

1 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
2 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
3 FY 2007-2008 BUDGET
4 THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2007
5 7:00 PM – EMERALD ISLE COMMUNITY CENTER
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8 The special meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to
9 order by Mayor Art Schools at 7:05 pm.

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

13
14 Absent for the meeting: Commissioner John Wootten.

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16 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to excuse the absence of***
17 ***Commissioner Wootten. The Board voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

18
19 Others present: Frank Rush Town Manager, and Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee.
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21 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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

25
26 **FY 07-08 BUDGET**

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28 a. General Comments
29 b. Board of Commissioners Comments
30 c. Public Hearing

31
32 Town Manager Frank Rush presented to the Board the FY 07-08 Recommended
33 Budget as adjusted by the Board of Commissioners.

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35 (A copy of the detailed information is attached in its entirety and hereby made a
36 part of these minutes).

37
38 Mr. Rush outlined in detail the overall summary of adjustments based on the
39 Board of Commissioner's input over the past month. Mr. Rush noted that a
40 \$10,000 increase in the sales tax estimate enables the Town to lower the solid
41 waste fee from a proposed \$185 to \$180 which he is recommending the Board
42 consider. Other expenditure adjustments noted were NonDepartmental; an error
43 in the amount recommended for the Outer Banks Wildlife Shelter was corrected;
44 \$300 was included for a membership with the Swansboro Chamber of
45 Commerce, and the Emerald Isle Business Association indicated they will not
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2 need a contribution from the Town as they have sufficient funds in their budget
3 for their annual operating budget as well as for the parade.

4
5 Mr. Rush said also included with this recommendation tonight is 16.2 cent
6 oceanfront rate for the beach nourishment special district, and 1.1 cent for the
7 secondary non-oceanfront district which reflect new revenue-neutral rates.

8
9 Mr. Rush stated the recommended general fund tax rate of 6.7 cent is a 1 cent
10 increase over the revenue neutral rate of 5.7 cents. Mr. Rush noted that if there
11 had not been a revaluation the tax rate would still be less now that 5 years ago
12 even with this proposed rate.

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14 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to open the Public Hearing.***
15 ***The Board voted 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

16
17 Walter McGee, 7903 Ocean Drive, commented "nice job".

18
19 There was also a question from the audience about the new Administration
20 building. Mr. Rush stated that the debt issue of \$800,000 is planned in this
21 coming fiscal year 07-08 and the debt service on that project would begin in
22 09-10 with an annual debt service payment on that project being approximately
23 \$103,000 per year for 10 years. Mayor Schools stated that the reason for the
24 Administration Building is because the Police Department is taking over the old
25 Administration Building. The thought in the beginning was to either build a new
26 Police Station or expand into it so the Board's decision was that it made more
27 sense to expand the Police Department into the Administration Building and build
28 a new Administration Building, a case of not being able to do one without doing
29 the other, the location of the new building is to be located between the existing
30 building and the tennis courts.

31
32 Ann McGee, 7903 Ocean Drive, had questions about an ocean fishing pier. Mr.
33 Rush stated that there is \$500,000 included in the Town's capital improvement
34 program in FY 08-09. The Town is working very hard to find a way to ensure the
35 perpetual existence of a public ocean pier in Emerald Isle and in order to achieve
36 that goal they will need significant state funding, federal funding, county funding
37 and any source they can find; the goal is to limit the Town's expense to the
38 \$500,000 range which they feel is realistic. The plan simply reserves that
39 capacity in the budget in order to meet that obligation. For the time being, Mr.
40 Rush noted that the existing pier is still open, but it is still on the market, and at
41 this time the Town is simply waiting for a new developing group to emerge.

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43 Other questions were asked and answered about future bike path extensions.
44 Mr. Rush noted that the next highest priorities for bike paths are to run one down
45 Coast Guard Road, and also between the dogleg on Ocean Drive and 25th Street

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near Ocean Reef and Pier Point, both of those projects being included in the capital plan for FY 08-09.

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

BOARD DISCUSSION & DIRECTION

The Board thanked Town Manager Rush for doing a great job on the budget. The Board indicated that they were comfortable with what had been presented. Mr. Rush stated that he would prepare the Budget Ordinance and Fee Schedule for the Board's June 12th meeting at which time it could be considered and possibly approved at that time.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC
Town Clerk