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3 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**
4 **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013 – 7:00 P.M.**
6 **TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**
7

8 **1. Call To Order**
9

10 The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was
11 called to order by Mayor Art Schools at 7:00 PM in the Emerald Isle Town Board
12 Meeting Room.
13

14 **2. Roll Call**
15

16 Present for the meeting: Mayor Art Schools, Commissioners Nita Hedreen, Tom
17 Hoover, Floyd Messer, and Maripat Wright.
18

19 Also in attendance: Mayor-Elect Eddie Barber, NC Representative Pat McElraft,
20 and Jon Shaw, NC Wildlife Resources Commission Regional Biologist.
21

22 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hoover to excuse the absence of***
23 ***Commissioner Wootten. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor.***
24 ***Motion carried.***
25

26 Also present during the regular meeting: Town Manager Frank Rush, Town
27 Attorney Richard Stanley, Asst. Town Manager / Finance Officer, Town Clerk
28 Rhonda Ferebee, Police Chief Jeff Waters, and Planning Director Kevin Reed.
29

30 **3. Adoption of Agenda**
31

32 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Agenda. The***
33 ***Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
34

35 Mayor Schools said that he had enjoyed the past 12 years and thanked citizens,
36 visitors, business owners, and everyone with the Town for all they had done over
37 the years. Mayor Schools said he had a great time and hoped everyone
38 continued to work well in the future.
39

40 Mayor Schools received a standing ovation from all citizens and staff present
41 following his final comments as Mayor.
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2 **4. Installation of New Mayor**
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- 4 **a. Pledge of Allegiance**
5 **b. Performance of “God Bless America”**
6 **c. Oath of Office to Mayor Barber**
7 **d. Prayer**
8

9 Mayor Pro-Tem Messer called for the Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of
10 Allegiance was led by Mayor-Elect Barber’s grandchildren – Cameron Blackwell,
11 Hillary Blackwell, Eli Barber, followed by the presentation of the flags by the
12 United States Coast Guard Color Guard.
13

14 Following the Pledge of Allegiance “God Bless America” was performed by local
15 high school students Chad Thomas on the clarinet, and Jacob Warren on the
16 saxophone.
17

18 Recently re-elected Commissioners Hedreen, Wright, and Wootten had
19 previously recited their Oaths of Office to Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee at the
20 Town Administration Building.
21

22 Mayor Pro-Tem Messer called on NC State Representative Pat McElraft who
23 was present and administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Eddie Barber. Mayor
24 Barber gathered with his family during his Oath of Office.
25

26 Following the Oath of Office for Mayor Barber prayer was offered by Freddie
27 Braswell, Pastor of Emerald Isle Baptist Church.
28

29 **5. Mayor Pro-Tem**
30

31 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hoover to elect Commissioner Messer***
32 ***as Mayor Pro-Tem. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion***
33 ***carried.***
34

35 NC State Representative Pat McElraft administered the Oath of Office to Mayor
36 Pro Tem Messer.
37

38 Mayor Barber took a moment before taking a brief break to make a few
39 comments. Mayor Barber stated that tonight was a new beginning with new
40 opportunities. Mayor Barber said he was very humbled to be the new Mayor and
41 asked the citizens of Emerald Isle for their support. Mayor Barber thanked Art
42 Schools for his wonderful leadership for the past 12 years as he and Diane had
43 served Emerald Isle with great loyalty and devotion. Mayor Barber thanked his
44 opponents for running a competitive campaign. Mayor Barber thanked his family,
45 his wife Jane, and their children Kim, Heather, Andrew, and Chris for being so

1
2 supportive. Mayor Barber thanked his grandchildren Cameron, Hillary, and Eli he
3 thanked them for being a part of the program and making their Granddaddy so
4 happy. Mayor Barber thanked Chad and Jacob for an inspirational “God Bless
5 America”, and Pastor Freddie Braswell for his spiritual and motivational prayer.
6 Mayor Barber thanked NC State Representative McElraft for taking time out of
7 her busy schedule to administer the Oath of Office; he always admired her
8 commitment to serving Emerald Isle. Mayor Barber said with the help of our
9 community, his family and God he was very excited in moving forward as Mayor
10 of Emerald Isle. He promised to work hard and be a goodwill ambassador for
11 Emerald Isle.

12
13 Mayor Barber called for a brief break to enjoy light refreshments and snacks.

14
15 **6. Proclamation / Public Announcements**

16
17 Mayor Barber noted the following public announcements:

- 18
19 • **Cancelled – Board of Adjustment Regular Meeting – Wednesday,**
20 **December 11**
21 • **Open Play “Wii” Bowling – Wednesday – 6 pm – 8 pm – Community**
22 **Center**
23 • **Breakfast With Santa – Saturday, December 14 – 10 am – Community**
24 **Center (must have pre-registered)**
25 • **Cancelled – Planning Board Regular Meeting – Monday, December 16**
26 • **American Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday, December 20 – 2 pm –**
27 **7 pm – Community Center**
28 • **Christmas Holiday - Tues. Dec 24, Wed, Dec 25, and Thurs, Dec 26 –**
29 **Town Offices Closed**
30 • **Christmas Holiday – Tues, Dec 24 and Wed, Dec 25 – Community**
31 **Center Closed, but open on Thurs, Dec 26**
32 • **No trash collection (soundside) on Tues. Dec. 24**
33 • **No recycling collection on Wednesday, Dec 25, but will be collected**
34 **on Thursday, Dec 26**
35 • **Crystal Coast Countdown – Multiple Events – December 27 –**
36 **January 1 – Multiple Locations (Scavenger Hunt in Emerald Isle –**
37 **Friday, December 27 – 10 am)**
38 • **New Year’s Day Holiday – Wednesday, January 1 – Town Offices**
39 **Closed, Community Center Closed**
40 • **No recycling collection on Wednesday, January 1, but will be**
41 **collected on Thursday, January 2**
42 • **Friday Free Flick – Friday, January 10 – 7 pm – Community Center**
43 • **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 14 –**
44 **7 pm – Town Board Meeting Room**

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2 Mayor Barber noted that neighboring towns Morehead City's Christmas parade
3 would be December 14 at 11 am and the Newport Christmas parade was
4 planned for December 15 at 3 pm.

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6 **7. Public Comment**

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8 **Brief Summary:** The public has the opportunity at this time to address the
9 Board about any items of concern not on the agenda.

10
11 There were no comments from the public.

12
13 **8. Consent Agenda**

- 14
15 a. Tax Refunds / Releases
16 b. October 8, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes
17 c. November 12, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes
18 d. Resolution Authorizing Construction Contracts for Fawn Drive and
19 Sea Dunes Drive Beach Access Walkways (13-12-10/R1)
20 e. 2014 Official Meeting Schedules – Board of Commissioners,
21 Planning Board, Board of Adjustment

22
23 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to approve the items on the***
24 ***Consent Agenda. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion***
25 ***carried.***

26
27 **Clerks Note:** A copy of Resolution 13-12-10/R1, and all other consent agenda items as noted above
28 are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

29
30 **9. Land Use Plan Amendment – Village West Expansion**

- 31
32 a. Public Hearing – Amendment to CAMA Land Use Plan
33 b. Resolution Amending the 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan (To Expand
34 Boundaries of the Village West Planning Area to the North Side of
35 Crew Drive) (13-12-10/R2)

36
37 Planning Director Kevin Reed addressed the Board concerning this agenda item.
38 The following excerpt from his memo to the Town Manager is provided for
39 additional background:

40
41 The Board of Commissioners, at its meeting held on November 12, 2013, approved an amendment to the 2004 CAMA
42 Land Use Plan (LUP), specifically the Future Land Use Map (FLUM), in order to expand the boundaries of the Village
43 West Area. The Village West Area was included in the Town's 2004 CAMA LUP in order to foster redevelopment in
44 the general vicinity of Islander Drive and surrounding properties. The amendment approved in November removed
45 properties from the Commercial Corridor Area and added them to the Village West Area. The properties that were
46 added to the Village West Area included the properties located north of Emerald Drive and south of Crew Drive and
47 extending from Coast Guard Road eastward to Mallard Drive. Following the approval of the expansion in November,

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2 Town staff was contacted by a nearby property owner, Pat Patteson, about adding two parcels that he owns nearby to
3 the Village West Area. Town staff also discussed with another nearby property owner the possibility of adding their two
4 parcels to the Village West Area.
5

6 The potential expansion involves four properties on the north side of Crew Drive that are currently zoned Business (B).
7 These properties are currently vacant or developed for commercial use. The potential amendment to the Land Use
8 Plan would not rezone these properties at this time. Attached is a map showing the current boundaries of Village West
9 and the properties to be included in the potential expansion. The properties to be added to Village West are currently
10 shown on the Future Land Use Map as being part of the Commercial Corridor or Mixed Residential. Town staff
11 believes that the Mixed Residential designation for the western most lot may be in error since it is currently zoned
12 Business (B).
13

14 The Planning Board discussed this potential Land Use Plan amendment at its November 25 meeting and following
15 discussion of the matter, voted unanimously (5 to 0) to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the
16 amendment be approved. If the amendment is approved by the Board, then it will have to be certified by the Coastal
17 Resources Commission at a future meeting of the CRC. Also attached to this memorandum is a resolution to be
18 adopted by the Board in support of the Land Use Plan amendment. I look forward to discussing this issue with the
19 Board of Commissioners at its December 10 meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the
20 foregoing information.
21

22 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to open the Public Hearing.***
23 ***The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
24

25 There were no comments from the public.
26

27 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to close the Public Hearing.***
28 ***The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
29

30 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to adopt the Resolution***
31 ***Amending the 2004 CAMA Land Use Plan to Expand the Boundaries of the***
32 ***Village West Planning Area. The Board vote unanimously 4-0 in favor.***
33 ***Motion carried.***
34

35 **Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 13-12-10/R2 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference**
36 **and hereby made a part of these minutes.**
37

38 **10. Future New Ocean Fishing Pier**
39

- 40 **a. Resolution Authorizing Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund**
41 **Grant Agreement (13-12-10/R3)**
42 **b. Termination of Pier and Ocean Access Agreement**
43

44 Town Manager Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The
45 following excerpt from the Town Manager's memo is provided for additional
46 background:
47

48 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider two items associated with the planned future new ocean fishing
49 pier to be constructed at the site of the Eastern Ocean Regional Access.

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2 First, the Board will consider a resolution formally authorizing a grant agreement with the NC Department of
3 Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) for a \$726,000 grant to construct initial site improvements associated
4 with the new ocean fishing pier. Second, the Board will consider a "Termination of Pier and Ocean Access Agreement"
5 that formally ends the Town's partnership with the NC Aquariums for the construction of a new ocean fishing pier.
6

7 Resolution Authorizing Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund Grant Agreement

8 The attached resolution authorizes the Town Manager to execute a formal grant agreement with NCDENR for the
9 transfer of \$726,000 of remaining WAMI grant funds initially awarded to the NC Aquariums, in partnership with the
10 Town, for the initial site improvements associated with the proposed new ocean fishing pier.
11

12 These grant funds will be used to construct parking lot and storm water improvements that were included in the scope
13 of the original \$2.2 million WAMI grant awarded to the NC Aquariums for design work and initial site improvements.
14 The design work is complete (by Moffatt & Nichol Engineers), and the plans for the new ocean fishing pier facility have
15 been transferred to the Town. As you know, the original WAMI grant award was also used to construct a new
16 soundside pier at the Eastern Ocean Regional Access, and that pier was completed in 2012.
17

18 A copy of the planned parking lot and storm water improvements is attached, along with a detailed cost estimate, a
19 copy of the NC Aquariums' original 2007 grant application, and the 2012 session law language approved by the NC
20 General Assembly that directed the transfer of the remaining grant funds to the Town. Planned improvements include:
21

- 22 • construction of a new 160 vehicle parking lot with asphalt travel lanes, pervious paving blocks for the parking
23 spaces, and concrete curb and gutter,
- 24 • construction of significant subsurface storm water management features,
- 25 • resurfacing of the Park Drive right-of-way on the soundside portion of the property, including the paving of a
26 gravel cul-de-sac area, and
- 27 • the addition of 3 parking spaces on the soundside portion, along with a paved walkway to the new soundside
28 pier,
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33 The WAMI grant agreement establishes a deadline for the completion of these improvements by May 31, 2015.
34 Design work for these improvements is already complete, but may need some minor tweaks. If approved by the
35 Board, Moffatt & Nichol will be retained to make the necessary design tweaks, secure the necessary permits, and
36 coordinate a formal bid process between now and late summer 2014. My goal is to present a construction contract
37 recommendation to the Board at the August or September 2014 Board meeting so that construction can begin soon
38 thereafter, occur during the offseason, and be complete prior to the 2015 tourism season.
39

40 As you know, we have been working through the details of this issue for more than a year now, and it has been a long,
41 trying process. The Board should note that Representative Pat McElraft, Senator Norm Sanderson, NC Aquariums
42 Director David Griffin, and local businessman Ronnie Watson were all extremely helpful to the Town in navigating this
43 issue over the past several months.
44

45 I look forward to moving forward with the initial site improvements over the next 18 months, and making important
46 progress toward the Town's eventual goal of constructing a new ocean fishing pier at the Eastern Ocean Regional
47 Access.
48

49 Termination of Pier and Ocean Access Agreement

50 As you may recall, the Board approved a previous amendment to the formal Pier and Ocean Access Agreement
51 between the Town and NCDENR in January 2013, at which time the Board formally recognized the end of the Town-
52 State partnership and also expressed its commitment to the eventual future construction of a new ocean fishing pier as
53 a Town-only initiative.
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2 The proposed January 2013 amendment also specifically directed the transfer of all design work for the new pier and
3 the remaining WAMI grant funds to the Town, as directed by the NC General Assembly in 2012. The proposed
4 January 2013 amendment also formally activated the reverter clause included in the Special Warranty Deed recorded
5 for conveyance of the Eastern Ocean Regional Access to the State of North Carolina in 2009 (and included in the
6 original Pier and Ocean Access Agreement). This reverter clause stipulated that the land would revert back to the
7 Town if the new ocean fishing pier facility was not substantially completed by December 31, 2012.

8
9 NCDENR staff have made minor adjustments and added language specific to the State funding source used for the
10 WAMI grants to the proposed January 2013 amendment, and have reformatted that agreement as the attached
11 Termination of Pier and Ocean Access Agreement. The Board is asked to formally approve the attached agreement at
12 the December 10 meeting. The attached agreement includes all of the same substantive provisions previously
13 approved by the Board in January 2013. Most notably, the remaining WAMI grant funds are being transferred to the
14 Town and the Eastern Ocean Regional Access Property will revert back to Town ownership. (The formal State action
15 for this reversion to occur is on the NC Council of State agenda in January 2014.)

16
17 As you know, the new ocean fishing pier is very much a long-term goal for the Town, with a deadline to simply have it
18 constructed by or soon after such time that Bogue Inlet Pier goes away due to real estate redevelopment or significant
19 storm damage, whenever that may occur. Fortunately, Bogue Inlet Pier remains in operation and is expected to
20 remain in operation for the foreseeable future, however, it will likely not be a surprise at such time that it ceases to
21 operate. As you know, Bogue Inlet Pier was under contract for redevelopment in 2006, but that deal was not
22 consummated due to the collapse of the market. The timing of any future storm damage is obviously highly uncertain,
23 and the reality is that with oceanfront land values so high (despite the recent real estate bubble), it is unlikely that a
24 new private pier venture will be undertaken – either to repair significant storm damage to Bogue Inlet Pier or for the
25 construction of a new private ocean fishing pier.

26
27 The Town has previously asserted that an ocean fishing pier is important to Emerald Isle's heritage, the tourism
28 industry, and our property owners' quality of life over the long-term. At one time, there were 7 piers on Bogue Banks,
29 and now there are 2. All were lost due to storm damage and then the subsequent realization that it was more cost-
30 effective for the owner to sell or redevelop the land than rebuild the pier. Although I hope it does not occur, it is
31 certainly conceivable that the same scenario could play out for Bogue Inlet Pier at some point in the future, and the
32 Town is working hard to be ready with the new ocean fishing pier at such time that occurs.

33
34 With the WAMI grant issues now resolved, and the upcoming construction of the parking lot and storm water
35 improvements, I hope to direct the Town's focus toward a realistic, specific financing plan for the eventual construction
36 of the new ocean fishing pier over the next 18 months. As discussed in January 2013, the Town will likely not proceed
37 with the approximately 13,000 sq. ft. pier house originally envisioned by the NC Aquariums, but will instead construct
38 the pier structure initially and then plan a 1,000 – 2,000 sq. ft. pier house after the pier structure is completed. The
39 total estimated cost for construction of the concrete pier structure only is approximately \$10 million.

40
41 The development of a responsible funding plan for the construction of the new pier structure will certainly be a
42 significant challenge for the Town, but I believe it is possible with hard work and creativity over time. \$10 million is a
43 significant sum of money, however, I believe the Town can assemble a variety of funding sources over the long term,
44 potentially including the following:

- 45
- 46 • the NC Division of Coastal Management's annual CAMA grant program,
 - 47
 - 48 • the NC Division of Marine Fisheries' annual Coastal Recreational Fishing License program,
 - 49
 - 50 • grant opportunities through the NC Wildlife Resources Commission,
 - 51
 - 52 • grant opportunities through the NC Division of Water Resources,
 - 53
 - 54 • the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund,

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- Federal grant and/or appropriation opportunities,
- private fundraising activities,
- non-profit grant opportunities,
- debt supported by Pier admission fees, and / or
- private sponsorship / partnership opportunities, potential including naming rights and other marketing components.

Mayor Barber asked for any comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the Resolution Authorizing Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Fund Grant Agreement. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve the Termination of Pier and Ocean Access Agreement. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 13-12-10/R3 and Termination of Pier and Ocean Access Agreement as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

11. Deer Management Issues

- a. New Deer Population Estimate**
- b. 2014 Controlled Hunt**
- c. Resolution Authorizing Annual Controlled Hunt Program (13-12-10/R4)**
- d. Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions – Regarding Controlled Deer Hunting Activities (13-12-10/O1)**

Town Manager Frank Rush, Police Chief Jeff Waters, and Jon Shaw, NC Wildlife Resources Regional Biologist addressed the Board concerning this agenda item. The following excerpt from his memo to the Town Manager is provided for additional background:

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to receive comments from Jeff Waters, Police Chief, and Jon Shaw, NC Wildlife Resources Commission Regional Biologist, regarding the 2013 deer population estimate and the need for the Town to take action to control the deer population, and will then consider three items associated with deer management issues at the December 10 meeting.

First, the Board will consider authorizing a controlled deer hunt in January - February 2014 that would be very similar to the Town's previous controlled hunt conducted in 2012 by a group of qualified bowhunters. Second, due to the ongoing nature of these issues, the Board will also consider the attached resolution formally authorizing annual

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controlled hunts in January - February of each year. Third, the Board will consider an amendment to the Town's ordinance that would allow other weapons (i.e., guns) to be used in the Town's future controlled hunt activities.

Historical Deer Management Efforts / 2013 Deer Population Estimate

As you know, the Town routinely receives concerns from the public about the negative impacts associated with an increasing deer population. In response to these concerns, since 2005 the Town has sought information and technical assistance from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NC WRC) on these issues, commissioned a periodic deer population estimate by the NC Wildlife Resource Commission's Regional Biologist, and performed two controlled deer hunts in January – February 2010 and January – February 2012. As you know, there are strong convictions about this issue by both sides, and the Town has attempted to implement deer management efforts based on data, expert testimony, and practical logistical concerns rather than emotional arguments (from both sides).

The Town has retained the NC WRC's Regional Biologist for the past several years to develop a deer population estimate for the Coast Guard Road area (approximately 2.9 sq. miles), the area with the highest concentration of deer. Historical survey results, and the Town's actions (or lack thereof) are noted below:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Deer Population Estimate</u> | <u>Town's Actions</u> |
|-------------|--|--|
| Fall 2005 | 65 – 91 deer 22.4 – 31.4 deer / --- :--- | No action taken, as this population density was generally considered to be an acceptable range for a community such as Emerald Isle. The NC WRC Regional Biologist notes that the typical deer density is 25 – 30 deer per sq. mile in Carteret County , and the 2005 estimate was consistent with that population density. |
| Fall 2009 | 149 deer 51.4 deer / sq. --- : | The Town investigated and considered non-lethal deer management approaches, including use of deer contraceptives, sterilization, and tranquilization / relocation of deer at this time, but was advised by the NC WRC Regional Biologist that these approaches are not effective, are costly, and may often result in deer fatalities anyway. After consideration, the Town applied for and received a "depredation permit" from NC WRC, and undertook an effort to reduce the deer population with targeted bowhunting by Police Officers in Emerald Isle Woods Park in January – February 2010. This effort resulted in the elimination of 11 deer , with the deer meat donated to feed the hungry. |
| Fall 2010 | 102 – 108 deer 35.2 – 37.2 deer / --- :--- | No action taken, as this population density was more in line with the 2005 estimate and closer to the 25 – 30 deer per sq. mile typically found in Carteret County. Some in the community disputed the 2010 population estimate, as personal observations and conventional wisdom in the community suggested that the deer population estimate had not decreased from 2009 to 2010. The Town, Carolina Home and Garden, and Yardworks Landscaping presented a workshop on deer-tolerant plant species. While very informative, the workshop was only lightly attended. |
| Fall 2011 | 174 deer 60.0 deer / sq. --- : | The Town secured a "depredation permit" from NC WRC and organized a controlled hunt in January – February 2012. The 2012 controlled deer hunt resulted in the elimination of 17 deer. Volunteer bowhunters took deer |

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from the Royall Oaks, Emerald Isle Woods Park, and Bell Cove Estates / Osprey Ridge locations. The Town also arranged for hunting to occur in Lands End (common areas only) and on Town-owned property near Wyndward Court / Coast Guard Road, but not much hunting occurred at these locations and no deer were taken from these locations. The 17 deer taken were carrying a total of 17 deer fetuses. Then-Mayor Schools also made a significant effort with NC WRC officials and Bald Head Island residents to establish a pilot program for an oral deer contraceptive, which is being implemented in Bald Head Island in January 2014.

Fall 2012 141 deer
48.6 deer / sq.

No action taken, as the total population, while still very high, had decreased slightly. There was also strong sentiment to continue an "every other year" approach for a controlled hunt, and there were several other (non-deer related) issues facing the Town at that time.

Fall 2013 159 deer
54.8 deer / sq.

The NC WRC Regional Biologist has indicated that **the Town should strive to remove approximately 50 deer per year in order to maintain a healthy population**, and ideally should remove more than that initially. Town staff spent considerable time during fall 2013 investigating the potential use of sharpshooters from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a controlled hunt in January – February 2014, however, Federal budget constraints resulted in the USDA being unable to assist the Town. Town staff now recommend a similar controlled hunt as that implemented in 2012, using the same bowhunters as 2012, and potentially two (or more) additional hunting locations.

Town staff have been closely tracking the number of deer-related vehicle accidents in recent years, and a significant increase has been observed. In calendar year 2011, there were a total of 12 deer-related vehicle accidents reported in Emerald Isle, and there were a total of 19 in calendar year 2012. Through, November 30, there have been a total of 30 deer-related accidents in 2013. A total of 16 accidents have occurred in October and November 2013 alone. It is important to note that these figures reflect only those deer-related accidents that are actually reported to the EIPD, and there are likely other accidents that go unreported.

As you know, there are also concerns regarding landscaping damage for Emerald Isle property owners and concerns about tick-borne disease that is aided by a significant deer population.

2014 Controlled Hunt

As noted above, Town staff recommend the implementation of a controlled hunt in January – February 2014. The controlled hunt would be similar to the hunt that was conducted in 2012, and would again utilize volunteer bowhunters. The same sites would be utilized in 2014, with the exception of Lands End, which is not expected to participate. These sites are as follows:

- Emerald Isle Woods Park (Town-owned)
- Soundfront wooded area in Royall Oaks subdivision (consenting, privately-owned)
- Soundfront wooded area in Bell Cove Estates / Osprey Ridge (consenting, privately-owned)

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- Wyndward Court / Coast Guard Road wetland tract (Town-owned).

In addition, a new site will be added at Bluewater Bay North (consenting, privately-owned). I have attached aerial photo maps of each of these sites. Town staff are also investigating the potential use of additional privately-owned sites north of the Town Government complex (large vacant tract), at Point Emerald Villas, the new Sea Oats subdivision, Pointe Bogue subdivision, and the area near Reed Drive / Mallard Drive, and if the private property owners provide consent in the next month, these sites would also be added to the list of authorized hunting sites. If the Board is aware of other privately owned sites that may be willing to allow the controlled hunt, we can certainly pursue those sites also. One important lesson learned over the past several years is that the Town will need to maximize the number of hunting sites if it hopes to remove the recommended ~ 50 deer per year in the future.

All hunting would occur on weekdays only between Monday, January 6 and Friday, February 28, and would be permitted from 5 am – 9 am and from 3 pm – 6 pm. One exception is that the Wyndward Court / Coast Guard Road wetland tract would not be available for hunting in the morning, and would be limited to 3 pm – 6 pm only.

The Town intends to utilize approximately half of the same group of bowhunters that were utilized in 2012. In 2012, the Town utilized a group of 7 bowhunters from MCAS Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune and a separate group of 6 local (Onslow and Carteret residents) bowhunters certified by the NC Bowhunters Association for controlled hunt activities (the Bowhunter Certification Referral Service, or BCRS program). One lesson learned from the 2012 effort was that group may have been too large, and Town staff are planning to utilize only the local BCRS certified bowhunters in 2014. Additionally, if the owner of the large vacant tract north of the Town government complex makes that property available, Town staff will allow that owner and a select few other hunters to participate in the Town's program in 2014. **The Town is not soliciting other bowhunters for this effort, and no additional bowhunters will be added.**

As was the case in 2012, the BCRS hunters have a special liability insurance policy, and the controlled hunt activities are also covered by the Towns' general liability insurance. The Town will review the criminal backgrounds of all selected hunters, and will also administer a proficiency test to the participating BCRS hunters. The Emerald Isle Police Department will be charged with overseeing the controlled hunt, and hunters are required to check-in and check-out with the EIPD each time they hunt. All deer will be transported to a processing facility by the Town's Public Works staff, and the deer meat will be made available to the hungry, poor, or homeless. The Town's rules and regulations for the controlled hunt are attached.

The Board should note that the authorized hunting hours for the Wyndward Court / Coast Guard Road wetland tract would be reversed in 2014. In 2012, hunting was only authorized in the morning hours due to concerns from nearby property owners. Another lesson learned from 2012 is that this site is likely to be much more productive in the afternoon hours, and we are recommending the use of this site between 3 pm and 6 pm only in 2014.

The Board should also note that the Town's annual deer population estimate encompasses only the Coast Guard Road corridor, and does not count the number of deer that may be living in other parts of Emerald Isle, including the Bluewater Bay North site and other potential hunting sites located east of Coast Guard Road. Theoretically, the removal of deer from these tracts will not impact the deer population estimate along the Coast Guard Road corridor to any significant degree. As you know, however, there are also significant concerns about deer in these other areas of the Town, and the removal of additional deer from these sites will likely abate these concerns to some degree.

With the reduction in the number of hunters, increase in the number of authorized hunting sites, and adjustment to the schedule for the Wyndward Court / Coast Guard Road wetland tract, along with better hunting strategies by the BCRS hunters, we are hopeful that the 2014 effort will result in the removal of more than 17 deer. I don't believe that we will approach the target of approximately 50 deer, but we hope the changes for 2014 will result in a greater reduction in the deer population. Additionally, it has been suggested that the Town offer a cash payment per deer taken as an incentive to the volunteer bowhunters, and this would likely also enhance the chances of removing more deer. If the Board believes this is helpful, I would recommend a cash payment of \$100 per deer.

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1
2 Resolution Authorizing Annual Controlled Hunt Program

3 As noted in the attached memo from Jon Shaw, NCWRC Regional Biologist, the Town should ideally seek to remove
4 approximately 50 deer per year in order to maintain a healthy deer population. Based on the Town's history since we
5 first began tracking the deer population in 2005, it is obvious that the deer population continues to increase. The
6 population density is now 2 – 3 times greater than typical areas in Carteret County (that are not as urban as Emerald
7 Isle). In short, this issue is not going away, and the Town will need to make a more concerted effort in the future if the
8 Board's and the community's goal is to control the deer population in Emerald Isle (as it appears to be).
9

10 For the past several years, the Town has commissioned the annual deer population estimate in the fall and the Board
11 has considered whether or not to conduct a controlled hunt in November or December each year. As noted above, the
12 Town has recently utilized an "every other year" approach that would continue in 2014 if authorized by the Board at the
13 December 10 meeting. In light of the data, the recommendations from the NC WRC, and lessons learned over the
14 past 8 years, the Board should consider a "blanket" authorization for annual controlled hunt activities in the future. The
15 attached resolution, if approved by the Board, would authorize the Town Manager and Police Chief to plan and
16 implement a controlled deer hunt each year in January and February, and these activities would simply become a part
17 of the Town's standard services in the future.
18

19 The attached resolution includes the following parameters for the annual controlled hunt:

- 20
- 21 • the safety of the public shall be the highest priority for all controlled hunt activities,
- 22
- 23 • all controlled hunt activities shall be overseen by the Emerald Isle Police Department,
- 24
- 25 • all controlled hunt activities shall be performed in accordance with appropriate permits and oversight by the
26 NC Wildlife Resources Commission,
- 27
- 28 • the selected hunters shall be required to demonstrate appropriate licensing, acceptable criminal history,
29 shooting proficiency, understanding of safe and ethical hunting practices in an urban environment, and
30 knowledge of the designated hunting areas,
- 31
- 32 • authorized weapons include bow and arrow, rifles, and other guns appropriate for controlled hunt activities,
- 33
- 34 • the physical location and characteristics of the property authorized for controlled hunt activities will dictate the
35 appropriate weapons authorized for said property and the time of day authorized for hunting on said property,
36
- 37 • any controlled hunt activities utilizing guns shall only be conducted in the presence of a member of the
38 Emerald Isle Police Department,
- 39
- 40 • all controlled hunt activities shall occur during the months of January and February on weekdays only,
- 41
- 42 • the Town shall purchase and maintain adequate general liability insurance coverage for such activities, and
43
- 44 • all harvested deer meat shall be provided to charitable programs to feed the hungry, poor, or homeless.
45

46 The Board and the community should note that the **parameters specifically include the potential use of rifles and**
47 **other guns (i.e., sharpshooters) in the future.** As noted above, Chief Waters and I had intended to recommend the
48 use of USDA sharpshooters for the 2014 controlled hunt in an effort to increase the number of deer taken and to
49 complete hunting activities in a more discrete manner (i.e, between 12 midnight and 4 am). Chief Waters and I were
50 both impressed by the USDA program, and believed that it could be implemented in a safe and effective manner in
51 Emerald Isle. (One key component of this approach was the assignment of a senior EIPD member to accompany the
52 sharpshooter team.) When the USDA informed us they could not provide these services in 2014, Chief Waters and I
53 began investigating private sharpshooter contractors, and have identified two potential private contractors that the
54 Town may wish to utilize in the future. Unfortunately, due to timing issues, we have not yet developed a high enough

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1
2 confidence level to recommend private sharpshooters for the Town's 2014 controlled hunt, however, we anticipate
3 using sharpshooters (either through the USDA, private contractors, or perhaps even law enforcement officers) in the
4 future to either replace or supplement controlled bowhunting activities.
5

6 I believe it is important to **make the community aware of the potential (and likely) use of sharpshooters in future**
7 **(2015 and beyond) controlled hunt activities.** The highest priority will be placed on public safety, and all activities
8 would be closely overseen by the EI Police Department. We anticipate that sharpshooters would utilize the same sites
9 utilized by the Town's bowhunters in the future, and would also (on a very selective basis; in the middle of the night on
10 weeknights) remove deer from public street right of ways. Any sharpshooters used in the future would be equipped
11 with suppressors to reduce the noise impacts. I envision that Chief Waters and I will continue to investigate
12 sharpshooter options over the course of the next year, and continue efforts to insure public safety and effective deer
13 removal.
14

15 Chief Waters and I will also be working to identify and coordinate the use of additional privately-owned sites for future
16 controlled hunt activities. We will likely actively solicit "volunteer" property owners who would welcome hunters onto
17 their private property, and we would then evaluate whether or not sharpshooting and/or bowhunting can be conducted
18 safely on a case-by-case basis in an effort to maximize the number of future hunting sites.
19

20 Ordinance Amending Chapter 12 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions – Regarding Controlled Deer Hunting
21 Activities

22 If the Board concurs with the use of sharpshooters for future (2015 and beyond) controlled hunt activities, the Board
23 should amend the Town's current ordinance to allow for the use of guns in controlled hunt activities.
24

25 The Town's current ordinance prohibits hunting and the discharge of any guns in Emerald Isle (with appropriate
26 exceptions for self-defense and law enforcement), but does include an exception for controlled bowhunting activities
27 coordinated by the Town. The attached ordinance amendment simply replaces the reference to "bowhunters" with a
28 reference to "hunters" (thereby including hunters using guns) that are "authorized, selected, and directed by the Town
29 solely for the purpose of reducing the deer population within the Town"
30

31 Jon Shaw, Regional Biologist with Wildlife Resources Commission spoke of the
32 results of the deer population estimates conducted along with Police Chief
33 Waters. Mr. Shaw estimated 55 deer per square mile just in the Coast Guard
34 Road area which was almost double their first survey in 2005; this amount was 2-
35 3 times higher than the average deer density for this part of the state. Mr. Shaw
36 said the Town was faced with two issues, one in the form of damage to private
37 properties whether deer/vehicle collisions or damage to ornamental plants, and
38 the other issue being the deer herd and habitat itself. Mr. Shaw said that the
39 deer population would essentially begin to eat themselves out of house and
40 home and they would suffer at some point getting skinnier and having more
41 health issues with parasites. Mr. Shaw said the Town was faced with a decision;
42 one option being to do nothing and the situation would probably get worse with
43 more deer/human conflicts and the health of the deer population, and the other
44 option would be to lethally remove deer. Mr. Shaw said if the Town was
45 committed to having a healthy deer population and reducing deer/human
46 conflicts it would be something they would have to do every year or at least every
47 other year.
48

49 Police Chief Waters spoke of the survey he had been involved in with Mr. Shaw.
50 Chief Waters said in 2012 the Town conducted a controlled bow hunting season

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1
2 and managed to take 17 antlerless deer along with 17 fetuses. Since that time
3 they had seen an increase every year. Chief Waters provided a PowerPoint
4 presentation with the areas included in that 2012 hunt. Chief Waters said they
5 were requesting that this year the Board approve another controlled hunt starting
6 January 6 through February 20. Chief Waters said the number of hunters would
7 decrease from 13 used in 2012 to 6-7 bow hunters this year. Chief Waters
8 outlined the hours and scope of the requested hunt. It was noted that this type of
9 depredation controlled deer hunting needed to be implemented to help control
10 the number of accidents, damage to property, and the health of the deer herd
11 itself, if not every year, then every other year to control the damage. Chief
12 Waters said there had been 18 deer struck since September and this was a
13 safety issue for residents and deer. Chief Waters said it was their
14 recommendation that the Board approve a controlled hunt every year or at least
15 every other year, and the controlled hunt include not only the use of cross bow
16 techniques, but also a sharp shooting program that would include rifles, following
17 the guidelines of the USDA which had been used in areas such as Camp
18 Lejeune with success. Chief Waters emphasized that safety was of the utmost
19 importance to make sure this type of program was successful not only for the
20 community but the deer also. Chief Waters understood this was a controversial
21 subject but there was a problem with the deer on the island that needed to be
22 addressed.

23
24 Commissioner Wright asked if all of the bow hunting would still be from stands.
25 Chief Waters said that was correct. Town Manager Rush added that there some
26 areas where it was appropriate to hunt from an elevated ridge where the
27 topography allowed.

28
29 Town Manager Rush said that first the Board was asked to consider 3 actions:
30 1) authorization of a controlled hunt using qualified bow hunters at 5 or more
31 locations in Emerald Isle in January – February 2014. 2) a “blanket”
32 authorization for future annual controlled hunts in Emerald Isle under the
33 direction of the Town Manager and the Police Chief; this annual authorization
34 would also allow the use of sharpshooters (with guns) in certain locations when
35 accompanied by a senior EIPD member, and 3) an amendment to the Town’s
36 ordinance to specifically allow the use of guns in future controlled hunt activities
37 (2015 and beyond).

38
39 Town Manager Rush outlined the proposed 2014 hours, and areas of hunting for
40 the Board.

41
42 Mayor Barber asked for comments from the public.

43
44 Paul Schwartz, Wyndtree Drive, said he was mandated to make a request to the
45 Board and Town to please closely monitor the birth control experiment efforts on

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1
2 Bald Head Island and as soon as they see some success maybe they could find
3 another way to deal with this issue other than arrows and bullets.

4
5 Town Manager Rush said they were in regular communication with the
6 coordinators of that pilot program on Bald Head Island and would certainly report
7 those results.

8
9 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve a controlled deer
10 hunt utilizing bowhunters in January – February 2014.***

11
12 Commissioner Hedreen commented that as much as she didn't want to kill the
13 deer, with 18 car crashes in 100 days that was obviously putting our residents at
14 risk and that to her was a compelling reason to consider this action.

15 Commissioner Hedreen said the whole time she had been on the Board she had
16 struggled with this issue and it tugged at her heart strings but she also couldn't
17 stand to think of animals being hungry which is why she could support.

18
19 ***The Board voted on the motion made by Commissioner Messer
20 unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

21
22 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hoover to approve the Resolution
23 Authorizing Annual Controlled Hunt Program.***

24
25 In light of questions posed by Commissioner Hedreen and Wright, Town
26 Manager Rush stated that this resolution authorized the Manager and Chief to go
27 forward each year with an annual hunt, it was an expression of a policy
28 statement by the Board of Commissioners that we would do an annual hunt, we
29 would certainly do an annual population estimates, and be in communication with
30 the Board each year. The policy statement says the Manager shall report to the
31 Board no later than January 1 of each year whether the hunt would proceed,
32 what locations, what type of weapons, and if the Board was not comfortable
33 moving forward they would not move forward.

34
35 Mayor Barber said this would just eliminate the need for the Town Manager to
36 come to the Board with this request every year; to which the Town Manager
37 concurred.

38
39 ***The Board voted on the motion made by Commission Hoover unanimously
40 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

41
42 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the Ordinance
43 Amending Chapter 12 – Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions –
44 Regarding Controlled Deer Hunting Activities. The Board voted
45 unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

1
2 Town Manager Rush reiterated for the public and media that the Town already
3 had a pool of hunters selected for this activity and they were not accepting any
4 more hunters, there would be no selection process.

5
6 Mayor Barber thanked the Commissioners and Town Manager for the
7 professional way they handled this sensitive issue, and for their involvement and
8 for giving everyone an opportunity to speak which was very important.

9
10 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 13-12-10/R4, and Ordinance Amendment 13-12-10/O1 as noted
11 above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

12
13 **12. Appointments – Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – 5**
14 **Vacancies**

15
16 **Brief Summary: There will soon be five vacancies on the Town's Bicycle**
17 **and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The board should appoint four**
18 **individuals to new terms that will expire in December 2015, and one**
19 **additional individual to serve the remainder of a term that expires in**
20 **December 2014.**

21
22 Commissioner Wright nominated Wanda Collins, noting she had worked with her
23 in other capacities and felt she would be a fine asset to the committee. Ken
24 Stone said they really need more people to step up and get involved, and he was
25 putting himself up for another term.

26
27 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to appoint Wanda Collins, and***
28 ***Ken Stone to terms on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee that***
29 ***expire in December 2014. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor.***
30 ***Motion carried.***

31
32 **13. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and Town Manager**

33
34 Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee welcomed Mayor Barber and said she looked
35 forward to working with him.

36
37 Town Attorney Richard Stanley congratulated Mayor Barber and the re-elected
38 Commissioners, noting he looked forward to serving with them.

39
40 Town Manager congratulated Mayor Barber and the re-elected Commissioners.

41
42 Town Manager Rush discussed the date for the Annual Budget Planning
43 Workshop and the Board agreed to meet on Friday, February 21 at the Town
44 Administration Building at 8 am.

45
46

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1
2 Mr. Rush updated the Board on the replacement plans for police vehicles in the
3 upcoming year, as well as the status of the Community Center expansion.
4

5 The following is an excerpt from the Town Manager Comments memo to the
6 Board providing additional background information for all items of importance:
7

8 **Annual Budget Planning Workshop – Potential Dates**

9 It's hard to believe, but we are already starting to think about the FY 14-15 budget process. I have identified three
10 potential dates for the Board's annual budget planning workshop:
11

- 12 • Friday, January 31,
- 13 • Monday, February 3, or
- 14 • Friday, February 21.

15
16 Please let me know which of these dates works best for you.
17

18 **Three-Way Stop Signs at Intersections at The Point**

19 We occasionally hear concerns from residents at The Point about increased traffic and vehicle speeds on Inlet Drive,
20 particularly during beach driving season. In response, we are planning to install 3-way STOP signs at the intersection
21 of Coast Guard Road / Inlet Drive and at the intersection of Coast Guard Road / Channel Drive to see if this approach
22 will help to resolve these concerns. Please let me know if you have any concerns about this approach.
23

24 **Island Circle Storm Water Pipe Connection**

25 Moffatt & Nichol Engineers is nearing completion of the design, and we plan to solicit informal construction bids on
26 December 16. My goal is to have a contract award on the Board's January 14 meeting agenda, begin construction
27 soon thereafter, and hopefully complete construction by mid or late March.
28

29 **Lands End Storm Water Pipe Connection**

30 Moffatt & Nichol Engineers is also nearing completion of this design and we also plan to solicit informal construction
31 bids for this work on December 16. My goal is also to have a contract award on the Board's January 14 meeting
32 agenda.
33

34 To the extent practical, the Island Circle storm water pipe connection work will be sequenced first so that we can get
35 that work done first and then begin work on the Coast Guard Road bicycle path. My goal is to complete all work in
36 Lands End no later than Memorial Day weekend.
37

38 **Lands End Agreement**

39 I am also planning to have a formal agreement between the Town and the Lands End owners' association on the
40 Board's January 14 meeting agenda that will govern future operation issues and maintenance responsibilities for the
41 Lands End pumps that will be connected to the Town's storm water system. The parties have previously verbally
42 agreed to the following key points:
43

- 44 • the Town will install the new fixed pipe connection at Town expense, and will be responsible for future
45 maintenance of the pipe,
- 46
- 47 • Lands End will continue to be responsible for the financing, operation, and maintenance of its existing
48 pumps and private pipe,
- 49
- 50 • the Town and Lands End will coordinate closely during flooding events to direct the discharge from the
51 Lands End pumps to the location(s) (i.e, the dune field and/or the Town system) that offer(s) the greatest
52 receiving capacity and provide(s) the most effective and timely relief from flooding concerns within Lands
53 End and in other areas of the Coast Guard Road corridor,

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- the Town will seek to allow flow from Lands End to the Town system at all times when needed, however, the Town will have the final authority to determine if the Town system will accommodate flow from Lands End at specific times,
- Lands End will provide adequate access for Town personnel to access pumps, valves, and the Town's fixed pipe connection,
- Lands End will grant the appropriate easements to the Town for the installation and maintenance of the fixed pipe connection in Lands End common areas.

Blue Heron Park Playground Improvements

Alesia Sanderson, Parks and Recreation Director, previously secured three playground equipment proposals, and I had originally planned to have a contract award on the Board's December 10 meeting agenda. Because two of the proposals were from the same company, we are seeking additional proposals, and will present a recommendation to the Board at the January 14 meeting. As noted previously, I intend for the Town to use a portion of the \$300,000 budgeted for debt service for the 'community improvements package' in FY 13-14 for the new playground equipment, and then issue a smaller amount of debt over a 9-year term.

New Grant Application – Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) – Lot 1 Shell Cove North

As you know, the Town's grant application requesting \$87,500 for a portion of the purchase price for Lot 1 Shell Cove North (the final lot directly west of the Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area) was recently denied for the 2nd time. I am told by PARTF staff that we are "working our way up the list", and was encouraged to submit a new application by the January 31 application deadline. Unless the Board feels otherwise, I am planning to have a public hearing and resolution authorizing a grant application on the Board's January 14 meeting agenda. I remain hopeful that the Town can eventually acquire this lot for future recreational use by the community.

Ordinance Amendment – Political Campaign Signs

The Planning Board has reviewed and recommends an amendment to the Town's sign ordinance that would replace the current Town ordinance regarding political campaign signs with the NCDOT regulations. This approach would simplify campaign sign rules for the candidates, public, and staff. In one respect, the adoption of the NCDOT regulations are a loosening of Town requirements (signs would be allowed in public right of ways) but in other respects are more restrictive (max sign size of 6 sq. ft. vs. 16 sq. ft. currently allowed in Town ordinance; shorter time period to display signs).

We have scheduled a public hearing on this issue for the January 14 meeting, after which the Board may formally consider this amendment.

Planning Board Vacancy

The vacancy on the Planning Board has been advertised on the Town's website, with a deadline of December 19 for emails / letters of interest. Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee has received several applications thus far, and I have asked her to hold all of them until after December 19, at which time we'll send all of the applicants' info to the Board. I expect to have the appointment of a new Planning Board member on the Board's January 14 meeting agenda.

Board of Adjustment Vacancy

With the recent relocation of Board of Adjustment member Russell Adams, there is a vacancy on the Board of Adjustment for a term that expires in May 2015. After the deadline passes for Planning Board applicants on December 19, we will contact those applicants to see if they also have interest in the Board of Adjustment if they are not selected for the vacant Planning Board slot. I expect to have the appointment of a new Board of Adjustment member on the Board's January 14 meeting agenda.

NC 58 Bicycle Path Extension – Fairfax to Ocean Drive Dog-Leg

The Town's contractor, Thomas Simpson Construction, is making good progress on the new bicycle path extension. Vegetation clearing is complete, and initial path grading has begun. We remain on schedule to complete this segment

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1
2 by our self-imposed February 15 deadline. Air temperatures in January will likely have the greatest impact on our
3 ability to finish, as temperatures generally below 50 degrees are not conducive for laying asphalt.
4

5 **Community Center Expansion**

6 The metal building components have been ordered, and are expected on site later this month. Site work has not yet
7 begun, and will not begin until we can resolve an issue with the storm water permit for the project. The issue is minor
8 in nature and easily resolved, but has delayed us slightly. I hope to have this issue resolved in the next week, and
9 have site work begin before Christmas. Building erection is on track for January, and we still expect to have the
10 building in place by the end of January. Town staff will then coordinate interior improvements in February and March,
11 with a goal to open the new expansion in April.
12

13 **Eastern Ocean Drive Resurfacing**

14 The Town's contractor, Onslow Grading and Paving, is nearing completion of the resurfacing of this 2.5 mile segment
15 from the Indian Beach town limits to 25th Street. There are some quality concerns with the work completed thus far,
16 and we will be working to resolve these concerns before payment is made for this - \$260,000 contract.
17

18 **NC 58 Bicycle Path Extension – Eastern Ocean Regional Access to Eastern Town Limits**

19 Project plans and permit applications will be submitted in the next week for this 2.7 mile segment, and we hope to have
20 all approvals in place by January. Our goal is to solicit informal construction bids for this project in January, and then
21 award the contract in February, with construction ideally beginning soon after the Fairfax to Ocean Drive dog-leg
22 segment is complete.
23

24 Due to the closer proximity of homes to the NC 58 right of way in this area, we are contemplating a slight reduction in
25 the path width to provide a slightly more comfortable "fit" in this area. Our standard path width is 10 ft, however, we
26 may reduce the width to 8 ft. or 9 ft. in all or a portion of this project area.
27

28 Our goal is to complete this segment prior to Memorial Day weekend.
29

30 **Coast Guard Road Bicycle Path**

31 As you know, we must first complete the Island Circle storm water pipe connection, and I hope to have that work
32 completed by mid or late March. My goal is to have a construction contract for the Coast Guard Road bicycle path
33 project on the Board's March meeting agenda, start work soon thereafter, and attempt to complete the project prior to
34 Memorial Day weekend.
35

36 **Installment Financing Agreement for Community Improvements Package**

37 I expect to solicit financing quotes and present appropriate Board action items for consideration at the February
38 meeting after most construction bids are in hand. The Town will need approval of the NC Local Government
39 Commission to issue the debt, and I expect approval sometime in early 2014.
40

41 **New Police Programs**

42 The Police Department will launch its new "Police Educating the Public" program ("PEP") on Tuesday, January 21 at
43 10 am in the Town Board Meeting Room. This month's topic is "Neighborhood Watch and Community Mobilization".
44 Monthly programs on various topics will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10 am.
45

46 The Police Department is also planning the "Coffee With a Cop" program, which will feature monthly interaction with
47 EIPD officers at various local businesses. EIPD plans to begin this program in early 2014.
48

49 **Police Vehicles - Fleet Options and Potential New Markings**

50 Chief Waters is currently exploring multiple options to update the markings on the Town's Police vehicles, and we hope
51 to present some options to the Board at the annual budget planning retreat. We are also investigating the best long-
52 term vehicle options for the Police Department, as there have been some adjustments by Ford (our longtime Police
53 vehicle make) to their Police packages that have caused some concern.
54

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1
2 **New Signs for Town Complex**

3 I have ordered new signs (to match the Town Administration Building sign; pictures attached) for the 3 entrances to the
4 main Town government complex, and expect the new signs to be installed in the next few weeks.
5

6 **Status of New Fire Engine**

7 The Town's new Fire Engine is currently in production at the Toyne facility in Iowa. We are on track for a March
8 delivery.
9

10 **Inspections Certificates**

11 Planning and Inspections Director Kevin Reed continues his progress on achieving Level I certification for building
12 inspections, with coursework scheduled for January and the exam soon thereafter. As you know, we are relying on
13 Kevin Reed to perform some of the less complex inspections when possible in order to better manage the workload on
14 Chief Code Enforcement Officer Jim Taylor.
15

16 **Meeting with Representative Pat McElraft**

17 Mayor Barber and I are scheduled to meet with Representative McElraft on Friday, December 13 to discuss various
18 issues, including the potential relocation of the Western Carteret Visitors Center, future beach nourishment funding,
19 and new traffic signals for Emerald Isle in the future. You are welcome to join us if you'd like, but please let me know
20 ahead of time so there is no violation of the open meetings law.
21

22 **Meeting with Emerald Isle Business Association Leadership / Improve Communication with EI Businesses**

23 I am scheduled to meet with the new leadership of the Emerald Isle Business Association on Thursday, December 12
24 to brainstorm ideas to improve the EIBA and encourage more membership and involvement from the "brick and mortar"
25 businesses located in Emerald Isle. You are welcome to join me if you are interested in this issue, but please let me
26 know ahead of time so there is no violation of the open meetings law.
27

28 Mayor Barber and I are also planning a special meeting in the February timeframe and will be inviting all "brick and
29 mortar" businesses located in Emerald Isle to discuss various issues. I envision this meeting being very similar to the
30 annual meetings we have with the vacation rental companies in the fall.
31

32 Because very few of the "brick and mortar" businesses in EI are active in the EIBA, it has been difficult to have a clear
33 line of communication with the EI business owners as a group, and I am seeking ways to improve this communication
34 in the future.
35

36 **Potential Establishment of Commercial Mooring Facilities at Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area**

37 NC Wildlife Resources Commission staff prepared the attached design for new commercial mooring slips at the EI
38 Public Boating Access Area, and I have submitted this design to the NC Division of Coastal Management for feedback
39 on the ease or difficulty of the permit process for these slips. I will continue to pursue this issue over the next several
40 months, and will be working toward a plan that does not involve the expenditure of any general tax revenues.
41

42 **Potential Relocation of Western Carteret Visitors Center**

43 Mayor Barber and I recently met with Carol Lohr, Trace Cooper, Mary Duane Hale, Woody Warren, and Julia Wax (all
44 associated with the Crystal Coast Tourism Development Authority) about the potential relocation of the Visitors Center
45 to Emerald Isle, and all were supportive of the effort. There were several good ideas to generate the approximately
46 \$200,000 - \$250,000 necessary for this project, and we will be following up on these ideas in the next few months. I
47 remain hopeful that we can identify the necessary funding to make this project happen in time for the 2015 tourism
48 season.
49

50 **New Phone System and New IT Services**

51 The Town's new fiber optic internet connection is now in place. VC3 staff will be here on December 12 and 13 for
52 further work on the new phone system and IT services, and I hope to go "live" with both systems sometime in January.
53
54

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DECEMBER 10, 2013
Page 21 of 22

1
2 **EDC Municipal Initiative - Update**

3 The steering committee is nearing completion of its work, and expects to have a draft plan to present to the Board of
4 Commissioners in February. There are three options – one is to simply have the presentation of this plan on the
5 Board's February 11 meeting agenda and invite the members of the steering committee, another is to schedule a
6 special joint meeting of the Board and the steering committee, and another is to include the plan as an item on the
7 Board's annual budget planning workshop agenda and invite the steering committee. Please let me know which option
8 you prefer.
9

10 I have also attached a copy of the recent survey results for your review.
11

12 **Potential New Food Donation Program**

13 I was recently contacted by an EI resident about establishing a new program whereby visitors who have excess food
14 when they check out of their vacation rental unit can donate that food to the needy on their way out of town. I think this
15 is a great idea, and will be meeting soon to learn more details and attempt to assist this group.
16

17 **Channel Drive Beach Access Walkway**

18 Town staff rented and are using a small mechanical loader to manipulate the dune adjacent to the walkway in order to
19 relieve the pressure on the structure. Work began on December 3, but mechanical issues with the rental loader have
20 not allowed them to complete this work. We expect to secure a new rental loader soon and complete this work in the
21 next week or two.

22 **AIWW Dredging / Spoils Placement**

23 We still expect the US Army Corps of Engineers to dredge the AIWW crossing near Cedar Point sometime this winter,
24 with placement of approximately 50,000 cy of sand at The Point. I am not certain of the exact timeframe, but this work
25 should occur before April 30.
26

27 **FEMA Irene Beach Nourishment Project Close-Out**

28 We have completed all necessary paperwork to close-out this project, but are still awaiting the final reimbursement of
29 approximately \$270,000. Of this amount, the Town will need to reimburse Carteret County approximately \$150,000.
30

31 **14. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor**

32
33 The Board of Commissioners congratulated and welcomed Mayor Barber.
34 Commissioner Hoover wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah.
35

36 Mayor Barber thanked Town staff for a wonderful job of making him feel so
37 welcome. Mayor Barber thanked Administration and all the Department heads
38 for reaching out to him before and after the election. Mayor Barber said he had
39 been to two meetings representing Emerald Isle since being elected and
40 everyone said he was the luckiest person in the world to live in Emerald Isle and
41 he concurred, and then they followed up by saying Emerald Isle had the best
42 Town Manager in the State and he concurred with that too. Mayor Barber said
43 he was looking forward to working with a great Board of Commissioners and
44 town staff for the next 4 years.
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1
2 **15. Closed Session – Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(5), for the Purpose of**
3 **Discussing Potential Real Estate Acquisition**
4

5 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to enter Closed Session. The***
6 ***Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
7

8 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to return to open session. The***
9 ***Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
10

11 Upon returning to Open Session no action was taken as a result of closed
12 session.
13

14 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adjourn the meeting. The***
15 ***Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
16

17 ***The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.***
18

19 Respectfully submitted:
20
21

22
23 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC
24 Town Clerk
25
26
27
28
29
30