

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 – 6:00 P.M.
TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**

1. Call To Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to order by Mayor Eddie Barber at 6:00 PM in the Town Board Meeting Room.

2. Roll Call

Present for the meeting: Mayor Eddie Barber, Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer, Commissioners Candace Dooley, Steve Finch, Jim Normile, and Maripat Wright.

Also present during the regular meeting: Town Manager Frank Rush, Town Attorney Richard Stanley, Finance Director Laura Rotchford, Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee, Town Planner Josh Edmondson,

3. Opening Prayer

Bernie Whalley, Emerald Isle resident, provided the opening prayer for all in attendance.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to adopt the Agenda amending to add Item 10c to the Agenda. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

6. Proclamations / Public Announcements

- a. Deck Safety Month – May 2016
- b. Municipal Clerks Week – May 1-7, 2016
- c. National Travel and Tourism Week – May 1-7, 2016
- d. National Day of Prayer – May 5, 2016
- e. Bicycle Month in Emerald Isle – May 2016

Mayor Barber noted the following announcements for the public:

- **Spring Walking Club – Each Friday – 9 am – Community Center**
- **American Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday, April 15 – 2 pm – 7 pm – Community Center**
- **Regional Access Parking Fees Begin Saturday, April 16**
- **Police Educating the Public (PEP) – Tuesday, April 19 – 10 am – Town Board Meeting Room**
- **CPR Training / Certification – Tuesday, April 19 – 1 pm – 5 pm – Community Center**
- **Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Regular Meeting – Wed, April 20 – 3 pm – Town Board Meeting Room**
- **Comp Plan / Land Use Plan Steering Committee Meeting – Wed, April 20 – 3 pm – Town Board Meeting Room**
- **EMS Pancake Breakfast – Saturday, April 23 – 7 am – 11 am – EMS Station**
- **Summer Day Camp – LOTTERY PROCEDURE – Forms Must Be Turned in Between April 25 and May 2**
- **Planning Board Regular Meeting – Monday, April 25 – 6 pm – Town Board Meeting Room**
- **Coffee With A Cop – Thursday, April 28 – 9 am – Village Market**
- **Beach Driving Season Ends Saturday, April 30**
- **2nd Annual Crystal Coast Lighthouse Challenge – Bike the Banks – Saturday, May 7**
- **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 10 – 6 pm – Town Board Meeting Room**

7. Special Presentations – Employee Service Awards

- a. **Artie Dunn, Public Works Director – 25 years**
- b. **Bill Bailey, Police Lieutenant – 25 years**

Mayor Eddie Barber and Town Manager Frank Rush recognized John “Artie” Dunn, Public Works Director with an engraved award for his 25 years of service to the Town. Town Manager Rush congratulated Artie Dunn for his 25 years of service, noting that Mr. Dunn had been the Public Works Director for the Town since 2003, doing a fantastic job along with the great public works staff. Mr. Rush pointed out that the Public Works staff were those guys out in the middle of the night running hose, and setting up storm water pumps, picking up debris, the guys he hated to have to call at the worst hours of the day to come out and provide services to the Town. Mr. Rush reiterated that Artie Dunn was just a first class individual and the Town was extremely fortunate to have his service, as well as the service of Lieutenant Bill Bailey, two exceptional individuals that the Town was lucky to have working for the Town of Emerald Isle.

Mayor Eddie Barber and Police Chief Jeff Waters recognized Bill Bailey, Police Lieutenant with an engraved award for his 25 years of service to the Town. Chief Waters said that he had the privilege and honor of training Lieutenant Bailey when he first started with the Town and was his ride along. Chief Waters stated that Lieutenant Bailey was an awesome, hard working officer and he commended him for his 25 years of service with the Emerald Isle Police Department.

8. Public Comment

Ken Stone, 9701 Ashley Place, reminded everyone that May 7 the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee would have a Bike the Banks initiative with a 100 mile ride to Harkers Island and back, a 50 mile ride to Fort Macon, and a more pleasurable 10 mile ride on the multi-use path and back. Mr. Stone said the cost was \$40 for the two bigger rides and \$25 for the smaller ride. Mr. Stone hoped they would get more families and kids involved, and that the idea was to make sure people knew that Emerald Isle was a bicycle friendly community and to raise funds to continue for future bicycle and pedestrian projects and activities in the Town.

Paul Schwartz, 10550 Wyndtree Drive, noted that on May 4 there would be a "Save the Dunes" planting initiative that was instituted initially by Carla Stevens. Mr. Schwartz said the planting would take place at the entry to the Point and they would be planting 1,500 seedlings, and they were still accepting volunteers and encouraged anyone interested in participating to contact him.

9. Consent Agenda

- a. Tax Releases
- b. Minutes – February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting
- c. Minutes – February 19, 2016 Special Meeting
- d. Resolution Amending Town Meeting Room Policy (16-04-12/R1)
- e. Budget Amendment – Half-Marathon Fund
- f. Budget Amendment – General Fund

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 16-04-12/R1 and all other Consent Agenda items as referenced above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes

10. Resolution Amending Chapter 4 – Use Regulations – of the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Golf Cart Sales and Rentals

- a. Public Hearing
- b. Consideration of Ordinance (16-04-12/O1)
- c. Added Agenda Item (16-04-12/O2)

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Josh Edmondson, Planning Director addressed the Board regarding this Agenda item. The following excerpt from the Town Manager's memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to formally consider an amendment to the Town's Unified Development Ordinance that would allow golf cart sales and rentals as a permitted use in the Town's commercial and mixed use districts, subject to certain additional restrictions. A public hearing is required prior to Board consideration of the attached ordinance amendment, and has been scheduled for the April 12 meeting. The Board and the public should note that the attached ordinance amendment pertains only to the Town's zoning requirements, and not the actual standards for the operation of golf carts in Emerald Isle. The Town's local golf cart program is codified in Chapter 11, Transportation, of the Code of Ordinances, and the attached ordinance amendment pertains to the Unified Development Ordinance only.

The Town's local golf cart program, which allows golf carts that meet certain standards to operate on most Town streets (not permitted on NC 58 or Coast Guard Road, by State law and Town ordinance), was created in 2010, and was among the first such programs in North Carolina at that time. The program has been very well received, and there are now more than 500 registered golf carts in the Town's program. When the program was created in 2010, there was some uncertainty about the program, and the Board of Commissioners was primarily concerned with providing an alternative, convenient transportation option and ensuring the safety of those operating golf carts and the general public. At that time, the Board of Commissioners was concerned that the opportunity for short-term golf cart rentals in Emerald Isle would create public safety concerns, and specifically noted that golf cart rentals were not permitted in Emerald Isle. The Board's concern at that time was that the ability to rent a golf cart by the hour, half-day, or other short time period was more likely to result in irresponsible golf cart usage.

The Town has, however, allowed golf cart sales and rental businesses located outside of Emerald Isle to register a certain number of rental golf carts annually in the Town's program, and these businesses have routinely delivered the rental golf carts (rented for multiple days or a full week) to locations in Emerald Isle in recent years. Initially, the Town allowed a total of 7 rental golf carts to be registered to each company, and later administratively increased that cap to 15 rental golf carts and then 25 rental golf carts. The two businesses that registered the rental golf carts actually worked closely with the Town to write the Town's golf cart ordinance, and have been diligent in adhering to and enforcing the Town's regulations on their customers. As a result, there have been very few negative issues associated with golf cart rentals by these businesses.

One of the existing golf cart businesses was recently purchased, and the Town was recently approached by the new owner about opening an Emerald Isle location. Thus, the attached ordinance amendment is presented for Board of Commissioners consideration at the April 12 meeting. Town staff believe it is now appropriate to allow golf cart sales and rental businesses to operate in the Business, Village East, Village West, and Marina Village zoning districts, and the attached ordinance amendment lists golf cart sales and rentals as a permitted use in those districts. The Board should note 4 additional restrictions indicated in the ordinance and the attached memo from Josh Edmondson, Town Planner. The most significant restriction is the outdoor display of a maximum of 5 golf carts, in order to prevent the appearance of a large sales lot. The Planning Board reviewed the attached ordinance amendment at its March meeting, and unanimously recommends approval.

As noted in Josh Edmondson's memo, the Planning Board specifically recommended that the Town should not establish a minimum rental period for golf cart rentals. In accordance with the Board of Commissioners' initial concerns (in 2010) about the potential for irresponsible golf cart usage by short-term renters, Town staff initially recommended a minimum 2-day golf cart rental period after discussing the issue with local golf cart businesses. The Planning Board discussed this issue, and specifically indicated that they did not believe the Town should regulate the minimum rental period. Town staff, including the Police Department, still have some concern, however, that the lack of such a restriction may promote irresponsible golf cart usage. If the Board of Commissioners disagrees with the Planning Board, and would like to establish a minimum rental period, this additional restriction can be easily added by the Board of Commissioners during the April 12 meeting. The Planning Board also indicated that the Town should not establish a maximum number of golf carts eligible for rental. Town staff initially recommended a maximum of 50 rental golf carts, however, Town staff have no concerns with the removal of this cap.

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Town Planner Josh Edmondson outlined the proposed amendments to Chapter 4 – Use Regulations- of the UDO regarding Golf Cart Sales and Rentals following review by the Planning Board. Mr. Edmondson stated that the amendments refer to the zoning of golf cart rental and sales of golf cart businesses. Mr. Edmondson noted that he had been approached by a golf cart company interested in coming into Emerald Isle and setting up a golf cart rental and sales operation. Mr. Edmondson noted that in 2010 when the Golf Cart Program was originally developed they did not at that time want to allow sales and rentals of golf carts. Mr. Edmondson said he also reached out to two other interested golf cart companies and discussed concerns as noted by Police Chief Waters and outlined regulations pertaining to the operation of a golf cart sales and rental business. Mr. Edmondson stated that the amendment was presented to the Planning Board at their March meeting. Mr. Edmondson referred the Board to the staff recommendations below as presented to the Planning Board:

4.2.12 – Golf Cart Sales and Rentals

In addition to complying with all other applicable provisions of this Ordinance and, all businesses that sale and/or rent golf cars shall only be allowed according to the following specifications and standards:

1. A minimum two (2) day rental period
2. Outside display of golf carts shall be limited to five (5) at any one time
3. Shall have a physical place of business (brick and mortar type) in Town
4. Loading and unloading of golf carts shall not impede the movement of traffic and pedestrian activity
5. The total number of golf carts allowed per business to operate at any one time shall be fifty (50).
6. Rules for operating a golf cart on a public street, road or highway within the Town shall be posted on every golf cart registered with the Town and a copy given to each person operating a golf cart

Mr. Edmondson said there was much discussion by the Planning Board about the rules and ultimately the Planning Board felt that the Town should not limit the rental period or the number of carts. Mr. Edmondson said that the rules recommended were developed based upon conversation with the interested golf cart rental companies, Town Manager Rush and Police Chief Jeff Waters. Mr. Edmondson stated that the ordinance presented for the Board's consideration tonight eliminated the two day rental period and the 50 cart limit per business. Mr. Edmondson noted that he worked with John's Golf Carts, Coastline Golf Carts and MRP Mobile Home and RV Accessory Sales who would sell golf carts as well and all of these companies had golf cart rental and sales off the island currently, and they were requesting to locate physically in Emerald Isle for more visibility, and to offer ease to their customers leasing carts. Mr. Edmondson stated that the Planning Board had also recommended approval of golf cart sales and rentals in the Village East, Village West, Marina Village, and Business Zoning Districts as a permitted use with the supplementary use standards to include: 1) limiting outdoor display of golf carts to five (5), 2) having a physical place of business in Emerald Isle, 3) when loading or unloading carts they don't impede traffic or pedestrian activity, and 4) they adhere to all rules as outlined for operating a golf cart in Emerald Isle.

Town Manager Rush noted that there had been a lot of discussion about the minimum rental period initially proposed for two days by the Planning Board, and Mr. Rush noted that if the Board was inclined to establish a minimum rental period the additional Item

10c that was added to the Agenda would be something the Board could consider if they wanted to revisit that issue. Mr. Rush said that Item 10c was not part of the Planning Board recommendation but he knew there was some concern about that issue and that would be the appropriate time to consider that restriction which would amend the actual golf cart Ordinance Chapter 11 – Transportation – of the Code of Ordinances that set out the various rules and regulations for our golf cart program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to open the Public Hearing. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Hackett, 6410 Ocean Drive, said that he didn't own or need a golf cart, but noted that most of the golf carts were privately owned and they drove their carts to the parking spaces near the ocean that the Town had so graciously provided. Mr. Hackett wanted the Town to make sure that the folks who lived here and had golf carts would have good access and not be impeded by what sounded like to him were tourists renting carts so they could drive to the ocean and the ordinance seemed geared to the tourists. Mr. Hackett said his concern would be that the people who lived here and wanted to use their carts and have good access and parking might lose that because of all the rental carts. Mr. Hackett felt they should make sure the people who lived in Town were in support, and he had heard comments about the police stopping people on golf carts on the sidewalks and he thought they may want to revisit to be sure the Town folks were in favor of this.

Town Manager Rush commented for clarification for the Board and the public that the Town currently allowed rental golf carts to operate in Emerald Isle. The question for the Board to consider tonight was should the Town allow the establishments to actually open their doors of business within Emerald Isle. Mr. Rush said there were currently two golf cart rental and sales establishments located across the bridge that rented golf carts within Emerald Isle. Mr. Rush said they would deliver the golf carts via trailer to the person who rented a home in Emerald Isle. Mr. Rush felt Mr. Hackett's comments were well taken in making sure the rentals were not crowding out the permanent residents in terms of accessing the beach, but he did want to make it clear that this year they had about 25 golf carts per company registered in our golf cart program, the only difference would be that they would now have their physical sales and rental business on the island as opposed to Cape Carteret or Peletier.

Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to close the Public Hearing. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wright confirmed with Mr. Rush that the companies currently had a certain number of golf carts registered with the Town they were allowed to rent so that wouldn't change but would be a convenience factor for the companies and their renters, so the number of rental golf carts would remain the same. Town Manager Rush stated that if the Board did not approve the ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board

and as presented by the Town Planner tonight then we would still allow those golf cart companies to operate from their locations on Highway 58 and they would continue as they had for the past several years. Mr. Rush said that they had administratively established a cap of 25 rental carts in the golf cart program up to this point, and as Mr. Edmondson mentioned the ordinance the Board would consider tonight amending the Unified Development Ordinance does not establish any cap so there would no longer be a cap on the number of golf carts the rental companies had registered with the program. Mr. Rush stated that their recommendation to the Planning Board had been a cap of 50, the Planning Board felt there was no need for a cap so that was not carried through here, however, if the Board did not approve the ordinance they would just continue what they had been doing for the past several years.

Commissioner Finch commented that technically each one of the individual golf cart companies could rent 100 per company in addition to what was already out there. Town Manager Rush said that was correct under the ordinance as written tonight, however, if the Board would like to revisit and establish some limit they could.

Commissioner Messer asked the rental company representative in attendance how many times they would rent 100 golf carts in a week. A representative from John's Golf Carts responded that it was hard to say but he would be willing to rent as many as possible or if there were rules limiting they would follow those rules. Commissioner Messer asked about the average rented the past year. John's Golf Cart representative stated he was a new owner but he had 25 registered with the Town now and his plan was to do 25 more and then just go from there. The representative in attendance from MRP Mobile Home and RV Accessory Sales said they were new to the golf cart rental business but felt that 50 would be a good number per week to start with but it was very unpredictable how many they could rent per week. Commissioner Messer said it seemed that 50 per company would be plenty.

Town Manager Rush said if the Board wished to establish a cap, for example, 50 golf carts per rental company, the appropriate location would be in Chapter 11 in the golf cart ordinance.

Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to approve the Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 – Use Regulations – of the Unified Development Ordinance Regarding Golf Cart Sales and Rentals. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Ordinance Amending Chapter 11 – Transportation – of the Code of Ordinances to Establish a Minimum Rental Period for Golf Carts at Two Days and a Maximum Number of Golf Carts Per Rental Company at 50.

Town Manager Rush suggested that if the Board looked at the memorandum from Planner Josh Edmondson in their packet they would see item #5 language – the total number of golf carts allowed per business to operate at any one time shall be fifty (50), and he suggested to simply add that statement as letter (i) in the Ordinance Amendment the Board had in front of them as Item 10c.

Mayor Stanley noted that meant that if you ever wanted to raise or lower the cap you would have to come back and amend the ordinance. Mayor Stanley said the Board may want to grant the authority to the Manager to set the number of golf carts per vendor.

Motion was amended by Commissioner Messer as follows – Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Ordinance Amending Chapter 11 – Transportation – of the Code of Ordinances to Establish a Minimum Rental Period for Golf Carts at Two Days and to authorize the Town Manager to Set the Number of Golf Carts to Be Permitted Annually per Vendor. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

A representative with John's Golf Cart's added a few more comments about the hundred's of phone calls they received about golf carts stating that if the Board determined 50 per vendor that was what they would do but 100 golf carts while it sounded like a lot of golf carts was really not as golf carts in the last 10 years had just boomed everywhere referencing Myrtle Beach where they rented 1,000s per week.

Commissioner Messer stated this was not a Myrtle Beach and they didn't ever want it to be a Myrtle Beach, he felt that 100 golf carts was a lot of golf carts in his opinion, and they had given the Manager the authority to look at the cap after a certain period of time and if he deemed it necessary to increase it that was fine, but they would start at 50.

Mr. Rush stated that they would add letter (i) stating that the Town Manager shall have the authority to establish the maximum number of rental golf carts to be permitted annually, and he would follow their direction to limit the number to 50 for the current year.

Clerks Note: A copy Ordinance Amendments 16-04-12/O1 and 16-04-12/O2 as referenced above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes

11. Presentation – Overview of Carteret County Beach Commission & Shore Protection Office

Greg "Rudi" Rudolph, Carteret County Shore Protection Officer, provided an informative presentation to inform the Board and the public about the activities of the Beach Commission and the Shore Protection Office, with special emphasis on services provided for Emerald Isle. The Town Managers' memo to the Board is provided below for additional background information.

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I have scheduled time on the April 12 meeting agenda for the Board and the public to receive a brief presentation from Greg "Rudi" Rudolph, Carteret County Shore Protection Officer. The presentation will be a condensed version of a previous presentation that some Board members received (along with officials from other Bogue Banks towns) in February. The purpose of the presentation is to inform Emerald Isle citizens about the activities of the Carteret County Beach Commission and the Shore Protection Office, with special emphasis on services provided for Emerald Isle.

Commissioner Normile and former Commissioner John Wootten represent Emerald Isle on the 11-member Beach Commission, and the other towns on Bogue Banks have similar representation. The Beach Commission is appointed by the County Commissioners, however, they have historically honored the recommendations of the Bogue Banks towns. Greg "Rudi" Rudolph is a County employee who reports to the County Manager, but provides staff support for the Beach Commission and is generally supervised by and guided by policy decisions made by the Beach Commission.

The Shore Protection Officer has historically assisted the Bogue Banks towns with past beach nourishment projects (Emerald Isle has completed 5 such projects since 2003), and is currently coordinating the development of a 50-year "Master Plan" and permitting authority for future beach nourishment efforts (including periodic realignment of the Bogue Inlet channel) on behalf of the Bogue Banks towns. This process has been ongoing since 2010, and is expected to be complete sometime in 2017. This effort is expected to provide long-term project parameters and permitting authority for future beach nourishment in Emerald Isle, and should essentially enable the Town to nourish the beach when needed, where needed, as needed in the future. The effort is also expected to provide authority for Emerald Isle to periodically realign the main ebb channel in Bogue Inlet as needed in the future. The Shore Protection Officer also coordinates annual beach profile surveys, monitors Federal and State policies that could negatively impact beach nourishment, and assists with other coastal issues.

The Beach Commission and Shore Protection Office are funded solely by a portion (50%) of Carteret County room occupancy taxes, which generates approximately \$3 million annually for beach nourishment activities on Bogue Banks. (It is worth noting that more than 60% of annual room occupancy tax revenues are derived from within the corporate limits of Emerald Isle.) The Town's current financing plan for future beach nourishment efforts relies on the Beach Commission to fund at least 2/3 of future beach nourishment expenses in Emerald Isle, with an average annual expectation of approximately \$1.4 million from the Beach Commission. According to the Town's financing plan, these funds will be supplemented by an average of approximately \$700,000 annually from the Town (reserved in the Future Beach Nourishment Fund), and the combined revenues (an average of approximately \$2.1 million annually) should enable the Town to fund future beach nourishment efforts on a "pay-as-you-go" basis and avoid the issuance of future debt.

Greg "Rudi" Rudolph's presentation is expected to touch on the following:

- statutory authority for the Beach Commission, room occupancy tax revenues,
- composition of the Beach Commission,
- brief recap of past beach nourishment projects in Emerald Isle,
- annual beach profile surveys, and importance for FEMA assistance,
- current condition of the beach in Emerald Isle, and future nourishment triggers,
- overview of the 50-year "Master Plan", and current status of permit process,
- current condition of Bogue Inlet ebb channel, and future management strategy,
- likely sand sources for future nourishment activities in Emerald Isle, and

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- the static line exception and potential future consideration of a “development line” for oceanfront construction in Emerald Isle.

Overall, the Town is very fortunate to have a healthy and stable beach strand, and that condition is the result of much hard work by many individuals over the past 20 years, including those who have served Emerald Isle on the Beach Commission, the Shore Protection Officer, the Town’s elected officials, Town staff, and many engaged citizens. The Town has essentially reached a point where beach nourishment is essentially now a “routine” and expected service, which is exactly where the Town hoped to be when these efforts were first initiated. As a result, the Town has been fortunate in recent years to avoid significant erosion concerns, and is well-positioned to address future beach erosion and inlet management challenges.

I look forward to receiving Greg “Rudi” Rudolph’s presentation at the April 12 meeting, and hope it will be helpful to our citizens who may not be aware of the importance of the Beach Commission and the Shore Protection Office.

Commissioner Normile speaking as a member of the Beach Commission stated that Mr. Rudolph did a lot of work for Bogue Banks and he appreciated all he did for every property owner and every visitor.

The Board and public expressed their appreciation for Mr. Rudolph’s presentation.

12. Resolution Requesting NC 58 Traffic Improvements (16-04-12/R2)

Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board regarding this Agenda item. The following excerpt from the Town Manager’s memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the attached Resolution Requesting NC 58 Traffic Improvements at the April 12 meeting. The attached resolution formally conveys the Town’s request for beneficial traffic improvements along NC 58 to the Carteret County Transportation Committee, the Down East Rural Planning Organization (DERPO), and, ultimately, the NC Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The formal resolution is intended to promote the inclusion of beneficial traffic improvements along NC 58 in Emerald Isle in the updated State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) that is expected to be released in draft form in December 2016. The ultimate goal, then, is for these improvements to ultimately be funded by NCDOT during the next five – ten years, by virtue of their inclusion in the updated STIP.

Recent Background

The Down East Rural Planning Organization, as requested by the Carteret County Transportation Committee, has been working on the NC 58 Corridor Study for the past year+, and this study seeks to identify beneficial traffic improvements along NC 58 from the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection, all along Bogue Banks, to the NC 58 / US 70 intersection in Morehead City. As you know, as part of this effort there has been considerable discussion in recent months about the potential installation of new roundabouts (or mini-roundabouts) at the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle. Based on preliminary analysis, DERPO staff and NCDOT staff believe that roundabouts may be effective in improving traffic flow in Emerald Isle. DERPO staff and NCDOT staff have indicated that additional analysis and design is necessary to fully evaluate the effectiveness of roundabouts at 1 or more of the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle, and have indicated that any final decision to pursue the installation of roundabouts would be made in partnership with the Town. If roundabouts are ultimately not pursued, or are only pursued at certain intersections, I am optimistic that NCDOT will proceed with other beneficial traffic improvements at the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle. Other beneficial traffic improvements might ultimately include traffic signal improvements (i.e., improved signal timing, improved technology, new steel traffic signal poles), additional new and/or longer turn lanes (i.e., a dedicated right turn lane from NC 58 eastbound onto Coast Guard Road, new turn lanes at other intersections), and/or other intersection or roadway improvements (i.e., realignment of curb and gutter, commercial driveways in the “downtown” area, etc.) aimed at improving traffic flow through Emerald Isle. I am also optimistic that any future traffic improvements will also enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities and the aesthetics of the NC 58 corridor through Emerald Isle.

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As noted, the NC 58 Corridor Study is also considering beneficial traffic improvements at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection on the mainland. This intersection is obviously critical to the overall traffic flow into and out of Emerald Isle, and is viewed as an important component of any future traffic improvements aimed at addressing peak traffic flow in Emerald Isle. The construction of an elevated interchange at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection has long been discussed by others, and was recently discussed by the Board of Commissioners at the February 19 workshop meeting. At that meeting, the Board indicated its belief that any future traffic improvements at the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle should also be packaged with a new interchange at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection.

State Transportation Improvement Program Process

In order to ultimately receive significant State funding for transportation improvements, it is necessary to be included in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The STIP is a 5-year / 10-year NCDOT planning document, and this document is the necessary first step in ultimately making a transportation improvement project a reality in the future. In our region, the process for being included in the STIP is as follows:

- identification of potential projects (by NCDOT and/or local entities),
- preliminary "scoring" of potential projects by NCDOT staff,
- assignment of additional regional and division "points" by the Carteret County Transportation Committee and the Down East Rural Planning Organization, based on County and regional priorities,
- inclusion in the draft STIP by NCDOT,
- solicitation of public comments, and
- inclusion in the final STIP by NCDOT (anticipated by May 2017).

The Carteret County Transportation Committee (on which Mayor Barber serves) will review potential County projects at its upcoming April and May meetings, and will develop the County's transportation priorities at that time. The Down East Rural Planning Organization (on which Mayor Barber also serves) will then review the transportation priorities of all counties in our region later this year, and will develop the entire region's priorities. Inclusion on the priority list for each of these groups can only enhance the Town's chances of having any beneficial traffic improvements along NC 58 included in the draft STIP to be released in December. The attached resolution is aimed at Emerald Isle being included on these groups' list of transportation priorities.

Specific Request in the Attached Resolution

If the Board approves the attached resolution, I will forward it to the Carteret County Transportation Committee, Down East Rural Planning Organization, and NCDOT as a formal expression of the Town's request for the following:

1. that NCDOT pursue a package of traffic improvements along the NC 58 corridor in Emerald Isle that includes both improvements at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection and at the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle,
2. that a new elevated interchange be constructed at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection in conjunction with traffic improvements at the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle, and
3. that NCDOT complete additional analysis and design of potential improvements for the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle to enable NCDOT and the Town to jointly determine specific improvements, which may include traffic signal improvements, turn lane improvements, installation of roundabouts or mini-roundabouts, and/or other intersection improvements.

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The Board should note that the attached resolution does not (at this time) commit the Town to the installation of roundabouts at 1 or more of the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle. Rather, it will allow additional analysis and design to continue, and will promote the inclusion of beneficial traffic improvements along NC 58 in Emerald Isle in the updated STIP. This additional analysis and design may ultimately lead to the installation of roundabouts in Emerald Isle, but only after further review and approval by the Board of Commissioners in partnership with NCDOT. As noted above, if roundabouts are ultimately not pursued, or are only pursued at certain intersections, I am optimistic that NCDOT will proceed with other beneficial traffic improvements at the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle.

Summary, and Some Historical Context

In short, I am hopeful that Board adoption of the attached resolution will keep potential traffic improvements along NC 58 in Emerald Isle at the forefront of discussion by local, regional, and State decision makers, and that this effort will ultimately result in State funding for beneficial traffic improvements (regardless of what form they may ultimately take) in Emerald Isle within the next five - ten years. As noted above, it is critical to be included in STIP, and Emerald Isle can point to two historical examples of this impact for context. First, it is believed that an interchange at the NC 58 and NC 24 intersection has historically (and will likely in the future) scored well in NCDOT's scoring system. This project was actually considered by Emerald Isle in 2000, however, the Board of Commissioners expressed opposition to this project at that time, and it has not advanced further over the past 16 years. Second, and more importantly for Emerald Isle, the Town's NC 58 bicycle path project from Black Skimmer Drive to the Indian Beach town line was included in the STIP in the mid / late 2000s. In 2009, when the Federal "economic stimulus package" (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA) was authorized, Emerald Isle was fortunate to receive \$500,000 from NCDOT (Federal funds were passed through to the State) to extend the NC 58 bicycle path from Black Skimmer Drive to Hurst Drive. If the NC 58 bicycle path project had not been included in the STIP, these funds would likely have never been realized by the Town.

Town Manager Rush discussed with the Board the proposed Resolution as outlined in great detail in his memo provided above. Town Manager Rush stated that the Resolution requested future traffic improvements at the Town's 4 signalized intersections, and also at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection. Mr. Rush noted that the Resolution formally requested that the Carteret County Transportation Committee and the Down East Rural Planning Organization include NC 58 traffic improvements in their priorities, and that NCDOT ultimately include these improvements in the updated State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) scheduled to be released in draft form in December 2016; the inclusion of these improvements in the new STIP would provide an opportunity for potential State funding over the next five-ten years. Town Manager Rush stated that if the Town was ever going to effect State funding for future traffic improvements along Highway 58 in Emerald Isle they had to get into the statewide transportation improvement program; if the Town didn't take action and request improvements there would never be State funding for improvements whether it be roundabouts, turn lane improvements, a new interchange at the NC 58/NC 24 intersection, and so forth. Mr. Rush noted that there would be a lot of dialogue between the Town and NCDOT going forward in the process.

Following discussion by the Board ***motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the Resolution Requesting NC 58 Traffic Improvements. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

Clerks Note: A copy of all Resolution 16-04-12/R2 as referenced above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes

13. New Osprey Ridge Storm Water Pump

- a. Resolution Authorizing Design Services Contract with Moffatt & Nichol Engineers (16-04-12/R3)**
- b. Budget Amendment – General Fund**
- c. Capital Project Ordinance**

Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board regarding this Agenda item. The following excerpt from the Town Manager's memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider three items associated with the future construction of a new storm water pump station to serve the Osprey Ridge neighborhood at the April 12 meeting. The Board will consider a resolution authorizing a design services contract with Moffatt & Nichol Engineers, Raleigh, NC, in the amount of \$24,888, and will also consider a General Fund budget amendment and capital project ordinance for the project.

Resolution Authorizing Design Services Contract with Moffatt & Nichol Engineers

The attached resolution formally authorizes a design services contract in the amount of \$24,888 for this project. Of this contract amount, a total of \$4,500 is allocated for detailed surveying expenses to be performed by Bell and Phillips Surveying, Cedar Point, NC.

This project was discussed in detail at the Board's February 19 budget workshop meeting, and the Board identified this project as its top budget priority for FY 16-17. Although the FY 16-17 Recommended Budget will not be finalized until May and the budget will not be adopted until June, I am optimistic that sufficient funds can be identified in the FY 16-17 budget for the construction of the new storm water pump station (estimated cost of \$120,000 +/-). The intent of the attached resolution is to begin design services this spring, and then be in a position to solicit construction bids in August so that construction can begin in September (after the peak summer season), rather than waiting until after the start of FY 16-17 to begin the design process, which would likely delay the construction of the pump station until late 2016 or early 2017. In the unlikely event that construction funding is not included in the FY 16-17 budget, the design work will still have value for the Town when the pump station is ultimately constructed.

As you know, there have been several instances of significant street flooding (12 inches or more deep) on Osprey Ridge Drive near the cul-de-sac and adjacent storm water canal. This problem was observed in 2009 during numerous heavy rainfall events over a 6-week period, and has occurred a few more times since 2009, with 3 recent incidents in late 2015 and early 2016 (also a period of numerous heavy rainfall events). The flooding is primarily a nuisance to residents in this area, however, it has impacted the functionality of the septic system for at least one home directly adjacent to the canal and has entered the ground floor area of the home (in 2009). The Town's Public Works Department now routinely deploys multiple portable pumps to this area during and after heavy rainfall events, and these pumps are relatively effective at resolving flooding problems after the rainfall event has ended. In most cases, the portable pumps can clear the road within a day or two, however, standing water often remains in the canal and ditches for much longer.

This area is part of an overall drainage route that ultimately flows north from the canal to three large ponds between Osprey Ridge and Bogue Sound, and ultimately discharges to Bogue Sound near NC 58. A contributing factor to the flooding problem in this area is the existence of only a small 12" drainage pipe (underneath Daisy Court) leading from the canal to the largest pond north of Osprey Ridge, and during significant rainfall events the volume of water is simply too large for the small pipe, causing backups into the Osprey Ridge Drive cul-de-sac area. Additionally, during prolonged periods with significant rainfall, the water table becomes elevated in this area, and thus reduces storage capacity in the ground. Because of the water table issues, the significant neighborhood disruption that would occur to replace and enlarge the existing 12" drainage pipe under Daisy Court, and because of the success the Town has experienced with other fixed storm water pump stations in the Coast Guard Road area, the construction of a new pump station to serve Osprey Ridge has been identified as the best overall solution for the storm water flooding issues in this area.

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As discussed at the February 19 meeting, we plan to construct the new fixed storm water pump in Emerald Isle Woods Park (directly adjacent to Osprey Ridge and connected hydrologically to the Osprey Ridge canal), and discharge the storm water into the Town's overall storm water system in Emerald Isle Woods Park. The attached aerial photo map indicates the most likely pump station location, and its location relative to Osprey Ridge. As noted, we anticipate some minor excavation to provide a better connection from the existing canal to the planned pump station location. The new pump would be submerged, and would operate automatically by a float system, similar to the Town's existing fixed storm water pumps in other neighborhoods along Coast Guard Road. As we progress further into detailed design, there is some possibility that the new pump station could be located closer to the canal and homes on Daisy Court, however, we are optimistic that the ultimate location will be as depicted on the attached aerial photo map.

If the Board approves the attached resolution, our goal is to present a construction contract recommendation to the Board at the September 13 meeting, and begin construction soon thereafter. I am hopeful that the new pump may be operational by November / December 2016, which is in the middle of the high rainfall season for Emerald Isle. Based on our experience with portable pumps in this area, and our experience with other fixed pump stations in the Coast Guard Road area, I believe the new Osprey Ridge pump will be an effective solution to the storm water flooding concerns in this area.

The Board should note that the attached resolution does not include significant bid process and construction administration services, and there may be some minor additional cost for these services at a later date. Because the projected construction cost is less than \$500,000, the Town intends to use the informal bidding process outlined in the NC General Statutes, and expects to invite only (multiple) local contractors to bid who have completed similar projects (successfully) for the Town in the past. As such, I am hopeful that we can minimize the bid process and construction administration costs without sacrificing construction quality.

Budget Amendment – General Fund

The attached General Fund budget amendment formally appropriates a total of \$25,000 of additional anticipated electricity sales tax revenues for this design contract to the FY 15-16 General Fund budget. These funds would then be transferred to a multi-year capital project (ordinance) account.

Electricity sales tax revenues continue to exceed the Town's original revenue estimate, and we are now on track to bring in nearly \$500,000 for the entire FY 15-16. The FY 15-16 General Fund budget, prior to the April 12 meeting, relies on \$409,514. Budgeted electricity sales tax revenues will increase to \$429,732 if a separate General Fund budget amendment on the April 12 meeting agenda is approved, and will increase to \$455,732 if the Board approves the attached General Fund budget amendment for this design contract.

Capital Project Ordinance

The attached capital project ordinance is procedural in nature, and simply establishes a multi-year project budget for the new Osprey Ridge storm water pump station. The attached capital project ordinance formally appropriates the \$25,000 transfer from the General Fund for the design contract. A future capital project ordinance amendment will appropriate funds for the construction of the new storm water pump station.

Town Manager Rush discussed with the Board the three proposed items for the Board to consider associated with the future construction of a new storm water pump station to serve the Osprey Ridge neighborhood as further outlined in his memo provided above.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wright to approve the Resolution Authorizing Design Services Contract with Moffatt & Nichol Engineers. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve the Budget Amendment – General Fund. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to approve the Capital Project Ordinance. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 16-04-12/R3, Budget Amendment – General Fund, and Capital Project Ordinance s as referenced above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes

14. Resolution Authorizing Tourism Development Authority Funding Request for Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival (16-04-12/R4)

Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board regarding this Agenda item. The following excerpt from the Town Manager's memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the attached resolution formally authorizing a \$35,000 funding request to the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority for the development of a new beach music festival in Emerald Isle. If awarded, the Town would match these funds with \$15,000 generated by the event to provide a total event budget of \$50,000. The Town's goal is to recreate the success of the original Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival held annually in the 1980s and 1990s, and hopefully draw a crowd of 10,000 people or more to Emerald Isle in late September each year.

As discussed in the past, including in the Town's 2014 Economic Development Strategic Plan, there is a desire in the Town to develop activities and amenities that will promote increased visitation to Emerald Isle in the spring, fall, and winter months. Additionally, as noted in the 2014 plan and also during the 2015 Town Commissioner campaign, there is a desire to offer more events on the beach strand itself. After much discussion with the Board, Town staff, members of the local business community, and the Emerald Isle Business Association, Town staff is now in early stages of development for an updated version of the Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival.

The original Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival, produced by Emerald Isle businessmen in the 1980s and 1990s, was hugely successful and routinely drew crowds of up to 15,000 people in Emerald Isle during the spring each year, often introducing new people to Emerald Isle. Town staff have discussed the idea of recreating the festival with the original producers, and they fully support the Town's effort. If all goes as planned, we hope to draw a crowd of 10,000 or more to Emerald Isle for the weekend of September 24, 2016, with future goals to eclipse the attendance of the original Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival and eventually rival attendance at the Town's St. Patrick's Festival (in excess of 25,000) held annually in March.

If the Board concurs, the new Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival would be held at the Western Ocean Regional Access, and would be a free community event. A temporary stage would be erected on the existing beach viewing platform between the volleyball courts and the handicapped ramp, and musical performers would face the ocean. The crowd would view the musical performers from the beach strand (it is likely that a 1 mile segment of the beach strand would be closed to beach driving that day), and the main beach access walkway would remain open for attendees to freely move between the beach strand and the restroom / parking area. Food and other vendors would set up in the parking area. Event parking would be located on the NC 58 right of way, and handled in a similar manner as the annual St. Patrick's Festival. (We are also hopeful that many attendees would walk via the beach strand or bicycle path.) The event would begin at 11 am, and would likely continue until 5 pm or slightly later. A total of 4 – 5 bands, including popular beach music performers from the original festival and popular regional bands would perform for approximately 1 hour each, with DJ services during breaks.

As is the case every day, beer and unfortified wine would be permitted to be consumed on the beach strand that day, and we anticipate that many attendees would bring their own beverages. EIPD and NC ALE officers would be on hand in sufficient numbers to prevent underage consumption and maintain order at the event. No beer or unfortified wine would be permitted to be consumed on the grounds of the Western Ocean Regional Access (above the flat beach strand and dune line), in accordance

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with current regulations. A special family-friendly zone would also likely be established in this area, potentially near the volleyball courts. I have attached an aerial photo map indicating the general setup for the event.

As noted above, we have established a total budget of \$50,000 for the 2016 event. This amount includes:

\$ 35,000	musical entertainment
\$ 3,000	stage rental
\$ 3,000	portable toilet rental
\$ 6,000	electrical improvements or generator
<u>\$ 3,000</u>	advertising and marketing
\$ 50,000	TOTAL.

Total event revenues include:

\$ 35,000	Tourism Development Authority "Event Funding"
\$ 5,000	vendor fees
\$ 5,000	sponsorships
<u>\$ 5,000</u>	t-shirt sales
\$ 50,000	TOTAL.

If the Board approves the attached resolution, we expect to submit the TDA funding request soon after the April 12 meeting. We are hopeful that the TDA will make a funding decision no later than June 1 (ideally sooner), after which we would execute contracts with musical performers and begin advertising the event for September 24, 2016. If TDA funding is not awarded, we will need to reconsider our ability to produce this event in 2016, and will likely focus on a September 2017 date.

If this event gains traction, the Town would then have a series of high attendance events in the spring, fall, and winter each year, including the St. Patrick's Festival (March), Emerald Isle Marathon-Half Marathon-5K races (late March / early April), new Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival (September), and Christmas Parade (November).

If the Board concurs, and the Town is able to produce a new Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival, it will be essential for the EIPD and NC ALE to control underage drinking and maintain order. It will be equally important for Town staff to quickly and effectively clean up during and after the event. It will also be important for the EI Fire Department and EI EMS to be on scene and prepared to respond to any emergencies, including water rescue situations. I am confident that we can achieve these goals with proper planning.

As you know, late September typically offers some of the absolute best weather in Emerald Isle. The air temperature is usually in the 70s and 80s, the water temperature is still warm enough to swim, and the humidity levels are typically more comfortable. There is, however, the ever-present risk of hurricane impacts during this time of year, and we will obviously need good weather to produce a successful event.

Town Manager Rush discussed with the Board the proposed Resolution presented for their consideration to formally request to the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority the amount of \$35,000 for a portion of expenses associated with a planned music festival in Emerald Isle with details outlined in his memo provided above.

Town Manager Rush stated that the new Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival was planned to be held at the Western Ocean Regional Access with a tentative date of Saturday, September 24, 2016 with the intent to have the performers on the dune line on the existing walkway platform facing the ocean with the audience enjoying the music from the beach strand and also having various food trucks and other vendors set up in the parking lot. Mr. Rush stated that they planned this to be an all day event from about

11am and finishing up around 6pm in the afternoon. Mr. Rush said if the funding request was granted they expected to offer 4-5 entertainment acts, several different genres, with the headliners being some of the most popular beach music performers that used to perform at the Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival in the 80s and 90s. Mr. Rush said they hoped to create a nice positive event on the beach strand and fill an empty spot on the schedule bringing folks to Emerald Isle in September at a time they may not otherwise visit. Mr. Rush mentioned that one of the things they had heard was that they needed to have more events on the beach strand.

Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the Resolution Authorizing Tourism Development Authority Funding Request for Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 16-04-12/R4 as referenced above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes

15. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and Town Manager

There were no comments from the Town Clerk or Town Attorney.

Town Manager Rush updated the Board on several items of importance, the first being that the Recommended Budget would be presented at the Board's May meeting on May 10, and they also had a scheduled Budget Workshop Meeting for May 17 and as Commissioner Wright had a conflict with that date it was suggested they reschedule that for Thursday, May 12 at 6pm at the Town Administration Conference Room.

Mr. Rush briefly updated the Board on the legislation regarding municipal service districts and that they would be watching that bill closely. Mr. Rush said that another Deck Inspection Class had been arranged to be held on Friday, May 20; May was Deck Safety Month and they were opening this session to the general public with an online registration platform.

The following is an excerpt from the Town Manager Comments memo to the Board providing additional background information for all items of importance:

FY 16-17 Recommended Budget

Town staff are hard at work on the FY 16-17 budget, and I expect to present the Recommended Budget to the Board at the May 10 regular meeting.

Reschedule Budget Workshop Meeting – Wednesday, May 11 or Thursday, May 12?

The Board is currently scheduled to conduct its first budget workshop meeting on Tuesday, May 17 at 6 pm. Commissioner Wright will be away on that date. Please let me know if your schedule allows us to reschedule this meeting for either Wednesday, May 11 or Thursday, May 12, and also if you'd prefer a day or evening meeting. I expect the meeting will last for approximately 3 hours +/-.

Pre-Positioned Hurricane Debris Contract

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We are currently soliciting bids for this contract for the 2016 hurricane season, and expect to present a contract recommendation to the Board of Commissioners at the May 10 regular meeting.

Financial Audit Contract

The Town has contracted with Williams, Scarborough, Smith & Gray (WSSG) for the annual financial audit since 2011. Town staff will present a 2016 contract with WSSG to the Board for consideration at the May 10 regular meeting.

Proposed Legislation – Municipal Service Districts

As you know, the Town uses a municipal service district (the “Primary Benefit District”; all oceanfront and inlet-front property owners) to generate a portion (~ \$275,000) of the total funds (\$675,000) reserved annually for future beach nourishment in Emerald Isle. A legislative committee is currently working on proposed legislation that could impact municipal service districts, and we are monitoring this issue closely. Thus far, the proposed changes do not appear to present any significant issues for Emerald Isle. Representative Pat McElraft has been very helpful on this issue to date, and I expect that we will continue to have her support.

Off-Premises Non-Conforming Signs

Town staff recently presented a proposed ordinance amendment regarding off-premises non-conforming signs to the Planning Board for consideration. The proposed amendment (copy attached, along with photos of existing signs), would essentially “grandfather” the handful of off-premises, non-conforming signs in Emerald Isle in perpetuity. The draft ordinance would also enable any such signs that were in place prior to January 1, 2006 to be re-installed (would allow Bogue Inlet Pier and Camp Ocean Forest signs to go back up). The intent behind the proposed ordinance amendment is to allow for structural repairs to existing signs so that the aesthetic appearance of the signs will be improved.

The Planning Board did not agree with the concept presented, and instead suggested that the Town should take an opposite approach by establishing an amortization period that would require the signs to be removed by a certain deadline (3 years? 5 years? 10 years?). The Planning Board is expected to discuss this issue again at its April meeting. Please let me know if you have any thoughts on this issue.

Bogue Inlet Navigation Dredging

The US Army Corps of Engineers recently informed the Town that they will be performing navigation maintenance dredging in Bogue Inlet in the coming weeks. They plan to dredge two shoaling areas in the connecting channel, and also dredge the ocean bar. There is currently approximately \$170,000 remaining in the State-local funding account, and this effort will likely require \$60,000 - \$75,000 of these funds.

I am pleased that the Corps will perform this work just before the 2016 season, and I am hopeful that this work will keep the channel in good condition throughout the summer. After this work is complete, there will likely be less than \$100,000 of State-local funding remaining. These funds are expected to be exhausted later in 2016. It will then be necessary to secure a new State-local funding partnership in order to keep Bogue Inlet dredged in the future.

Deck Inspection Class – Friday, May 20

In an effort to expand public awareness of deck safety issues, and because May is “Deck Safety Month”, we have scheduled another deck inspection class for Friday, May 20 from 8:30 am – 12:30 pm.

This is the same class that was offered to area contractors in December 2015, and there were several individuals who were turned away from that class because we ran out of slots. We are planning to offer the May 20 class to both area contractors and the general public, and we will be posting information on the Town’s website and sending out an email newsletter to inform the public about this class within the next couple of weeks. We intentionally scheduled the class for a Friday to make it easier for second home-owners to attend. Online pre-registration will be required.

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Senator Jean Preston Memorial Park

The new walkway linking the park to the boat basin and soundside pier is complete. Playground installation has also begun, and is expected to be complete in the next few weeks. Parking lot construction has also begun, and is also expected to be complete in the next few weeks. Landscaping will be completed later in April and May after all other improvements are completed.

Thus far, everything is falling into place nicely, and we are on track to complete the new park in May. A special grand opening ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, May 25 at 11 am.

New Wayfinding Signs to Be Installed

We have received the 17 new "wayfinding" signs, and Public Works staff will install the new signs in the next few weeks. I have attached graphics of the 17 signs, along with the planned locations. In most cases, the new sign will be installed on the south side of NC 58 and Coast Guard Road. Along NC 58, the signs will be installed between the bicycle path and the highway. Along Coast Guard Road, the signs will be installed on the back side of the bicycle path.

After these signs are installed, we will be reviewing all existing signs along the NC 58 corridor, and may remove any signs that are no longer necessary.

Police and Fire Preparing for Summer

The Police Department recently hired three new reserve officers to provide services on the beach this summer, and continues recruitment efforts for additional seasonal officers. The Fire Department recently hired five new lifeguards, and continues to recruit additional lifeguards. Expanded services on the beach will begin in mid / late May.

Beach Access Walkway Replacements

Work is essentially complete on the Nina Street and Bryan Street walkways. Work will soon re-commence on the 18th Street walkway, which was intentionally delayed while the contractor, B&P Services, focused on the new walkway for the Senator Jean Preston Memorial Park. We expect B&P to complete the 18th Street walkway within the next month.

Regional Beach Access Parking Fees Begin April 16

The \$10 per vehicle, per day parking fee begins on Saturday, April 16, and will be in effect every weekend and holiday until Sunday, September 11. Residents and property owners are eligible for up to two free parking permits, and can obtain permits at the Town Administration Building.

Regional Access Food Vendor Program

Town staff recently met with the 6 food establishments that will participate in this program to establish a fair schedule for this summer. Ben & Jerry's, Dairy Queen, and Sweet Spot are working together to divide up the available slots for the "dessert" vendors. Jackie's American Grille, Emerald Isle Wine Market (not selling wine, but convenience store items), and Flipperz are working together to divide up the available slots for the "meal" vendors. Kathryn's Bistro was originally registered, but is now partnering with Jackie's American Grille. Shark's Den decided not to participate, and it appears that Circle Pizza has also decided not to participate. Food vendors are expected to be on site for the first time on Saturday, May 7.

Beach Trash and Recycling Containers

Public Works has now placed all trash and recycling containers on the beach strand at each public beach access location.

Rescue Tubes

The new "rescue tubes", most of which were generously funded by private donations last fall, should be in place at each public beach access location within the next two weeks. The Town received nearly \$10,000 in donations to fund the new program.

EmeraldFest Concerts Begin Thursday, June 16

The 2016 EmeraldFest schedule is as follows:

- June 16 Pure T Mommicked - *Rock/Alternative*
- June 23 Justin Castellano - *Eclectic*

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- June 30 Now & Then - *Classic Country, Bluegrass, Mix*
- July 7 Outer Banks Philharmonic - *Rock/Alternative*
- July 14 4EverAll - *Pop/Variety/Originals*
- July 21 Searce & Ketner - *Carolina Pirate Rock*
- July 28 Wild Honey - *Blues/Country/Rock*
- August 4 Backseat Romeo - *Acoustic Rock*
- August 11 Big Drink - *Pop/Rock/Variety*
- August 18 Naked Knees - *What a Party Sounds Like*

All concerts will begin at 6:30 pm at the Western Ocean Regional Access. Food vendors are expected to be open during the concerts this year.

Cherry Point Regional Joint Land Use Study Nearing Completion

The attached memo from Josh Edmondson, Town Planner, includes an update on this plan. I have also attached a copy of the draft recommendations. The Board of Commissioners will formally review the plan at a regular meeting later this year.

The "Emerald Isle App" Nearing Completion

We are nearing completion of the "Emerald Isle App", and hope to release it to the public later this month. The new smartphone "app" can be used by our residents and visitors to learn about the Town, request Town services, report problems, identify local businesses, and more. We are very pleased with the graphics and functionality thus far, and hope to unveil the new app no later than May.

NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant Applications Due on May 2

The NCPARTF grant program provides grants up to \$500,000 for eligible parks and recreation projects and improvements, and requires a 50% local match. The Town previously received significant NCPARTF grant funding for the land acquisition for the Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area and the construction of Emerald Isle Woods Park. Please let me know if there are any projects that you would like us to consider submitting an application for on May 2, or in future years. If the Board has interest in an application for this year, it will be necessary to schedule a special Board meeting and public hearing to be held prior to May 2.

Comprehensive Plan / Land Use Plan Steering Committee Meeting – Wed, April 20 – 3 pm

The committee's third meeting will be held on April 20 at 3 pm. The meeting will be held in the Town Board Meeting Room, and the public is welcome to attend.

The Committee is expected to finalize the questions for an online survey at their meeting on April 20. The survey will then be posted at www.emeraldisle-nc.org and www.planei.org, on the Town's Facebook page and Twitter feed, and a special email will be sent to the 6800+ email newsletter subscribers. I am optimistic that we will generate a very high survey participation rate, and I look forward to significant community input.

7405 Archers Creek Court

The new owner of this property has begun work on a comprehensive renovation, and is in making reasonable progress on the project thus far. As such, we do not expect to proceed with demolition. We expect the home to have the appearance of a brand new home when complete in the coming months.

Nies v. Emerald Isle

The next filing by the NC Supreme Court is scheduled for April 15, and we may then learn whether or not the NC Supreme Court will hear the Nies v. Emerald Isle case. As you know, the Town prevailed at both NC Superior Court (summary judgment) and the NC Court of Appeals (unanimous 3-0 ruling).

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As discussed previously, this case has significant consequences for all NC beach communities, as it essentially involves the public's right to use the flat, dry-sand beach between the base of the dunes and the water. The Nies have argued that the public trust beach area does not include the flat, dry-sand beach area, while the Town contends that NCGS 77-20 includes this area in the delineation of the public trust beach area.

"Downtown" Lighting

The new decorative lights have been installed in the "downtown" area, and we have received positive feedback about the new lights. In order to achieve a uniform lighting pattern, we have asked Carteret Craven Electric Cooperative to remove a total of 12 of the standard "barnyard" type lights (attached to existing power poles and higher up) from that area. These lights should be removed in the next few weeks. If the removal of these lights leaves any dark "gaps", we will consider adding a few more of the decorative lights to alleviate any concerns.

Village West / Islander Drive Area

I continue to investigate potential strategies to clean up the Islander Drive area, promote redevelopment, and move toward the realization of the Village West vision in this area. The go-kart track and batting cage properties remain on the market for sale, and I remain hopeful that a buyer will emerge with the resources to achieve the Village West vision.

One small positive note - I am happy to report that the owners of the go-kart track recently had much of the loose debris (old tires, metal, etc.) cleaned up.

Storm Water Relay Pump to Be Installed in Sea Crest (6400 Block)

I have asked Public Works to make the Sea Crest neighborhood (6400 block of Ocean Drive) the first location for a new storm water relay pump, and to attempt to install this new system in the next several weeks. As discussed at the Board's February 19 budget planning workshop, we intend to install a catch basin with a small electric pump and discharge storm water via a 3" or 4" PVC pipe in the nearby dune field. The new PVC pipe will follow the existing beach access walkway easement. I am anxious to gauge the effectiveness of this approach, and I hope it will greatly reduce the frequency and duration of standing water on Ocean Drive in this area.

Cape Emerald Storm Water Pipe Replacement

I am planning to submit a CAMA grant application for the replacement of the existing storm water outfall pipe from Cape Emerald ponds to Bogue Sound in the coming weeks, and will request approval to install a 24 inch pipe. As discussed during the Board's February 19 budget planning workshop meeting, this project is not as high of a priority as other budget items for FY 16-17. It is likely that this work will not occur until FY 17-18, however, I would like to secure the appropriate permit sometime this summer.

Potential Partnership To Provide Staff Assistance for Emerald Isle Business Association

I have not yet done so, but am still planning to organize a meeting with EI Business Association leaders and TDA officials to explore partnership opportunities that would ultimately result in greater promotion of Emerald Isle businesses by the EIBA and the TDA. I am hopeful that the end product will be paid staff assistance for the EIBA that will be able to better promote EI to our visitors and potential visitors, help with existing special events (i.e., St. Patrick's Festival, Christmas Parade, etc.), help with new events (i.e., new "EI Beach Music Festival", etc.), organize special shopping experiences among Emerald Isle businesses (i.e., Christmas shopping deals throughout the entire Town), and better galvanize the brick-and-mortar businesses in Emerald Isle.

Water Tank Maintenance Work Nearly Complete

We are hopeful that all water tank maintenance work will be complete within the next few weeks. Police, Fire, and EMS are anxious to have emergency communications equipment re-installed on the water tank as the tourism season begins, and we are also anxious to remove the temporary tower from the NC 58 right of way.

Fire Chief Bill Walker and I met recently with Bogue Bank Water Corporation, and learned that they do not expect to perform tank maintenance on any of the 3 elevated tanks for at least 10 – 15 years. Thus, we should not have to temporarily remove our communications equipment again anytime soon, thankfully.

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New Flood Insurance Rate Maps – Delayed Until June 30

We recently were notified that the new flood maps have been delayed again, and are now scheduled to be released on June 30. Town Planner Josh Edmondson will make a presentation to the Board and the public at the earliest meeting after the maps are released to highlight the map changes that will impact Emerald Isle property owners. Overall, the new maps are very favorable for Emerald Isle property owners, however, we do expect some property owners to be negatively impacted, and want to offer as much information and assistance as possible to these property owners. There will be an opportunity for formal appeals after the maps are released to the public.

New Sidewalk Stub near Speedway Gas Station

We are still planning to construct a new, short sidewalk stub from the existing sidewalk on the northeast corner of the Coast Guard Road / Emerald Drive intersection to the Speedway driveway, however, it likely won't occur until this fall. Unfortunately, it does not appear feasible to route storm water from that intersection into the NC 58 ditch system as part of this project. We will continue to consider other means to resolve chronic storm water problems in this area. Public Works did, however, recently regrade the NC 58 shoulder on the west side of this intersection in an effort to allow runoff from NC 58 to flow into the grassy area rather than back into the intersection. We have not yet had an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of that approach.

New Police Vehicles

The Police Department's new Dodge 4 x 4 pickup truck and new Dodge Charger are currently being outfitted with communications and electronics equipment, and should be in service very soon. In an effort to minimize expenditures in the FY 16-17 budget, I recently authorized the Police Department to purchase an additional Dodge Charger from projected savings in the current year budget. We hope to have this vehicle in service by June.

Unified Development Ordinance

As noted previously, I hope to begin work on a comprehensive review and simplification of the Town's Unified Development Ordinance in the coming months. The current UDO can be confusing for Town staff, development professionals, real estate professionals, and the public, and my goal is to create a much more user-friendly, understandable document.

Selling a Lot of Emerald Isle Logo T-Shirts!

T-shirts with the new Town logo (including Nice Matters!) are currently on sale at the Town Administration Building. The 100% cotton beefy-Ts are available for \$15 each. Thus far, we have sold approximately 120 shirts.

16. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor

Commissioner Dooley commented about the great race event recently held and expressed her appreciation for the Town's support.

Commissioner Normile added that a lot of money was raised by the race for a good cause.

Mayor Barber agreed that the race was a lot of fun, he had enjoyed walking it this year, and would do it again next year.

17. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC
Town Clerk