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3 **Financial / Budget Information**
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- 5 **5. Overall Financial Status, Service Statistics**
6 **6. FY 13-14 Budget Status**
7 a. General Fund
8 b. Future Beach Nourishment Fund
9 **7. FY 14-15 Budget Projection**
10 a. General Fund
11 b. Future Beach Nourishment Fund
12 **8. DRAFT 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program**
13 **9. General Fund 5-Year Forecast**
14

15 **Potential FY 14-15 Budget Issues**
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- 17 **10. EI EMS, Inc. – Annual Update**
18 **11. Construction of New Visitors Center in Emerald Isle**
19 **12. Potential Fee Adjustments – Beach Driving , Golf Cart Fees?**
20 **13. Employee Compensation**
21 **14. Police and Fire – Career Advancement Plans?**
22 **15. Street Resurfacing**
23 **16. Beach Access Walkway Ratings / Replacements**
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25 **Potential Future Capital Projects**
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- 27 **17. “Sprayground” / “Splash Park”**
28 **18. Commercial Area Aesthetic Improvements**
29 **19. Future Beach Nourishment Needs, Financing**
30 **20. Future New Ocean Fishing Pier – Financing Ideas**
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32 **Other Issues to Consider**
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- 34 **21. Local Funding Source for Future Bogue Inlet Dredging**
35 **22. Efforts to Improve Communication Between Planning and**
36 **Inspections Staff and Contractors / Property Owners**
37 **23. Transition to Dodge Police Vehicle Fleet and New Markings**
38 **24. Allow Limited Vehicular Access to Beach Strand in Summer?**
39 **25. Unattended Beach Equipment – Establish Designated Storage Areas**
40 **at Each Access Point?**
41 **26. Other Items**
42 a. Beach vehicle ramp gate improvements
43 b. Tennis court resurfacing or relocation
44 c. Future skate park
45 d. Snow plow equipment for pickup trucks

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- 1
- 2 e. **Casual, standard Town uniforms**
- 3 f. **Migration to small pickup trucks or Jeeps for beach strand patrols**
- 4 g. **Desired changes for summer beach services**
- 5 h. **Town to provide contribution to Jean Preston Memorial**
- 6 **Playground**
- 7 i. **Video Board meetings, include on Town website**
- 8 j. **Storm water improvement on Doe Drive**
- 9 k. **Remaining Locations – Eastern EI Storm Water Outfall Removal**
- 10 l. **Commercial slips at EI Public Boating Access Area**
- 11 m. **Lighting on Coast Guard Road bicycle path**
- 12 n. **Ideas to Encourage Upgrades to Existing Off-Premises Signs**
- 13 o. **Board of Adjustment changes?**
- 14 p. **Additional Christmas decorations for NC 58**
- 15 q. **Roof repairs for Town Board Meeting Room / Police Station /**
- 16 **Planning & Inspections**
- 17 r. **Investigate feasibility of in-house paving crew**
- 18

19 **Board Direction**

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21 Following the discussion of each agenda item with the Town Manager, and
22 Departments heads, the Town Board provided their feedback and outlined their
23 priorities for the upcoming year.

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25 Town Manager Rush summarized the Boards direction and priorities for
26 formulating the FY 14-15 budget as outlined below:

27

28 **Budget Issues:**

- 29 • No property tax rate increase for FY 14-15; maintain current 12.5 cent General Fund tax
- 30 rate
- 31 • Consider utilizing projected FY 13-14 surplus funds for a portion of Coast Guard Road
- 32 resurfacing; perhaps supplemented with FY 14-15 Powell Bill funds
- 33 • Carefully scrutinize planned vehicle and equipment replacements for FY 14-15; consider
- 34 delay of any vehicles and equipment that has remaining useful life
- 35 • Plan to increase beach driving permit fees from \$40 and \$80 to \$50 and \$100
- 36 • Maintain current golf cart registration fee (\$75 annually)
- 37 • Consider adjustments to monthly, weekly, and daily use fees for Community Center
- 38 • Plan for 2% cost-of-living adjustment for Town employees
- 39 • Proceed with plans for "career advancement program" for Police and Fire personnel in
- 40 FY 14-15; iron out details for later presentation to Board and include funding in FY 14-15
- 41 budget
- 42 • Plan for \$50,000 for beach walkway replacements again in FY 14-15; consider
- 43 abandoning / removing the deteriorating wooden sound access walkways at Lee Street,
- 44 Ridge Road, and Piney Street

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- Work to relocate planned Jean Preston Memorial Park from boat ramp facility to Town Hall complex, and consider expanding Blue Heron Park with a "splash park" and other playground features and renaming Blue Heron Park as Jean Preston Memorial Park (this idea to be discussed with Judy Wilgus and others involved in Jean Preston project)
- "Splash park" appears to be a relatively high priority for the Board relative to other items discussed
- Support expressed for downtown lighting plan, as long as funds can be identified without having a tax rate increase; consider 200 ft. spacing for lights instead of 100 ft. spacing originally proposed
- Maintain current 4.5 cent and 1.5 cent tax rates for beach nourishment special tax districts; no immediate need to adjust -- play it by ear in the next few years depending on revenue collections and actual erosion rates
- Bogue Inlet navigation dredging is high priority - Town should commit funding (\$15,000) for Bogue Inlet dredging either in FY 13-14 budget or FY 14-15 budget, and should again be a leader in organizing State / local funding for future dredging needs; also need to encourage County to provide Beach Commission (room tax) funding for transfer of dredging permits from Federal government to local government
- Board supports new Welcome Center at Merchants Park, but concerned about Town contribution of \$30,000 -- seek ways to extend TDA lease arrangement from 6 years to 7 years (or longer) to make up the \$30,000 from Town, and/or consider smaller Town contribution over several years (i.e., \$5,000 per year for 6 years).
- Allocate funding and identify alternative Christmas lighting options (if more pole-mounted ornaments are not possible) to better light up NC 58 at Christmas.
- Discontinue monthly payment (\$600) to Island Review for Emerald Tidings newsletter (either convince them to waive fee altogether and continue with print version, or move exclusively to email / web version of Emerald Tidings).

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Based on the Board's comments assuming projected savings materialize from the 2013 "Community Improvements Package" (may be as much as \$150,000), will work on a plan to present to the Board that could include using any surplus funds for some combination of a splash park and downtown lighting plan. Will also work on a resurfacing plan for Coast Guard Road at the same time, and will present all recommendations as part of the FY 14-15 Recommended Budget in May.

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Other Issues

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- There is no interest in allowing vehicles on the beach in the summer months in limited areas or for limited groups.
- There is no interest in changing the Town's unattended beach equipment program.
- Board supports plan for Dodge Police vehicles and recommended new marking scheme
- No interest in video of Town Board meetings and including on Town's website
- Consider abolishing Board of Adjustment and transfer responsibilities to the Board of Commissioners

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(Detailed backup information for all items are attached to and, incorporated into these minutes.)

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2 The Recommended Budget will be presented to the Board on May 13, 2014 after
3 which the Board will meet to review and adjust as necessary or desired.

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5 **Adjourn**

6
7 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adjourn the meeting. The***
8 ***Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

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10 **The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.**

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12 Respectfully submitted:

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16 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC
17 Town Clerk
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DRAFT