

1 **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**
2 **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
3 **FY 2010-2011 BUDGET**
4 **TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010**
5 **6:00 PM – TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**
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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 6:00 pm.

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

13
14 Others present: Town Manager Frank Rush, Asst. Town Manager/Finance
15 Officer Mitsy Overman, and Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee.

16
17 Also present: Intern Kevin McLaughlin

18
19 Town Manager Rush introduced Summer Intern Kevin McLaughlin, a first year
20 Master of Public Administration candidate at UNC-Chapel Hill.

21
22 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

23
24 *Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to adopt the Agenda. The*
25 *Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.*

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27 **FY 10-11 BUDGET**

- 28
29 **a. General Comments**
30 **b. Board of Commissioner Comments**
31 **c. Official Public Hearing**

32
33 Town Manager Rush stated that he felt the recommended budget as presented
34 to the Board in May and then discussed at their workshop meeting provided a
35 responsible spending plan for the Town for the next fiscal year. Mr. Rush said
36 there was a recommendation for a 1 cent tax increase included in the
37 Recommended Budget and essentially all the money generated by the 1 cent tax
38 increase would be allocated for stormwater improvements along the Coast Guard
39 Road corridor, specifically in the Island Circle / Point area, and also
40 improvements to Emerald Isle Woods Park related to future improvements in
41 Lands End. Aside from that the operating budget proposed by the departments
42 were relatively lean, very little in the way of capital spending, certainly no new
43 significant capital projects. Mr. Rush provided for the public a handout including
44 an excerpt from the Recommended Budget booklet including the “Quick
45 Summary” to provide a quick understanding of the budget issues that the Board
46 and Town would be dealing with this year.

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2 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to open the Public Hearing.***
3 ***The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
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5 Alan Fielding, Sound of the Sea beachfront property owner, spoke about the 1
6 cent tax increase that would be strictly for the improvement of the stormwater
7 down Coast Guard Road. He wondered why he should be bearing that cost
8 when Coast Guard Road people should be bearing that cost. He felt he could
9 bear some portion of it but noted that those on Coast Guard Road don't bear an
10 equal amount of cost for the beach where as they all benefit the same amount for
11 the beach. He felt he was being asked to subsidize their problems.

12
13 Brian Smith, 6411 Ocean Drive, agreed with Mr. Fielding about the tax but he
14 said he also had flooding every time it rained in his cul-de-sac. Mr. Smith
15 wondered if any relief would be given to that section of the road. Mr. Smith
16 indicated the water stood in the road but was not getting into his home.

17
18 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to close the Public Hearing.***
19 ***The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
20

21 Mayor Schools responded to Mr. Smith about his flooding issues at 6411 Ocean
22 Drive indicating that those are the kind of issues they will try to address and try to
23 fix; but their first objective was to keep the water out of people's homes.

24
25 Commissioner Wootten said he understood Mr. Fielding's concerns as he had
26 grappled with that himself. Commissioner Wootten said he recognized that if
27 they don't spend money to get easements at the Point this coming year it
28 wouldn't happen and then when they try to solve the problem it would cost twice
29 as much; so as much as he didn't like it he felt they had to spend that money.
30 Commissioner Wootten added that as much as he didn't like it he was willing to
31 go along with it this year, spending an exorbitant amount of money for
32 stormwater. He would hope that the easements would work and the permits for
33 Emerald Isle Woods would work but if they didn't he wanted to make sure they
34 apply that money to debt reduction.

35
36 Town Manager Rush and the Board discussed with Mr. Fielding his concerns
37 about the tax for stormwater measures on Coast Guard Road and beach
38 nourishment special district taxes, and further addressed Mr. Smith's concerns
39 about his flooding issues on Ocean Drive and possible solutions.

40
41 **FY 11-12 Budget Issues**

- 42
43 **a. Potential Elimination of Annual Solid Waste Fee and Replacement**
44 **With Property Tax Revenues**

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- 1 **b. Potential New Beach Nourishment Municipal Service Districts in FY**
- 2 **11-12**
- 3 **c. 2011 Revaluation Impacts**

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5
6 Town Manager Rush discussed these issues in detail with the Board. Mr. Rush
7 felt the Board didn't need to make a decision on any of these issues tonight or
8 even when they adopt this budget but that if they decide to go forward that it
9 would be helpful for the Board to make a decision by the September / October
10 timeframe in the case of the solid waste fee.

11
12 **Board Discussion & Direction**

13
14 The Board also discussed the issue of charging fees for parking at the regional
15 accesses as a way to gain additional revenue. Town Manager Rush said he
16 would look into this issue again and provide options for the Board to review.

17
18 **Adjourn**

19
20 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adjourn. The Board voted***
21 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

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

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25 Respectfully submitted:

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29 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC
30 Town Clerk
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