



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
JUNE 4, 2013  
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1  
2 Elton Matheson, 7008 Sound Drive, spoke concerning the proposed 1 cent tax  
3 increase as outlined in the newspapers. Mr. Matheson felt the extension of the  
4 bike path wasn't necessary or fair. Mr. Matheson referencing the February 2010  
5 Town of Emerald Isle Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plan that referred to  
6 a study done in Dare County, NC said that he felt was not relevant or applied to  
7 Emerald Isle at all where it stated the proposed method to finance concept was  
8 for \$1 invested it returned \$9, and felt the report didn't make any sense. Mr.  
9 Matheson felt there was enough of a bike path now to serve the needs.

10  
11 Mayor Schools asked Mr. Rush the cost of just the proposed extension of the  
12 bike path. Mr. Rush stated that of the \$2.65 million package, \$1.75 million was  
13 allocated to extend the rest of the Coast Guard Road bike path from Dolphin  
14 Ridge to Ring Street, and to extend on Highway 58 from Fairfax Road to Pier  
15 Point, and then from the Eastern Ocean Regional Access to the Indian Beach  
16 town lines. Mr. Rush said these were the costs associated with the construction  
17 of the project; the numbers referred to in the 2010 Plan were illustrative and  
18 referred to a plan done in Dare County, NC. Mr. Rush said that ultimately it was  
19 up to the Board as to whether or not this was a wise investment for the  
20 community but he didn't believe they were basing their decisions on whether or  
21 not it would return \$9 for every dollar spent.

22  
23 Mr. Matheson said that was what was implied in the study. Commissioner  
24 Wootten said at least in his case the study was not a consideration at all in  
25 making the decision to extend the bike path. Commissioner Wootten said the  
26 consideration in his mind was the use it was achieving and the input received  
27 from people saying how great they thought the bike paths were. Mr. Matheson  
28 said he and his wife were handicapped and the study implied this would be a big  
29 benefit for them when they go grocery shopping. He said that Sound Drive was  
30 the real bicycle and pedestrian path for that side of the island, it was a street, a  
31 pedestrian path, and a bicycle path, but there was no way you could go shopping  
32 on a bicycle. He could see there was support from the businesses and the rental  
33 industry which he understood and he could see a return there, a financial benefit,  
34 but since he was paying for it there was no benefit for the extension, none that he  
35 could see. Mr. Matheson said he had been here 30 years, was on a fixed  
36 income and felt this would not benefit him at all.

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38 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wootten to close the Public Hearing.***  
39 ***The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

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41 **Board Discussion & Direction**

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43 Town Manager Rush said that this was the official legally required public hearing  
44 and it was held prior to the regular meeting so that if there were comments made  
45 by the public that may cause the Board to change their minds or affect their

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2 decisions, it allowed time for any changes to be made and ready for their  
3 consideration at their regular meeting on June 11.

4  
5 Town Manager Rush for clarification stated that at the special budget workshop  
6 held on May 21 the Board basically indicated by a non-binding 4-1 vote to  
7 proceed with the 1-cent tax increase and that was what he would plan to have in  
8 the official budget ordinance for their consideration as was indicated in the  
9 recommended budget. Commissioner Wright said they had also discussed that  
10 when the bond was paid that the 1-cent should be retired. Town Manager Rush  
11 said while that would not be legally binding on a future Board he would prepare a  
12 Resolution that would serve as a formal policy statement by the current Board  
13 that they would want the 1-cent tax to retire at the end of the 10 years.

14  
15 Commissioner Messer stated that he had been the 1 vote and not changed his  
16 mind.

17  
18 **Adjourn**

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20 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Wootten to adjourn the meeting. The***  
21 ***Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

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23 ***The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.***

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25 Respectfully submitted:

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29 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC  
30 Town Clerk  
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