

1 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
2 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
3 THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007  
4 9:00 AM – EMERALD ISLE COMMUNITY CENTER  
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7 The special meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to  
8 order by Mayor Art Schools at 9:00 a.m.

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

12  
13 Others present: Frank Rush Town Manager, Alesia Sanderson, Parks &  
14 Recreation Director, and Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee.

15  
16 Also present: Jay Barnes, Director, NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores.

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

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20 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

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22 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wootten to Adopt the Agenda. The***  
23 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

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25 **THE AQUARIUM PIER ON EMERALD ISLE**

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27 **a. Partnership with the NC Aquariums**  
28 **b. Transfer of Eastern Ocean Regional Access to NC Aquariums**  
29 **c. NC Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Funding Proposal to be**  
30 **submitted by NC Aquariums**

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32 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board regarding the Aquarium Pier on  
33 Emerald Isle, a Partnership between the NC Aquarium Pier at Pine Knoll Shores  
34 and the Town of Emerald Isle. Mr. Rush stated the focus is clearly building a  
35 new concrete pier at the Eastern Ocean Regional Access in eastern Emerald  
36 Isle.

37  
38 (A copy of the detailed information is attached in its entirety and hereby made a  
39 part of these minutes).

40  
41 Mr. Rush noted the grant application if approved would go out this afternoon to  
42 the Water Access & Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund. Mr. Rush stated this would  
43 be a joint request between the North Carolina Aquariums and the Town of  
44 Emerald Isle, joint in the sense that the Town would be a partner with the  
45 Aquariums for the central coast pier. The application would go forward under the  
46 name of the North Carolina Aquariums to pursue their goal of 3 state owned

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2 fishing piers in North Carolina, one on the northern coast in Nags Head, one on  
3 the central coast – being Emerald Isle, and then one as yet unidentified location  
4 on the southern coast. Each of these facilities would be concrete ocean fishing  
5 piers, approximately 1,000 feet long, 20 – 25 feet wide, and would include a first  
6 class pier house with all of the typical facilities that you see at a public fishing  
7 pier, as well as Aquarium exhibits, educational and meeting space. Mr. Rush  
8 said that the NC Aquariums envision a pier at each location, operated as a  
9 satellite facility with each of the 3 Aquariums in North Carolina. Mr. Rush said  
10 they had been working hard for Emerald Isle to be the location of that central  
11 coast pier and over the past few months the Town had received a very favorable  
12 response from a letter sent to the North Carolina Department of Environment and  
13 Natural Resources secretary offering the eastern regional access property for the  
14 central coast pier.

15  
16 Mr. Rush noted that the Board is being asked to bless the partnership between  
17 the Town and the Aquarium, to agree in principle to transfer the property to the  
18 Aquariums for the purpose of building this new public ocean fishing pier, and to  
19 bless the application to be submitted by the NC Aquariums.

20  
21 The Aquariums would be seeking a total of \$4 million from the North Carolina  
22 Waterfront Access and Marine Industry (WAMI) Fund, \$2 million of that request  
23 would go toward construction of the replacement of the pier in Nags Head, and  
24 \$2 million would go toward the Emerald Isle pier, which basically would fund the  
25 design, permitting activities, site improvements, parking lot, sound side pier, all  
26 work that must be done before building the actual pier structure and the pier  
27 house. Mr. Rush said this would provide a good start, they would be able to  
28 design the project, putting us in a much better position to secure additional grant  
29 funding going forward. Mr. Rush said they estimated a total of \$12.2 million  
30 construction cost which will be funded through a combination of NC Aquarium  
31 admission receipts, future grant requests, local government contributions, as well  
32 as a private fundraising campaign organized by the NC Aquarium Society.

33  
34 Mr. Rush provided the preliminary timeline, indicating funds hopefully being  
35 awarded in the spring with site planning beginning shortly thereafter, construction  
36 of the actual pier and pier house to begin in the spring of 2010 with a two-year  
37 construction period, possibly having a new facility open in 2012.

38  
39 Jay Barnes, Director, NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, provided background  
40 for the Board members, as to why the Aquarium became interested in fishing  
41 piers. Mr. Barnes stated that during the NC Aquariums strategic planning they  
42 recognized the value of having an oceanfront facility that would allow them to  
43 further their mission, that mission being to inspire conservation and awareness  
44 and appreciation of North Carolina's aquatic life. Mr. Barnes said that all of the  
45 fishing related activities that take place on a pier are a great place and a great

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way to do that. Mr. Barnes added that this will be a public fishing pier but he looks at this facility largely as an educational outpost of what they already do, including summer science camps, sleepovers for scout troops, many Aquarium activities taking place.

Town Manager Rush and Jay Barnes, NC Aquariums answered questions and addressed concerns posed by the Board of Commissioners regarding this proposal and process. Mr. Rush noted that the Memorandum of Agreement will address Board member concerns, adding that while the Town may be a junior partner he felt the NC Aquariums would treat Emerald Isle as a major partner.

***Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the partnership with the NC Aquariums to develop "The Aquarium Pier on Emerald Isle", to approve the use of the Town's Eastern Ocean Regional Access as the site of the new Pier, and to approve the NC Waterfront Access and Marine Industry Funding Proposal to be submitted by the NC Aquariums. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

**ADJOURN**

***Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC  
Town Clerk