hargett reports that there have been no accidents involving pedestrians along Coast  
36 Guard Road in 2004 or through the end of July 2005. The requests that have been received to reduce the  
37 speed limit in this area have especially noted the concern for children in the area as well as the visitors to  
38 the Station Street parking area.  
39

40 This item is scheduled as a discussion item only at the September 13 meeting. If the Board is interested in  
41 reducing the speed limit in this area, I have attached a potential ordinance amendment for the Board to  
42 review and consider at a future meeting. The Board should note that the attached ordinance amendment  
43 would also update this section of the Town Code to reflect today's conditions, and that it would also need to  
44 be amended again if the NCDOT approves the Town's request to reduce the speed limit along Emerald  
45 Drive (NC 58) from Loblolly Street to Lee Street.  
46

47 Maripat Wright, 10501 Wyndtree Drive, spoke of her concerns with the speeding  
48 traffic in this area. Ms. Wright said with the addition of the Station Street parking  
49 lot came the increase of foot traffic including people with small children, strollers,  
50 and toddlers. Ms. Wright said that originally when the park was built they had  
51 discussed with town staff the speed limit being lowered and it was suggested as  
52 an alternative that foot traffic would be directed down Station Street and Channel  
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2 Drive and there is a sign that says to do that but people don't walk that way. Ms.  
3 Wright felt it might help to move the sign and place at the Coast Guard Road exit.

4  
5 Ms. Wright said she had met the day before with the Board of the Point Wyndtree  
6 Property Owners Association, and they also supported lowering the speed limit.

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8 Following discussion ***the general consensus of the Board was to table this***  
9 ***issue until the October meeting.***

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11 **14. APPOINTMENTS**

12  
13 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Allen to appoint Jack Weidman and***  
14 ***Ted Williamson to serve on the Emerald Isle Firemen's Relief Board for 2***  
15 ***year terms. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

16  
17 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wootten to appoint Debbie Doody to***  
18 ***serve on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in a term that will***  
19 ***expire in December 2005. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor.***  
20 ***Motion carried.***

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22 **15. COMMENTS FROM TOWN CLERK, TOWN ATTORNEY, AND TOWN**  
23 **MANAGER**

24  
25 There were no comments from the Town Clerk or the Town Attorney.

26  
27 Town Manager Rush provided an update as to the latest status of Hurricane  
28 Ophelia noting the latest landfall projections. Town Manager Rush commended  
29 the town staff for their preparations and ability to deal with these storms.

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31 **16. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND MAYOR**

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33 There were no further comments from Commissioner Allen, Isenhour, and  
34 Messer.

35  
36 Commissioner Wootten requested that the Emerald Isle Woods Park plans be  
37 placed on the town website when available.

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39 There were no further comments from Mayor Schools.  
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**17. ADJOURN**

***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

***The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.***

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda C. Ferebee  
Town Clerk