

MINUTES OF THE FY 2007-2008 GENERAL PLANNING WORKSHOP
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007 – 8:30 AM – EMERALD ISLE TOWN HALL

The Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners held a general planning workshop at Emerald Isle Town Hall beginning at 8:30 A.M. on Thursday, January 25, 2007.

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

Others present: Town Manager Frank Rush, Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Mitsy Overman, Planning Director Kevin Reed, Public Works Director Artie Dunn, Fire Chief Bill Walker, Parks and Recreation Director Alesia Sanderson, and Police Lieutenants Tony Reese and Jeff Waters.

Also in attendance: Ben Dadd with Emerald Isle EMS, Architect Will Reidel, and Doug Fleming, President of the Lands End Board,

(Backup information for all items are attached to and, incorporated into these minutes.)

The Board and staff discussed in great detail all items as presented on the Workshop Agenda. Below is a summarization of the Board's FY 07-08 Budget and 5-Year Capital Plan Priorities as well as a detailed summary of Other Items.

FY 07-08 Budget and 5-Year Capital Plan Priorities

- Assuming that the revenue-neutral General Fund tax rate is around 5.3 cents, strive to present a General Fund budget with a 6 cent tax rate or less
- Keep beach nourishment special district tax rates approximately revenue-neutral (approximately 15 cents and 1 - 1.25 cents)
- Strive to complete 2 planned storm water pumps in Spinnakers Reach by June 30, 2008, and consider a debt issue to finance this project
- Begin permitting and design work for 2 Spinnakers Reach pumps now; pursue emergency discharge and spreader bar to Bogue Sound
- Limit annual debt service on storm water improvements to approximately \$300,000 per year (approx equivalent to former dedication of 2 cents on tax rate), and utilize as short of a term as possible (attempt to keep under 5 years)
- Delay work on Island Circle planned pump and dune discharge until beach erosion stabilizes in the Channel Drive area, hopefully within one year

- Include appropriate contingency in General Fund budget for capital project cost over-runs (approximately \$100,000)
- Proceed with solicitation of construction bids for Police Station renovations / expansion now, with goal of awarding construction contract later this fiscal year or early next fiscal year
- Proceed with selection of architect for new Town Hall building now, with goal of beginning design work later this fiscal year or early next fiscal year
- Plan to relocate Town administrative staff to temporary rental space later this fiscal year or early next fiscal year - worst case scenario is to move Town administrative staff into the existing Board room and hold Town Board meetings in the Community Center until construction of new Town administrative offices is complete
- Consider 10-year financing term for Police Station / Town administrative office work
- Proceed with plans to expand Public Works building to accommodate Parks Maintenance function
- Keep proposed new EMS building at a size that limits Town contribution to \$50,000 - \$100,000 range; proceed with plans for construction to begin early next fiscal year
- Dedicate funding for replacement of 2 beach access walkways in FY 07-08 (likely Santa Maria Drive and Cedar Tree Lane, approx \$75,000)
- Provide matching funds for McLean Park grant in FY 07-08 (approx \$36,000)
- Fund new bike path from Ocean Drive "Dog-Leg" to 25th Street in FY 07-08 if financially feasible (approx \$95,000)
- Fund new electronic "community events" sign at base of bridge if financially feasible (approx \$20,000)
- Fund new sidewalk on west side of Islander Drive from NC 58 to Western Ocean Regional Access if financially feasible (approx \$35,000)
- Fund additional sound access improvements (approx \$20,000 - \$25,000) if financially feasible - promote the storm water benefits of these projects
- Prepare RFP for information technology services on a part-time basis, either through an independent contractor or a private firm's services

- Provide funding for adequate salary increases for Town employees

Other Items

- Present resolution to Board of Commissioners for Police personnel grant at February or March meeting, and if approved include funding for local match in FY 07-08 budget (approx \$25,000)
- Consider Fire Marshal position at February Board meeting; need greater understanding of liability associated with dismissing Senior Fire Engineer if no "light-duty" position is identified
- Proceed with grant applications to new saltwater fishing license fund for both construction of a new pier at site of old Emerald Isle Pier and acquisition of Bogue Inlet Pier (greater interest in new pier, but keep options open) - attempt to limit Town contribution to the \$500,000 range and address financing issues at the time of grant award
- Complete additional research on retiree health insurance options
- Proceed with development of Village West / Village West conditional overlay zoning districts using Village East as model, but with allowances for motels and hotels
- Seek cooperative relationship with owners of Island Harbor Marina on marina expansion / improvement plans and future redevelopment plans
- Learn more about ramifications of not constructing Fire Station 3 in Coast Guard Road area - understand other options to maintain ISO rating and determine cost impacts of increase in ISO rating

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC
Town Clerk