

1 MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING
2 OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
3 FY 12-13 RECOMMENDED BUDGET
4 TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012
5 6:00 PM – ADMINISTRATION BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM
6

7 The special workshop meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was
8 called to order by Mayor Art Schools at 6:00 pm.
9

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: Town Manager Frank Rush, Asst. Town Manager/Finance
14 Officer Mitsy Overman, Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee, Parks and Recreation
15 Director Alesia Sanderson, Public Works Director Artie Dunn, Planning Director
16 Kevin Reed, Fire Chief Bill Walker, and Acting Police Chief Jeff Waters.
17

18 Also present: Doug Fleming, Emerald Isle EMS, Inc.
19

20 **Adoption of Agenda**
21

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

25 **General Comments**
26

27 Town Manager Frank Rush stated he was happy to present a recommended
28 budget that had no tax rate increase. The only impact on taxpayers in the
29 recommended budget was the \$10 increase in the annual solid waste fee that
30 helped to pay for the new brush truck that was included in the budget. Mr. Rush
31 noted there were a few other minor fee increases associated with the budget,
32 and they were intended to cover the cost of the particular services. Mr. Rush
33 said this was a business as usual budget which enabled the Town to keep the
34 same high level quality of services and also treated the employees fairly and
35 included a 3.5% increase for the workforce which he knew would be appreciated
36 if ultimately approved.
37

38 **Public Comment**
39

40 Mayor Schools asked for any public comments at this time.
41

42 Jim Hackett, Ocean Drive, complimented Mr. Rush on an excellent budget. He
43 requested that the Board consider an increase in the tax rate in order to complete
44 the bike path. He thought the path was a wonderful addition to the Town and
45 would position Emerald Isle as having a truly green access for businesses, family
46 fun as well as being a tourist attraction. Mr. Hackett indicated he would be willing
47 to pay for a one cent increase in the tax rate to complete the bike path.
48

1 **FY 11-12 Recommended Budget Presentations / Q & A**

- 2
3 a. Emerald Isle EMS
4 b. Parks and Recreation Department
5 c. Public Works / Solid Waste / Powell Bill
6 d. Planning and Inspections
7 e. Police Department
8 f. Fire Department
9 g. Governing Body / Legal / Administration / NonDepartmental
10 h. Debt Service
11 i. Other Funds
12 j. 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program
13 k. 5-Year General Fund Forecast
14

15 Town Manager Rush and Department Heads summarized and discussed with
16 the Board their budget requests, priorities and goals for the Fiscal Year 12-13.
17

18 **Employee Compensation, Benefits**

19
20 Town Manager Rush stated that in addition to the 3.5% pay increase for
21 employees included in the recommended budget that he was also recommending
22 the same health insurance coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Blue
23 Options HSA, a high deductible plan with a \$2,500 deductible with the Town
24 contributing \$1,500 into employee HSA accounts. Mr. Rush noted that the
25 premiums for the current plan had increased by 7.5% and that different
26 alternatives were studied but they wouldn't have saved any measurable amount
27 of money.
28

29 **Additional Board Discussion**

30
31 There was general discussion of the recommended budget by the Board with
32 Town Manager Rush. Mr. Rush noted the next meeting would be the Budget
33 Public Hearing and that meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 5 at 6 pm.
34

35 **Adjourn**

36
37 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Hedreen to adjourn the meeting. The***
38 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
39

40 ***The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.***

41
42 Respectfully submitted:

43
44 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC
45 Town Clerk