

1 recognition of his outstanding service. Joey commented that he had enjoyed working for the
2 Town and it was the greatest blessing in the world to be able to work and make a living at
3 something you enjoy doing. Joey noted when he first started working for the Town that he felt
4 it was like a ball player being paid to play ball, he appreciated the dedication the Town had for
5 their employees, and it was a great place to work.
6

7 Fire Chief Walker recognized Assistant Fire Chief Don Askew for his 30 years of service to the
8 Town. Chief Walker called him his right hand man, and the backbone of the Fire Department.
9 Mayor Barber presented Donnie with a service award plaque and gift card in appreciation of his
10 years of service to the Town. Donnie was thankful for the opportunity and as someone who
11 grew up here all of his life it was truly a great place to work and raise a family. Donnie said the
12 dedicated individuals in the Fire Department worked with him and made the job fun.
13

14 Finance Director Laura Rotchford recognized Tax Collector Gayle Parker for her 20 years of
15 service to the Town. Director Rotchford said that billing and tax collecting could be a
16 challenging job at times. Director Rotchford also noted that Gayle billed and collected about
17 60% of the Town's general fund budget so it was an important job for the Town and they
18 appreciated her hard work. Mayor Barber presented Gayle with a service award plaque and gift
19 card in appreciation of her years of service to the Town.
20

21 Police Chief Tony Reese presented Detective Tyler Biskup with his Criminal Investigations
22 Certificate from the NC Justice Academy. Chief Reese stated that the significance of the
23 certificate was that an officer had to complete 500 hours of additional criminal justice training,
24 the same length as the BLET program, and additional training specifically in investigating
25 different types of crimes.
26

27 Police Chief Tony Reese presented Senior Police Officer Sandra DeLorme with the Advanced
28 Law Enforcement Certificate. Chief Reese spoke of the requirements for receiving this
29 certificate, including over 1,000 hours of additional training. Chief Reese stated when he first
30 came to Emerald Isle 18 years ago, he thought there were two officers with Advanced
31 Certificates and now they were up to 11. Chief Reese was very pleased with Officer DeLorme's
32 achievements and her continued education to be an even bigger asset to our community and
33 more valuable to the citizens of Emerald Isle.
34

35 The Board and public applauded the achievements and service of all of the recognized
36 employees.
37
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1 **7. Proclamations / Public Announcements**

2
3 **a. Proclamation Honoring Transportation Impact (18-07-10/P1)**

4
5 Mayor Barber presented and read aloud a special Proclamation Honoring Transportation
6 Impact recognizing their remarkable success, significant contributions, generous donations,
7 sponsorships, and deep commitment to Emerald Isle’s continued success. Keith Byrd,
8 Transportation Impact commented they were honored to be recognized and thankful to the
9 Town for all they had done for them. Mr. Byrd said they were blessed with employees who
10 they felt were the cream of the crop right here in Carteret County, and it was awesome to live
11 in Emerald Isle. Travis Burt, Transportation Impact agreed.

12
13 Commissioner Messer also thanked Transportation Impact for being a very good friend of the
14 Carteret Community College Foundation.

15
16 The Board and public applauded Transportation Impact for their contributions to Emerald Isle.

17
18 Mayor Barber noted the following Proclamations and announcements for the public:

- 19
20 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Pamlico Joe & Clean Water Flow – Thurs, July 12 – 6:30 pm –**
21 **8 pm – WORA**
- 22 • **Friday Free Flick – Friday, July 13 – 7 pm – Community Center**
- 23 • **Water Safety Splash – Saturday, July 14 – 11 am – Western Ocean Regional Access**
- 24 • **Police Educating the Public (PEP) – Tues, July 17 – 10 am – Town Board Meeting Room**
25 **– Crimes Against Seniors**
- 26 • **Golf Cart Advisory Committee Meeting – Tuesday, July 17 – 5:30 pm – Town Board**
27 **Meeting Room**
- 28 • **Dog Park Development Committee Meeting – Wednesday, July 18 – 3 pm –**
29 **Community Center**
- 30 • **EmeraldFest Concert – The Mad Fiddler – Thurs, July 19 – 6:30 pm - 8 pm – WORA**
- 31 • **American Heart Association Heart Saver CPR Class – Saturday, July 21 – 9 am – 1 pm –**
32 **EMS Station**
- 33 • **Water Safety Splash – Saturday, July 21 – 11 am – Western Ocean Regional Access**
- 34 • **Planning Board Regular Meeting – Monday, July 23 – 6 pm – Town Board Meeting**
35 **Room**
- 36 • **Coffee With A Cop – Thursday, July 26 – 9 am – Rucker Johns**
- 37 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Big Drink – Thurs, July 26 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm – WORA**
- 38 • **Water Safety Splash – Saturday, July 28 – 11 am – Western Ocean Regional Access**
- 39 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Hank Bowman & Friends – Thurs, August 2 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm –**
40 **WORA**

- 1 • **Youth Surfing Competition #3 – Tuesday, August 7 – 4:15 pm – Western Ocean**
- 2 **Regional Access**
- 3 • **Neighborhood Watch Committee Meeting – Tuesday, August 7 – 6 pm – Town Board**
- 4 **Meeting Room**
- 5 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Pure T Mommicked – Thurs, August 9 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm –**
- 6 **WORA**
- 7 • **Friday Free Flick – Friday, August 10 – 7 pm – Community Center**
- 8 • **Do It For Drew Color Run – Saturday, August 11 – 7;30 am – Emerald Club**
- 9 • **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – MONDAY, August 13 – 6 pm – Town Board**
- 10 **Meeting Room**

11 Clerks Note: A copy of Proclamations 18-07-10/P1 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a
12 part of these minutes.

13

14 **8. Public Comment**

15

16 **Brief Summary:**

17

18 The public will have the opportunity to address the Board about any items of concern not on the agenda. The
19 Mayor and Board welcome and appreciate all comments from the public, and will take these comments into
20 consideration as they make decisions on Town issues and provide direction to Town staff. Public comment is a time
21 for the Board to listen to the public's concerns and ideas, and is not intended for a lengthy dialogue or question
22 and answer session.

23

24 The Mayor, Board, and Town staff are happy to meet with any citizen during normal business hours or at any other
25 mutually agreeable time to discuss Town issues and answer any questions.

26

27 Randy Lawrence, 131 Bogue Inlet Drive, commented that Emerald Isle was getting smaller with
28 businesses and homes getting closer and closer, and they had to learn how to respect one
29 another. Mr. Lawrence discussed unnecessary noise, noting the section of the Town ordinance
30 that stated – *(2) the playing of any radio, phonograph, or other musical instrument in a manner*
31 *or in any volume between 11pm and 7am as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of*
32 *any person in any dwelling, hotel, or other type of residence.* Mr. Lawrence explained the
33 personal problems he was having with loud music played all during the day by a neighboring
34 business. Mr. Lawrence requested the Board's help and asked the Board to look at the noise
35 ordinance.

36

37 Joan Pate, 9100 Reed Drive, requested that a sign of some sort be placed at the eastern and
38 western accesses that would alert visitors with dogs that if the asphalt and sand were too hot
39 for their feet it was too hot for their dogs to walk, and to also remind them to take water on the
40 for their dogs. Ms. Pate said she would be willing to speak with the veterinarians in the area to
41 see if they would be willing to contribute. Ms. Pate felt this was important for the animals.

42

1 Elton Matheson, Sound Drive, commented that he was neutral on the dog park and that it was
2 an addition that could be enjoyed year round. Mr. Matheson was concerned about the location
3 though and worried if there was really enough room there. Mr. Matheson said the marine
4 forest had to be respected. Mr. Matheson spoke of the original application submitted by the
5 Town Manager that showed the location for the playgrounds in the middle with the marine
6 forest circling that and felt if they did that they may as well clear cut the whole thing. Mr.
7 Matheson wondered why they even bothered with CAMA, as a lot of time was devoted to it but
8 no one seemed to follow it. Mr. Matheson asked for an explanation of just what CAMA was, as
9 according to their website it was supposed to be the foundation for development, the key for
10 planning the future. Mr. Matheson also found a public input map that showed the preferences
11 for the people who worked on the committee and there were none that were active – such as
12 full service marina, move Publix to Woodpecker Lane, no turning circles, no drilling offshore,
13 clean beach, and felt they either followed the plan or forget it – does CAMA really mean
14 anything.

15

16 Joy Brownlow, 7506 Sound Drive, read aloud a statement regarding the acreage of McLean-
17 Spell Park that urged the Board to make any forthcoming decisions on a scientifically sound
18 basis, being ecologically responsible with the maritime forest tract, explaining the wide array of
19 benefits the maritime forest tract offered to everyone. Ms. Brownlow stated if the proposed
20 dog park was developed that fully preserving the remaining acreage of the maritime forest was
21 the best course of action for current and future generations.

22

23 **9. Consent Agenda**

24

- 25 a. **Order Directing 2018 Tax Levy and Collections**
- 26 b. **Minutes – June 5, 2018 Special Meeting**
- 27 c. **Minutes – June 12, 2018 Regular Meeting**
- 28 d. **Minutes – June 12, 2018 Closed Session**
- 29 e. **Resolution Authorizing New EMS Position (18-07-10/R1)**

30

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

33

34 **Clerks Note:** A copy of Resolution 18-07-10/R1 as noted above and all other Consent Agenda items are incorporated herein
35 by reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

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1 **10. Recommended Dog Park Location – McLean-Spell Park**

2
3 Dog Park Development Committee Chair, Wendy Megyese addressed the Board concerning this
4 Agenda item. The following excerpt from Town Manager Rush’s memo to the Board is
5 provided for additional background:

6
7 The Board of Commissioners will receive a formal recommendation from the Dog Park Development Committee
8 for the location of a proposed new dog park at the July 10 meeting. After thoughtful consideration in recent
9 months, the Dog Park Development Committee recommends an approximately 1-acre site in McLean-Spell Park,
10 and the Board is asked to approve this site so additional project planning can occur and fundraising initiatives can
11 proceed in earnest. Wendy Mgyese, Committee Chair, will formally present the recommendation to the Board,
12 and I will also be available to answer any questions.

13
14 As you know, the Dog Park Development Committee was formed earlier this year, and includes 7 Emerald Isle
15 residents tasked with the development of a new dog park to serve our residents and visitors (and their canine
16 family members). The members of the committee include:

- 17
18 • Wendy Mgyese, Chair,
19
20 • Ginger Garner, Vice Chair,
21
22 • Judy Graham,
23
24 • Joe Russick,
25
26 • Jen Temple,
27
28 • Gus Wilgus, and
29
30 • Denise Zeigler.

31
32 The committee has been meeting monthly since March, and most of the committee’s discussion has involved
33 consideration of potential dog park locations. Because of the significant cost of land in Emerald Isle, and the need
34 for approximately 1 acre or more of land for the new dog park, the committee has focused its efforts on Town-
35 owned parcels only. The committee reviewed and discussed the following 5 Town-owned locations over the past
36 three months:

- 37
38 • Emerald Isle Woods Park (location just north of the main parking area),
39
40 • Senator Jean Preston Memorial Playground (grassy area west and north of play equipment),
41
42 • Corner of NC 58 / Seagull Drive (wooded area west of Town Administration Building),
43
44 • Town Government Complex (area between tennis courts and Police Station), and
45
46 • McLean-Spell Park (area noted on attached aerial photo map).
47

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1 The committee has researched other dog parks and discussed the desired size of a new dog park in Emerald Isle,
2 and has determined that a 1 acre – 1 ½ acre land area, divided into two sections for large dogs and small dogs, is
3 the ideal size for the new Emerald Isle dog park. Due to the limited land area available at the Senator Jean Preston
4 Memorial Playground, the NC 58 / Seagull Drive location, and the Town Government Complex (the available area is
5 approximately ½ acre at each of these locations), the configuration and overall location of Emerald Isle Woods Park
6 (away from other Town facilities and not as centrally located in Emerald Isle), the committee narrowed its focus to
7 McLean-Spell Park. The McLean-Spell Park location offers a central location in Emerald Isle, proximity to the
8 Community Center and the Police Station, nearby parking and restroom facilities, and more flexibility for the
9 design of the new dog park.

10
11 As you know, recorded restrictions for McLean-Spell Park enable the Town to utilize up to 10 acres of the nearly
12 30-acre property for active recreational facilities, including a dog park. If the Town allocates approximately 1 acre
13 of this land for a dog park, the Town would have the ability to utilize up to 9 acres for additional desired active
14 recreational facilities in the future. The recorded restrictions for McLean-Spell Park also require any new facilities
15 to be located at least 50 feet from Archers Creek. The Town’s grant application indicated efforts to locate any new
16 facilities approximately 200 feet from Archers Creek, however, this distance is not a formal requirement.

17
18 The attached aerial photo map indicates the proposed location of the new dog park at McLean-Spell Park. The
19 area depicted is approximately 275 ft. by 150 ft., and is located approximately 200 ft. north of Archers Creek in line
20 with the Community Center, where a new pedestrian bridge over Archers Creek will be constructed in the coming
21 weeks. We envision that a sidewalk, asphalt, and/or paver block or brick path will link the Community Center with
22 the pedestrian bridge and the dog park to enable safe and easy access by the public, and also allow handicapped
23 access. The proposed dog park boundaries are approximately 300 ft. from private properties located on Live Oak
24 Street, approximately 500 ft.+ from private property on Archers Creek Court, and 700 – 800 ft. from private
25 properties on Sound Drive.

26
27 The committee has discussed several design ideas for the new dog park, but has not finalized any specific design
28 features at this time. The committee does envision that the new dog park will be integrated into the natural
29 topography as much as practical, and that most of the larger trees will remain as part of the new dog park. We
30 envision the removal of underbrush and some manipulation of natural topography, however, special emphasis will
31 be placed on the preservation of existing natural features where practical. I would envision a two-step process for
32 the construction of the dog park, with Parks Maintenance staff initially charged with the clearing of underbrush in
33 the dog park location to enable the committee and Town staff to better understand the lay of the land, followed
34 by work by a site contractor to complete any minimal grading and tree removal that may be required. The
35 topography of McLean-Spell Park and the design of the new dog park will insure that no storm water runoff leaves
36 the dog park site and enters the waters of Archers Creek, and park regulations (and likely self-policing by other dog
37 owners) will require that all dog feces be disposed of properly.

38
39 If the Board approves of the McLean-Spell Park location for a new dog park, the committee will continue its work
40 to determine desired design features, determine appropriate dog park regulations, and begin fundraising efforts in
41 earnest. The most significant expenses associated with the construction of the new dog park are likely to be
42 fencing (approximately 900 – 1000 linear feet of fencing will be required), a potable water source, the walkway
43 leading from the Community Center to the dog park, and desired play features within the park. After the
44 committee gets further along in the design process, a detailed budget will be established based on the desired
45 features. For planning purposes, we are currently using a “working estimate” of approximately \$50,000 - \$60,000,
46 with a goal for the Dog Park Development Committee to raise \$25,000 - \$30,000 and the Town to provide an equal
47 match. This “working estimate” will be adjusted accordingly depending on the specific design features
48 recommended by the committee in the coming weeks. The Town’s matching funds are already budgeted for the
49 new dog park, and if the committee’s fundraising efforts are successful, it is conceivable that the new dog park
50 could be constructed this coming spring and open to the public by this time next year.

1
2 The committee has discussed allocating approximately 1 acre for the new dog park initially, with the potential for
3 an additional ½ acre expansion in the future if desired. To put it in perspective for the Board and the public, 1 acre
4 is approximately equal to the land area occupied by 3 – 4 residential homes in the nearby neighborhoods, and
5 represents a relatively large land area. If the Board approves of the McLean-Spell Park location for a new dog
6 park, the Town will have the ability to allocate approximately 9 acres for other active recreational facilities in the
7 future, and I would envision any additional facilities being located generally in the center of the McLean-Spell Park
8 property in order to maintain the maximum buffer from adjacent residential properties. Ideally, any future active
9 recreational facilities would be located approximately 300 feet or more from adjacent residential properties on
10 Live Oak Street, Sound Drive, and Archers Creek Court.

11
12 Wendy Mgyese, Committee Chair, and I look forward to discussing this project with the Board at the July 10
13 meeting.

14
15 Wendy Megyese, Dog Park Development Committee Chair spoke to the Board about the
16 actions of the Committee since March. Ms. Megyese said they had worked diligently to find a
17 location for the dog park and had reviewed five sites owned by the Town and it was their
18 recommendation that an approximately one-acre lot in the McLean-Spell Park be allocated for
19 this purpose. Ms. Megyese said the proposed dog park would be located approximately 200
20 feet north of Archers Creek in line with the Community Center, and was 300 ft – 800 ft from the
21 closest residential properties. Ms. Megyese stated if the Board approved this location, the
22 committee would continue planning their fundraising efforts in earnest with the goal to
23 construct and open the new dog park in the next year. Ms. Megyese said they felt the dog park
24 would be a benefit to residents and visitors as statistically 68% of households owned dogs.

25
26 Mayor Barber asked for public comments.

27
28 Bob Lopes, 2516 Emerald Drive, said he had owned dogs for most of his life but had chosen not
29 to take on that responsibility now, and had no problem with the Town donating the land for the
30 dog park as he felt that was a good thing for pet owners. Mr. Lopes said he didn't believe that
31 the Town or other individuals should be responsible for other people's pets in providing funds
32 or manpower for the dog park. Mr. Lopes said it was his opinion that it was the owners
33 responsibility to provide shelter, food, and activity space for their animal, and not the
34 responsibility of the community and the use of tax monies.

35
36 Wendy Megyese, Committee Chair responded they would be doing a fundraiser, with the
37 current budget to develop the park being between \$50,000 - \$60,000, with the committee
38 being responsible for raising half and the Town matching. Ms. Megyese said while dogs were
39 the responsibility of dog owners, there was currently no place a dog could go off-leash on the
40 island, and what occurred was people taking dogs, especially to the Point, dropping the leash
41 which was a much more dangerous thing because it was harder to contain the dogs and clean
42 up after them, and of course it was illegal. Ms. Megyese said the committee felt it was better
43 to have a contained space for them, and they were looking at developing a way to have it
44 maintained by the people who used it, and there were several ways of doing that financially.

1
2 Town Manager Frank Rush said one of the concerns heard from the community was
3 preservation of trees, and natural area on the site. Mr. Rush referring to the roughly one-acre
4 area identified said the goal of Dog Park Development Committee was to preserve as many
5 large trees as possible, and to preserve as much of the natural topography as possible. Town
6 Manager Rush said he imagined they would use either Parks Maintenance staff or retain a
7 contractor to go in initially and clear the underbrush within that one-acre area so the
8 Committee could get a better feel for the lay of the land and make wiser decisions about any
9 additional clearing or tree removal at that site.

10
11 Commissioner Normile clarified that at this stage they were not talking about spending money
12 to build as they didn't yet know the results of the fundraiser but he hoped it was successful.
13 Commissioner Normile said he didn't have a problem going forth in the planning, allowing the
14 Committee to move forward with their due diligence and planning, but they weren't asking to
15 spend money right now.

16
17 Town Manager Rush said he imagined the Committee would embark on their fundraising
18 efforts once an actual location was approved by the Board, work on the design feature, and
19 bring that back to the Board at a later date when available. Town Manager Rush said there
20 were many factors depending on the features the Committee decided to include in the dog
21 park. Town Manager Rush said the design would be brought back to the Board for their
22 consideration prior to proceeding with construction.

23
24 Commissioner Messer appreciated the comments made, adding that he didn't have a dog
25 either or a bicycle but they made an agreement a long time ago that when people wanted a
26 bike path that if they raised half the money the Town would furnish half the money.
27 Commissioner Messer said golf carts came along and they made the same basic agreement so
28 he didn't see this as being a lot different, it was a need for some people but not for everybody,
29 and they would get into more detail as things went along about the money and this was just
30 very preliminary now.

31
32 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to authorize the development of a new dog park at***
33 ***McLean-Spell Park, in the general location depicted on the attached aerial photo map. The***
34 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

35
36
37 **11. Resolution Amending Personnel Policy to Establish Retiree Benefits (Health Expenses,**
38 **Recreational Benefits) (18-07-10/R2)**

39
40 Town Clerk/Human Resources Specialist Rhonda Ferebee addressed the Board concerning this
41 Agenda item. The following excerpt from Town Manager Rush's memo to the Board is
42 provided for additional background:

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The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the attached resolution formally amending the Town’s Personnel Policy to establish post-employment benefits for retirees who have served the Town of Emerald Isle for 20 years or more. Specifically, the attached resolution establishes:

- a) a monthly payment (generally ranging from \$200 - \$300 per month) to retirees to assist with health expenses in retirement (insurance premiums and direct medical expenses), and
- b) allows long-serving employees to continue to receive recreational benefits from the Town in retirement years (Community Center memberships, beach driving permits, and beach access parking permits).

The provision of these retiree benefits would demonstrate the Town’s appreciation for its longest-serving employees, provide an additional incentive for current Town employees to continue their career with the Town, and aid in recruitment efforts for new employees.

As you know, the Board has discussed the establishment of a retiree health benefit several times in recent years. Many governmental employers offer a retiree health benefit (including Carteret County, Morehead City, Havelock, Atlantic Beach, Swansboro, and Cape Carteret in our area), and many simply allow long-serving retirees to continue to participate in the group health insurance plan provided by the governmental employer. Due to the uncertainty of future health insurance costs, the proposed retiree health benefit included in the attached resolution does not allow long-serving retirees to continue to participate in the Town’s group health insurance plan. Rather, the retiree health benefit included in the attached resolution has been purposely structured to provide meaningful assistance to the retiree but also result in limited and predictable expense for the Town in future years.

Under the proposed retiree health benefit, the monthly health benefit payment would equal \$10 per month per year of full-time service to the Town. Thus, a retiree with 20 years of service would receive a monthly payment of \$200 for health expenses, or \$2,400 per year. Similarly, a retiree with 30 years of service would receive a monthly payment of \$300 for health expenses, or \$3,600 per year, and so on. The Board should note that the monthly payment would be taxable income for the retiree. Retirees receiving the monthly payment must be eligible to retire with the NC Local Government Employees Retirement System, which generally allows full retirement after 30 years of service and reduced retirement at age 50 and after 20 years of service. The Town’s retiree health benefit would cease when the retiree reaches age 65, is eligible for Medicare, receives other employer-sponsored health care, or dies. Thus, we expect eligible retirees to receive this benefit during their 50s and early 60s only, depending on their retirement date.

The FY 18-19 budget adopted by the Board in June includes a total of \$16,000 to fund this benefit for the first year. We anticipate that up to 5 current employees would be eligible for this new benefit in FY 18-19 if all 5 choose to retire during this fiscal year. Over the next 10 years we project that 5 – 10 retirees per year would receive this benefit, with an annual cost ranging from approximately \$16,000 - \$33,000 per year (an average annual cost of approximately \$24,000).

There is no direct additional cost to the Town associated with the continuation of recreational benefits, as these benefits are currently provided to all Town employees. The same 20-year service requirement would apply to recreational benefits, and we project that up to 16 retirees would receive this benefit over the next 10 years. This

1 benefit would not cease until the retiree dies, thus many retirees will continue to enjoy this benefit after reaching
2 age 65.

3
4 The retiree benefits included in the attached resolution would be effective upon adoption, and would apply to all
5 future retirees with at least 20 years of service to the Town.

6
7 Rhonda Ferebee, Town Clerk / HR Specialist, and I look forward to discussing the attached resolution with the
8 Board at the July 10 meeting.

9
10 Town Clerk/Human Resources Specialist Rhonda Ferebee provided the details of the proposed
11 Resolution to amend the Personnel Policy establishing retiree benefits for long-serving, full-
12 time employees with 20 or more years of service to the Town of Emerald Isle. As shown above
13 in the Town Manager's memo the Resolution specifically established the following:

- 14
15 a) a monthly payment (generally ranging from \$200 - \$300 per month) to retirees to assist with health
16 expenses in retirement (insurance premiums and direct medical expenses), and
17
18 b) allows long-serving employees to continue to receive recreational benefits from the Town in
19 retirement years (Community Center memberships, beach driving permits, and beach access parking
20 permits).

21
22 Commissioner Taylor suggested that golf cart permit be added to the recreational benefits for
23 long-serving employees. Town Manager Rush stated that they had structured the recreational
24 benefits such that they matched the active employee recreational benefits but could certainly
25 add that benefit. Commissioner Taylor thought it might be a great benefit as the retiree got
26 older and they lived here on the island.

27
28 Mayor Barber asked for public comments. There were no comments by the public.

29
30 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to amend the Resolution by changing Section 12.***
31 ***Recreational Benefits to include one (1) free golf cart permit. The Board voted unanimously***
32 ***5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

33
34 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to adopt the Resolution Amending Personnel***
35 ***Policy to Establish Retiree Benefits (Health Expenses, Recreational Benefits). The Board voted***
36 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

37
38 **Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 18-07-10/R2 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part**
39 **of these minutes.**
40
41
42
43

1 **12. Resolution Requesting Installation of NCDOT Traffic Cameras on NC 58 (18-07-10/R3)**

2
3 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following
4 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

5
6 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the attached resolution formally requesting that NCDOT
7 install traffic cameras on NC 58 at the July 10 meeting.

8
9 NCDOT currently operates the Travel Information Management System (TIMS, located at
10 <https://tims.ncdot.gov/TIMS/default.aspx>), which provides real-time traffic data for locations all over North
11 Carolina. The TIMS system includes numerous real-time traffic cameras, primarily in the Piedmont and the
12 Wilmington areas, but also along the Outer Banks. Drivers can access these images from any computer or
13 smartphone by visiting this site. There is currently only one traffic camera in our area, and that camera is located
14 at the base of the Morehead City / Atlantic Beach bridge on the mainland. The next closest traffic cameras are
15 located in Wilmington and the Outer Banks. There are currently no cameras in the Jacksonville, Greenville, New
16 Bern, or Kinston areas. I have attached a map from the TIMS website that shows the location of other NCDOT
17 traffic cameras, along with screenshots of a few traffic cameras in eastern NC.

18
19 As you know, NC 58 experiences traffic congestion during peak periods, primarily during the summer season and
20 on busy weekends and holidays. The installation of traffic cameras on NC 58 – in Emerald Isle and/or at the NC 58
21 / NC 24 intersection - with online broadcasting of current traffic conditions would provide a convenient tool for
22 residents and visitors to monitor traffic conditions coming into, leaving from, and within Emerald Isle. The
23 installation of NCDOT traffic cameras would enable better trip planning to avoid traffic congestion, and could
24 potentially result in a more dispersed, steadier flow of traffic on NC 58. If new traffic cameras are installed, the
25 Town would include the appropriate link(s) on the Town's website and on the Emerald Isle APP and would heavily
26 publicize the availability of the traffic cameras.

27
28 Ideally, traffic cameras would be installed at one or more of the following locations:

- 29
- 30 • the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection,
 - 31
 - 32 • the NC 58 bridge (perhaps mounted on the NCDOT electronic message signs),
 - 33
 - 34 • the NC 58 / Coast Guard Road intersection,
 - 35
 - 36 • the NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive intersection, and/or
 - 37
 - 38 • potentially a larger view of the NC 58 corridor available from placement on an existing water tank.
 - 39

40 The new traffic cameras would be financed, installed, and managed by NCDOT as part of the TIMS system, and the
41 Town would provide any helpful support desired.

42
43 The Town has considered the idea of traffic cameras in the past, however, these efforts involved the Town
44 financing, installing, and managing new cameras. The Town lacks the technical expertise and resources for this
45 effort, thus it never came to fruition. With the continued growth in the NCDOT's TIMS system, however, it may
46 now be possible to persuade NCDOT to invest in these helpful improvements.

47
48 If the Board approves the attached resolution, I will forward the Town's official request to NC Board of
49 Transportation Members Thomas Taft, Hugh Overholt, and Gus Tulloss, and NCDOT staff for our region. I am

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1 hopeful that NCDOT can identify funds for this improvement sometime in the next year and potentially have any
2 new camera(s) in operation prior to the 2019 tourism season.

3
4 Town Manager stated that in Emerald Isle they were continually working to try to make
5 incremental improvements to the traffic network to hopefully allow traffic to flow a little
6 better. Town Manager Rush referred to the discussion during their June meeting noting the
7 vast majority of people in Emerald Isle were opposed to widening Highway 58 and widening the
8 bridge, that also being a component of the Land Use Plan adopted in 2017. Town Manager
9 Rush said starting with the basic premise that you are not going to widen the bridge or Highway
10 58 then you were left with incremental traffic improvements. Town Manager Rush said the
11 improvements discussed at the June meeting were aimed at trying to make whatever
12 incremental improvements they could and the item before the Board tonight was presented in
13 that same spirit. Town Manager Rush said the proposal for the Board's consideration tonight
14 would make a formal request to NCDOT to add traffic cameras at one or more locations. Town
15 Manager Rush noted there were several of these traffic cameras around North Carolina,
16 presenting real-time traffic information to the Travel Information Management System (TIMS)
17 managed by NCDOT. Town Manager Rush said the intent was to allow our residents and
18 visitors to check traffic conditions online and to aid them in planning their exit / entrance to
19 Emerald Isle and maybe allowing traffic to flow a little bit smoother.

20
21 Mayor Barber asked for public comments.

22
23 Elton Matheson, Sound Drive, said they had cameras at the 58/24 intersection for years and
24 they finally disappeared. Mr. Matheson said that was what they were intended for and they
25 finally took them down so this sounds like the same thing. Mr. Matheson said they worked fine
26 but the people on the other end never responded to a problem.

27
28 Town Manager Rush said he wasn't familiar with those cameras as during his many
29 conversations with NCDOT they had not mentioned them but he could certainly research
30 further.

31
32 Town Manager Rush responding to a question from Commissioner Finch that ultimately the
33 traffic cameras would be financed, owned and managed by NCDOT, and we would certainly link
34 our residents and visitors with those images, and was something that had been considered for
35 several years. Town Manager Rush said they tried installing Town cameras at various locations
36 on Highway 58 but they didn't have the technical expertise or resources.

37
38 Commissioner Taylor liked the idea of being able to pull up the camera image online to see if
39 the traffic was backed up before heading out and thought it was a great tool.

40

1 A resident from the audience asked if the camera system they were speaking of for providing a
2 tool for people to check out the amount of traffic was also connected to the system at various
3 traffic lights that took pictures of people running red lights.

4
5 Town Manager Rush said this traffic camera was not the red light enforcement cameras you
6 saw in some communities, it simply provided the traffic congestion information. Town
7 Manager Rush pointed out that the images gathered by these cameras could potentially be
8 helpful to the Police Department if there were a perpetrator of a crime leaving the island being
9 identified.

10
11 Police Chief Tony Reese responded to a question from the public that the devices seen on the
12 poles at the intersection were infrared sensors, a system they were trying to use to change the
13 lights quicker if there were no cars.

14
15 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to approve the Resolution Requesting***
16 ***Installation of NCDOT Traffic Cameras on NC 58. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor.***
17 ***Motion carried.***

18
19 **Clerks Note:** A copy of Resolution as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these
20 minutes.

21

22 **13. Revised Financing Plan – Eastern Emerald Isle Beach Nourishment Project**

23

- 24 a. **Resolution Amending Requested Funding from the Carteret County Beach Commission**
25 **(18-07-10/R4)**
26 b. **Capital Project Ordinance Amendment**
27 c. **Budget Amendment – Future Beach Nourishment Fund**

28

29 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following
30 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

31

32 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider 3 formal actions to revise the financing plan for the planned
33 beach nourishment project in eastern Emerald Isle in winter 2018-19. These actions would maintain the previously
34 determined project scope and cost, but adjust the amount of State, County, and Town funding allocated for the
35 planned \$9.2 million project.

36

37 As discussed by the Board several times in recent months, the Town requested a total of \$4.6 million from the new
38 NC Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund (the State) for this project earlier this year. Additionally, in response to
39 a Town request earlier this year, the Carteret County Beach Commission allocated a total of \$3.45 million for this
40 project, and the Board allocated \$1.15 million from the Town's Future Beach Nourishment Fund. As discussed
41 previously, the project would be constructed in partnership with the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, the Town of Indian
42 Beach, and Carteret County (Salter Path), and these other communities collectively requested an additional ~ \$9.5
43 million from the State for this project. Thus, including Emerald Isle's request, a total of ~ \$14.1 million was

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1 requested from the State, which is a significant sum of money that we anticipated would be challenging for the NC
 2 General Assembly to appropriate in the FY 18-19 State budget.

3
 4 The NC General Assembly recently adopted the FY 18-2019 State budget, and (thanks to Representative Pat
 5 McElraft) the State budget includes a total of \$5 million for the planned beach nourishment project. Although this
 6 amount is considerably less than the collective ~ \$14.1 million requested, we are thankful for this appropriation
 7 and greatly appreciate Representative McElraft's assistance. As a result of recent discussions among the three
 8 towns and the County, a revised financing plan has emerged that simply allocates the \$5 million of State funding
 9 proportionally based on the amount of sand to be placed in each community. Emerald Isle would receive
 10 approximately 38% of the sand financed with State funding, and thus would receive approximately 38% of the \$5
 11 million. Thus, Emerald Isle would receive a total of approximately \$1.883 million (instead of the originally
 12 requested \$4.6 million) of State funding for the planned Emerald Isle project this winter. This amount is still
 13 significant, and, combined with an increased contribution from the Carteret County Beach Commission and an
 14 increased contribution from the Town, would enable the project to proceed this winter.

15
 16 The financing model that was approved earlier this year by the Carteret County Beach Commission includes the
 17 use of County funds (derived from room occupancy taxes and specifically reserved for beach nourishment
 18 activities) for up to 75% of non-State project costs. Based on recent discussions, it appears that the Beach
 19 Commission may be willing to provide additional funding for the planned project, consistent with the financing
 20 model approved earlier this year. As a result, the amount provided by the Beach Commission for the Emerald Isle
 21 project would increase by \$2.038 million, from \$3.45 million to \$5.488 million.

22
 23 If the Board concurs, the Town would increase its contribution from the Future Beach Nourishment Fund (derived
 24 from special property tax levies and specifically reserved for beach nourishment activities) for this project from the
 25 previously authorized \$1.15 million to \$1.829 million - an additional \$679,000. As of June 30, 2018, the Future
 26 Beach Nourishment Fund is projected to have a total fund balance of approximately \$2.1 million, and this
 27 adjustment would reduce this fund balance to approximately \$1.4 million. The Town's next planned use of fund
 28 balance in the Future Beach Nourishment Fund is currently scheduled for FY 21-22 for a potential realignment of
 29 the Bogue Inlet channel and beach nourishment in western Emerald Isle, with a projected Town cost of
 30 approximately \$1.25 million. With the use of an additional \$679,000 for the planned eastern Emerald Isle beach
 31 nourishment project this winter, and anticipated additional annual appropriations to the Future Beach
 32 Nourishment Fund over the next 3 years, we project that the total fund balance in the Future Beach Nourishment
 33 Fund will be approaching \$4 million by the beginning of FY 21-22.

34
 35 To summarize, the financing plan for the planned beach nourishment project this winter would be revised as
 36 follows:

37
 38

	<u>Original Financing Plan</u>	<u>Revised Financing Plan</u>
39		
40 NC Coastal Storm		
41 Damage Mitigation Fund	\$ 4,600,000	\$ 1,883,000
42		
43 Carteret County Beach		
44 Commission	\$ 3,450,000	\$ 5,488,000
45		
46 Town of Emerald Isle		

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1	(Future Beach Nourishment	<u>\$ 1,150,000</u>	<u>\$ 1,829,000</u>
2	Fund)		
3			
4	TOTAL	\$ 9,200,000	\$9,200,000
5			

6 If the Board concurs, and assuming favorable construction bids this fall, the project would proceed this winter.
7 Approximately 471,000 cubic yards of sand would be placed in eastern Emerald Isle, generally in the area between
8 the Indian Beach town line and the Eastern Ocean Regional Access / "Dog-Leg" vehicle ramp. The project would
9 involve the placement of approximately 30 cubic yards of sand per linear foot along this ~ 3 mile segment of the
10 beach, and would restore a healthy flat berm to this area (likely adding approximately 50 feet of additional flat
11 beach width in these areas).

12
13 If everything proceeds according to plan, construction would begin in late 2018 and be complete by April 2019. It
14 is anticipated that work would begin in Emerald Isle, then move to Indian Beach and Salter Path, and then to Pine
15 Knoll Shores. The specific bid strategy is still being formulated, but if it is advantageous, it is possible that the Pine
16 Knoll Shores portion of the construction contract may be delayed until winter 2019-2020.

17
18 As discussed previously, the beach in most of Emerald Isle remains in reasonably good shape, however, the flat
19 beach berm is narrower than desired in some locations, particularly in eastern Emerald Isle. As you know, the
20 County conducts annual beach profile surveys on behalf of the Town, and the "Master Plan" has established new
21 nourishment "triggers" intended to provide reasonable protection for the 25-year storm event. Based on the most
22 recent survey data, nearly the entire length of beach in Emerald Isle exceeds the necessary volume of sand in the
23 profile that is necessary to withstand the 25-year storm event. However, due to the fact that it's now been nearly
24 6 years since the last beach nourishment project, the concerns about the flat beach berm width in eastern Emerald
25 Isle, the desire to be as proactive as possible and avoid a future "crisis" condition, the desire to provide as much
26 storm protection as possible, and the allocation of significant State funding, it is prudent to proceed with the
27 proposed eastern Emerald Isle beach nourishment project at this time.

28
29 Resolution Amending Requested Funding from the Carteret County Beach Commission

30 The attached resolution formally conveys the Town's request to increase the amount provided by the Carteret
31 County Beach Commission from the previously allocated \$3.45 million to \$5.488 million, an increase of \$2.038
32 million. Based on recent discussions, there appear to be sufficient funds in the Carteret County Beach
33 Commission's reserve to accommodate this request and also provide additional funding to Pine Knoll Shores and
34 Indian Beach.

35
36 The \$5.488 million included in the amended request represents 75% of the non-State cost of the project.

37
38 I recommend approval of the attached resolution.

39
40 Capital Project Ordinance Amendment

41 As noted above, the estimated cost for the eastern Emerald Isle beach nourishment project would not change, and
42 the attached capital project ordinance amendment includes a total project budget of \$9.2 million. The attached
43 capital project ordinance amendment simply adjusts the amounts provided by the State, County, and Town as
44 described above.

45

1 Importantly, the adoption of the attached capital project ordinance amendment formally conveys the Town's
2 agreement to divide the \$5 million of State funding proportionally among the Town of Emerald Isle, Town of Pine
3 Knoll Shores, Town of Indian Beach, and Carteret County (Salter Path). I expect that the other towns and the
4 County will also formally convey their agreement with this approach in the coming weeks.

5
6 I recommend approval of the attached capital project ordinance.

7
8 Budget Amendment – Future Beach Nourishment Fund

9 The attached budget amendment is procedural in nature, and simply transfers the additional \$679,000 of reserve
10 funds in the Future Beach Nourishment Fund (an annual fund) to the multi-year capital project ordinance for the
11 eastern Emerald Isle beach nourishment project.

12
13 I recommend approval of the attached budget amendment.

14
15 Town Manager Frank Rush summarized in detail for the Board the 3 formal actions for their
16 consideration to revise the financing plan for the planned beach nourishment project in eastern
17 Emerald Isle in winter 2018-19 as outlined above. Town Manager Rush stated that if approved
18 they would solicit bids for construction of the project perhaps in the September timeframe, the
19 goal being to construct the project in this coming winter generally between January 1 and
20 March 31 depending on permit conditions in place for hopper dredgers.

21
22 Mayor Barber asked for public comments.

23
24 Jim Hackett, Ocean Drive, asked when the dunes migrated towards the ocean who owned the
25 dunes. Town Manager Rush responded that it was a complicated answer because in North
26 Carolina typically the oceanfront property owner owned to the mean high water mark, the wet
27 sand/dry sand line. Town Manager Rush stated that in Emerald Isle, because they had
28 nourished the beach previously the actual ownership line was where the old mean high water
29 mark was prior to nourishment, so there was a line on the beach where private property ended
30 and the public State owned property began, and in order to determine that line would require a
31 detailed survey. Town Manager Rush said, generally speaking, the dunes as they migrated
32 further out towards the water were owned by the private property owners. Town Manager
33 Rush added the beach regardless of who owned it from the base of the dune out to the water
34 was public trust area and the public absolutely had the right to use it.

35
36 Joan Pate, Reed Drive, referencing the article in the Carteret County News-Times that reported
37 that the Army Corps of Engineers said no to the beach renourishment project for nearly all of
38 Bogue Banks including Emerald Isle, asked if the Town was okay with that. Town Manager Rush
39 said the headline on that article was a little misleading, but the text was factual, with a couple
40 of different things going on. Town Manager Rush said in January all 3 towns were working with
41 the County Beach Commission on the project described tonight, and at that point in time there

1 was no anticipated involvement from the Army Corps of Engineers, therefore no federal
2 funding, no sand from the dredging from the Morehead City Harbor Project. Town Manager
3 Rush said that in between January and mid-June the Army Corps of Engineers received a
4 significant amount of money for dredging of the Morehead City Harbor shipping channel, with a
5 large volume of sand to be dredged from the shipping channel. Town Manager Rush said to
6 their credit the Carteret County Beach Commission were working to try to secure that sand and
7 put on Atlantic Beach and Pine Knoll Shores at a reduced cost which would have in turn
8 reduced Emerald Isle's cost. Town Manager Rush said in the end the Army Corps of Engineers
9 structures their dredging contracts to include many ports, and it just didn't work out this year
10 which is what the news article reported. Town Manager Rush said it was a great opportunity
11 that materialized that unfortunately disappeared but it didn't change the ongoing project.

12
13 Commissioner Normile commented that the Carteret County Beach Commission was trying to
14 save all of the Towns money, and the Corps was nice to host a delegation from the Commission
15 in Wilmington to talk about it further and he gave hats off to them for at least talking about it.
16 Commissioner Normile said as Frank had stated they weren't able to pull that off but would
17 simply return to the original intent.

18 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve the Resolution Amending Requested***
19 ***Funding from the Carteret County Beach Commission. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in***
20 ***favor. Motion carried.***

21
22 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Dooley to approve the Capital Project Ordinance***
23 ***Amendment – Eastern El Beach Nourishment Project. The Board voted unanimously in favor.***
24 ***Motion carried.***

25
26 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to approve the Budget Amendment – Future***
27 ***Beach Nourishment Fund. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

28
29 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 18-07-10/R4 as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part
30 of these minutes.

31
32 **14. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and Town Manager**

33
34 There were no comments from the Town Clerk or Town Attorney.

35
36 Town Manager Frank Rush reminded everyone that the August meeting would take place on
37 Monday, August 13 at 6pm. Town Manager Rush also mentioned that they had secured a new
38 quote on the McLean-Spell Park pedestrian bridge and that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory
39 Committee had offered to finance the construction of the new pedestrian bridge. Town

1 Manager Rush said once the bridge was constructed they would schedule a formal dedication
2 ceremony.

3
4 Town Manager Rush mentioned that he had scheduled a meeting with the Osprey Ridge HOA to
5 discuss the potential golf cart path on Coast Guard Road. Town Manager Rush said that any
6 project to be constructed there would be presented first to the Board of Commissioners, and
7 would be constructed on public right-of-way.

8
9 Town Manager Rush mentioned his meeting with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative
10 leadership to discuss several issues including the new test banner program. Town Manager
11 Rush said they wanted to be sure the banners would be supported on the new decorative light
12 poles, they would get through hurricane season and meet with them again, and hopefully they
13 would be comfortable moving forward with the banner program.

14
15 Town Manager Rush also updated the Board on the status of the guardrail work on the Highway
16 58 Bridge by NCDOT. Town Manager Rush also noted the copy of the channel survey in their
17 packets of the public boating access area. Town Manager Rush said that he had received some
18 concerns after the Memorial Day weekend from a couple of the vessel operators about shoaling
19 where the channel met Bogue Sound. Town Manager Rush said the Wildlife Resource
20 Commission felt there were still sufficient depths and they didn't feel the need to dredge the
21 area right now but would look again after the season.

22
23 The following is an excerpt from the Town Manager Comments memo to the Board providing
24 additional background information for all items of importance:

25

26 **August Regular Meeting Date – Monday, August 13**

27 The Board's regular meeting in August is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14. Due to a conflict in Mayor Barber's
28 schedule, this meeting has been rescheduled for 6 pm on Monday, August 13.

29

30 **Rezoning – McLean-Spell Park from Residential Multi-Family to Government**

31 The Planning Board and the Board of Commissioners will soon consider the formal rezoning of the McLean-Spell
32 Park property from RMF zoning (allows single-family homes, duplexes, and condominiums) to the Government
33 zoning district. This rezoning is a procedural issue for the sake of consistency only, as the recorded easements and
34 restrictions will govern any future development on the McLean-Spell Park property. This rezoning will likely
35 appear on the Board's August or September meeting agenda.

36

37 **McLean-Spell Park Pedestrian Bridge / Dedication Ceremony**

38 We are still working to finalize the design and cost of the new pedestrian bridge over Archers Creek that will
39 connect the Community Center parking lot with McLean-Spell Park. We expect to finalize the details in the next
40 week or so, and hopefully begin construction later this month.

41

42 The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has agreed to fund the cost of the new pedestrian bridge, and we
43 appreciate their support. Once the new bridge is completed, we will reschedule the formal dedication ceremony
44 for the new park. The ceremony will likely be held in mid / late August or early September.

45

1 **Islander Drive Land Sale / Redevelopment Plans**

2 A-Team Enterprises continues to work on detailed design for the planned mixed-use project on Islander Drive, and
3 the closing on the land sale is still on track for late August.

4
5 **Islander Drive / Western Ocean Regional Access Improvements**

6 I continue to work with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative and adjacent property owners to develop a menu of
7 potential improvements to present to the Board. I hope to present potential improvements to the Board at the
8 September Board meeting. I will likely solicit the assistance of Ark Consulting, Greenville, NC, for engineering
9 issues and artists' renderings for the Board and the public to review.

10
11 **Potential New Golf Cart Path on Coast Guard Road?**

12 The Golf Cart Advisory Committee has expressed interest in constructing a new dedicated golf cart path along the
13 north side of Coast Guard Road between Osprey Ridge Drive and Bell Cove Shopping Center, and has secured
14 verbal permission from the owner of the shopping center to allow golf cart users to travel through the parking lot
15 to access Reed Drive and other points east.

16
17 The construction of a new golf cart path in this area would enable golf cart users from Cape Emerald, Ocean Oaks,
18 Sea Dunes, Deer Horn Dunes, and Osprey Ridge to legally travel from these areas to the rest of Emerald Isle,
19 including Emerald Plantation, CVS, the "downtown" area, etc. The new path would be approximately 550 feet
20 long, and would require significant retaining wall segments due to the topography and existing large trees. The
21 total estimated cost of this segment is approximately \$35,000. The Town's new golf cart infrastructure fund is
22 expected to generate approximately \$18,000 next year, and could be used to provide 50% of the funding necessary
23 to construct the new path. The Golf Cart Advisory Committee is considering various fundraising options to
24 generate the remaining funds necessary for this project.

25
26 Concerns have been received from a few property owners in the Osprey Ridge townhouses, and we will be
27 meeting with those property owners in the coming weeks. There appears to be sufficient public right-of-way along
28 Coast Guard Road, and we do not envision the golf cart path encroaching on Osprey Ridge private property.
29 Special consideration will be given to preserve the existing large trees and berm in the public right-of-way in this
30 area in order to maintain a buffer for nearby residents and the aesthetic value.

31
32 The Golf Cart Advisory Committee's goal is to enable golf carts to cross Coast Guard Road from Bell Cove Shopping
33 Center to Reed Drive to legally travel to points east (and vice versa). Concerns have been raised about the safety
34 of golf carts crossing at this location, however, golf carts have routinely (and legally) crossed at this location for
35 several years. Police Chief Reese and I will be working with the Golf Cart Advisory Committee to identify any
36 helpful safety features if this project proceeds.

37
38 Any recommendation by the Golf Cart Advisory Committee to proceed with construction would likely be formally
39 presented to the Board of Commissioners for consideration later this year or in 2019.

40
41 **Bundled (Gigabyte Level) Broadband Fiber To The Home**

42 Commissioner Normile and I continue to learn more about this issue and consider different strategies, both by the
43 private sector and through any potential public-private partnerships, to promote additional competition in this
44 market in Emerald Isle. I will be meeting with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative in July to explore the potential
45 for broadband partnerships with the electric cooperative.

46
47 I still have much to learn on this issue, but am working toward inviting various industry experts and/or other
48 officials with experience in this issue to address the Board at an upcoming Town meeting.

49
50

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Town Banner Program

Thus far, the 4 new test banners on decorative light poles near the Town Government Complex seem to be holding up well. Assuming that remains the case, and Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative is comfortable with widespread installation of banners on all decorative street light poles, we expect to proceed with the new banner program this fall and winter. Funding will be sought from the Tourism Development Authority, and a banner sponsor program will be implemented for Emerald Isle businesses and individuals to sponsor a banner. We expect to place approximately 50 banners on decorative light poles along NC 58 and Bogue Inlet Drive.

Friday Beach Access Parking Fees

The Town began collecting regional access parking fees on Friday, July 6, and will continue charging for parking on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through September 16. The Town will also charge on Labor Day Monday.

Pickleball Court Plans

The FY 18-19 budget includes a total of \$25,000 for the construction of at least one (perhaps two?) pickleball court(s) at the Town Government Complex. Alesia Sanderson, Parks and Recreation Director, and I will be working to complete this project this winter. The likely location for the new pickleball court(s) is the area between the existing tennis courts and the Police Station parking lot.

Fire Station 1 Expansion / Renovation

I plan to begin more focused efforts on this project this fall, and hope to have the Board finalize the design approach in early 2019 so any budget impacts can be factored into the FY 19-20 budget.

NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive Intersection Improvements

NCDOT continues to refine options for intersection improvements at the NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive intersection, and is currently reviewing traffic signal / turn lane improvements and re-assessing the feasibility of a single-lane roundabout at this location. I expect NCDOT to complete their review and analysis by the end of the summer, and present options to the public and the Board this fall.

NC 58 Landscape Uplighting Near Bridge

Unfortunately, this work has been delayed due to workload and scheduling issues with the underground boring contractor retained by Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative. The contractor will bore a new electric line under NC 58 to allow for landscape uplighting on both sides of NC 58 near the bridge. Once the underground boring work is complete, it should only take a few days to complete the remaining work. I remain hopeful that the new uplighting will be functional by the end of July.

LED Street Light Concerns

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative has been gradually switching high pressure sodium and metal halide lights to new LED lights throughout the Town. The new LED lights are much more energy-efficient and have a white light color, but are also brighter and generating some concerns from nearby property owners. Artie Dunn, Public Works Director, and I will be meeting with Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative officials to explore different methods to modify the LED light fixtures to reduce the impacts on nearby property owners.

Old Circle Pizza Building

Josh Edmondson, Town Planner, continues to work with the owner of this abandoned building near the Ocean Drive "dog-leg" to improve the appearance of this property. The owner has decided to complete exterior renovations of the building, and is currently working with a contractor to finalize plans.

1 **Adopt A Street / Adopt A Beach Program Update**

2 This new program was initiated in May, and we now have 3 participants in the Adopt A Street program and 7
3 participants in the Adopt A Beach program. Signs recognizing the various participants are beginning to be installed
4 in these areas.

5
6 **Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival – Saturday, September 29**

7 Town staff continue planning efforts for the 3rd annual re-boot of the Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival on the
8 beach at the Western Ocean Regional Access. Sponsorship opportunities are now available, and interested
9 businesses should contact Alesia Sanderson, Parks and Recreation Director.

10
11 **Flashing Beacons To Be Added to New Pedestrian Crosswalks**

12 NCDOT has completed pavement markings and sidewalk work associated with the 3 new pedestrian crosswalks on
13 NC 58 (Islander Drive, Town Government Complex, and Ocean Drive “dog-leg”), and will soon be installing new,
14 push-button flashing beacons at each location. NCDOT is currently working to identify a vendor and contractor for
15 the new beacons, and I am hopeful that the new beacons will be installed in the coming weeks.

16
17 **NC 58 Bridge Guardrails**

18 NCDOT awarded a contract for this work in summer 2017, with work on the Atlantic Beach bridge scheduled for
19 fall / winter 2017-18, and work on the Emerald Isle bridge scheduled for fall / winter 2018-19. I am expecting
20 NCDOT’s contractor to begin work on the Emerald Isle NC 58 bridge guardrails (and additional work underneath
21 the bridge) this fall, and I am attempting to receive confirmation of planned start dates. This project should only
22 involve minor traffic disruption, however, the bridge will likely be reduced to one lane for limited periods of time. I
23 will provide more information as the contractor’s plans are finalized.

24
25 **EIFD Still Investigating Motorized Water Rescue Devices**

26 The Fire Department had identified a new motorized water rescue board for potential application in the Town’s
27 Lifeguard Program, however, they have decided not to purchase this device after learning more about the product
28 and speaking with other users. The Fire Department continues to investigate new technology to improve safety
29 and response times to swimmers in distress, and we hope to identify a new device before the 2019 summer
30 season.

31
32 **Lifeguards Offering “Water Safety Splash” Classes Every Saturday at Western Ocean Regional Access – 11 am**

33 The Town’s Lifeguard Program is offering weekly safety classes every Saturday morning at the WORA (under the
34 picnic shelter) for anyone interested. Classes began on June 23 and will continue through July 28. Unfortunately,
35 attendance thus far has been minimal, but we are hopeful that future sessions will result in more attendees.

36
37 **Potential TDA Funding Request for Emerald Isle Fishing Tournament**

38 Depending on the guidance of the new committee, we expect to pursue funding from the Tourism Development
39 Authority for the planned new fishing tournament. A formal resolution will be presented to the Board later this
40 summer or fall after the new committee has refined the overall scope of the new tournament and better identified
41 funding needs.

42
43 **Bogue Inlet Dredging**

44 Fortunately, Bogue Inlet remains in relatively good shape, and I have not learned of any complaints or concerns
45 from the boating and fishing community. The US Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to complete a new
46 condition survey in the coming weeks, and if that survey confirms reasonable navigation conditions, I may ask
47 them to delay any dredging work until later this fall or even next spring in an effort to save State-local funds. I will
48 provide copies of the updated condition survey after the US Army Corps of Engineers completes its work.

1 **New US House Bill Removes Proposed CBRA Zone for Bogue Inlet Area**

2 HR 5787 – Strengthening Coastal Communities Act of 2018 – was introduced in May as the presumed vehicle to
3 implement new Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) maps developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The
4 CBRA mapping study was completed in 2016, and unfortunately included the creation of a new CBRA “system unit”
5 in the Bogue Inlet area.

6
7 The Town expressed concerns that this new CBRA “system unit” designation could make it more difficult /
8 expensive and perhaps impossible for the Town to complete future inlet channel realignment projects and use
9 sand dredged from Bogue Inlet for future beach nourishment projects. Thanks to Congressman Walter Jones, HR
10 5787 specifically removes the proposed Bogue Inlet “system unit” from consideration. This is good news, and we
11 will continue to monitor the status of HR 5787 as it moves through the Federal legislative process. We are hopeful
12 that HR 5787 will ultimately be enacted into law, and/or that Bogue Inlet is never designated as a CBRA “system
13 unit”.

14
15 **Wyndtree Drive Storm Water Improvements**

16 The low, impervious area on Wyndtree Drive, just east of the Coast Guard Road terminus, is the next storm water
17 location to be addressed by Public Works staff. Public Works will install a small relay pump in an existing catch
18 basin, and relay this water to the large storm water pump station at Island Circle, where it will then ultimately be
19 pumped to Emerald Isle Woods Park. With the busy summer season in full swing, this project will not begin until
20 this fall or winter.

21
22 **Sunset Lane Storm Water Improvements**

23 This project is still in a holding pattern due to permitting issues, and Town staff are awaiting further input from the
24 adjacent property owner’s engineer and NC Division of Coastal Management staff before constructing any
25 improvements.

26
27 **New Kayak Launch Device at Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area**

28 We have submitted a CAMA permit modification request for the installation of a new aluminum kayak launching
29 device in the southeast corner of the launch basin at the Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area. The new feature
30 would be similar to the existing kayak launch in Emerald Isle Woods Park. We believe this permit modification will
31 be approved, and we will then work to identify sufficient funds (approximately \$5,000 – \$7,000) for this project. At
32 least one nearby property owner has expressed interest in contributing to this project, and the Town may also be
33 able to secure grant funds. Our goal is to add this feature prior to the 2019 tourism season.

34
35 **Entrance Channel Shoaling at Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area**

36 NC Wildlife Resources Commission staff have surveyed the entrance channel shoaling at the Emerald Isle Public
37 Boating Access Area, and have indicated that it does not yet warrant dredging. NC WRC staff will continue to
38 monitor this area, and may proceed with touch-up dredging in this area in the future if / when necessary.

39
40 **15. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor**

41
42 Commissioner Taylor commented that the Fishing Tournament Executive Committee had a very
43 good meeting earlier and had set the date of September 21, 2019 for the first tournament.
44 Commissioner Taylor said they planned on a fishing tournament that would be kayak, boat, and
45 land surf fishing with four types of fish – Spanish mackerel, King Mackerel, Flounder, and Blue
46 Fish. Commissioner Taylor said he didn’t see anything but a good outcome at this point.

47

1 Commissioner Finch thanked all serving on the Dog Park Development Committee, and the Golf
2 Cart Advisory Committee for their efforts.

3

4 **16. Adjourn**

5

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

8 ***The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.***

9

10 Respectfully submitted:

11

12

13

14 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC

15 Town Clerk