

1 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**
2 **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
3 **TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**
4 **TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**
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7 **1. Call to Order**

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9 The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to order by
10 Mayor Eddie Barber at 6:00 PM in the Town Board Meeting Room.
11

12 **2. Roll Call**

13
14 Present for the meeting: Mayor Eddie Barber, Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer, Commissioners
15 Candace Dooley, Steve Finch, Jim Normile, and Mark Taylor.
16

17 Also, present during the regular meeting: Town Manager Frank Rush, Attorney Richard Stanley,
18 Town Clerk Rhonda Ferebee, Finance Director Laura Rotchford, Police Chief Tony Reese, Fire
19 Chief Bill Walker, and EMS Chief David Jones.
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21 **3. Opening Prayer**

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23 Bernie Whalley, Emerald Isle resident, offered the Opening Prayer.
24

25 **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

26
27 Mayor Barber led the Pledge of Allegiance.
28

29 **5. Adoption of Agenda**

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31 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Agenda. The Board voted***
32 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
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34 **6. Presentation – Ride Proceeds, Bike the Banks**

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36 Ken Stone, Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Chair presented the Town with a check
37 for \$5,452, proceeds from the 4th Annual Bike the Banks event. Mr. Stone spoke of the great
38 turnout with 164 riders traveling 100 miles, 50 miles, or enjoying the 10-mile fun ride. Mr.
39 Stone thanked the volunteers from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Police
40 and Parks and Recreation staff, and the community. Mr. Stone said it was a great 4th year event
41 and he was pleased to present the funds to the Town for future bicycle and pedestrian
42 improvements.
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44 Mayor Barber thanked Mr. Stone and the Committee for their hard work on this great event.

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7. Employee Recognition

- a. Richard Sherin, Police Officer I**
- b. McKayla Edgren, Paramedic**

Police Chief Tony Reese recognized Police Officer Richard Sherin for his achievement of Police Officer I rank in the Police Officer Career Advancement Program. Chief Reese noted that Officer Sherin was a 3-year veteran of the department. Chief Reese stated that Officer Sherin continued his education both in the private and law enforcement sectors recently earning a BS Degree in Criminal Justice from UNC-Pembroke, while simultaneously completing over 250 hours of required training in order to earn the rank of Police Officer I.

EMS Chief David Jones recognized McKayla Edgren on her recent certification as EMT-Paramedic. Chief Jones noted that McKayla started in the EMS field in 2012 as an EMT-Basic, and had lifeguarded for the Town from 2010-2015. Chief Jones noted that McKayla held a BS Degree in Health and Exercise Science from Wake Forest University, and had just recently completed the 36-week fast track Paramedic Academy through Lenoir Community College. Chief Jones noted the 36-week course consisted of 460 hours of didactic instruction along with 500 hours of clinical internships with various hospitals and ambulance providers. Chief Jones added that McKayla also had to pass the NC Office of EMS State Paramedic exam, and an oral board interview with the county’s Medical Director Dr. Mike Lowry.

The Board and public applauded each of the employees achievements.

8. Introduction of Lifeguard Team, Beach Patrol Officers

Fire Chief Bill Walker along with Captain Bruce Norman, and Captain Matthias spoke of the Fire Department’s lifeguard program, and introduced this summer season’s lifeguard staff:

Supervisor	* Rachel Javurek	Jordan Keene	* Kelsey Lyon
Asst Supervisor	Brandon Jones	Jessica Hasteadt	* Hannah Cappellini
	Jensynne East	Mackenzie McClarney	* Christopher Renfrow
	Jeffery Ewing	Hannah Neibel	* Courtney Anderson
	Ben Jackson		* Raeann Neibel

*new in 2018

1 Police Chief Tony Reese introduced the summer team of Beach Patrol Police Officers:

2

Jeff Waters	Joshua Nichols	* Connor Woodling
Amin Lopez	David Hale	* Travis Carroll
Tony Romano	Mike Panzarella	
David Halsey	Jeffrey Edgerton	

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4 The Board and public applauded the Lifeguard Team, and Beach Patrol Police Officers.

5

6 **9. Proclamations / Public Announcements**

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8 Mayor Barber noted the following Proclamations and announcements for the public:

9

- 10 a. **Proclamation – Alzheimer’s Association Longest Day (18-06-12/P1)**
- 11 b. **Proclamation – Hurricane Preparedness Week 2018 (18-06-12/P2)**
- 12 c. **Proclamation – Rip Current Awareness Week (18-06-12/P3)**
- 13
- 14 • **EmeraldFest Concern – 4EverAll & Friends – Thurs, June 14 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm – Western**
 - 15 **Ocean Reg Access**
 - 16 • **American Red Cross Blood Drive – Friday, June 15 – 2 pm – 7 pm – Community Center**
 - 17 • **American Heart Association Heart Saver CPR Class – Saturday, June 16 – 9 am – 1 pm –**
 - 18 **EMS Station**
 - 19 • **Sea Turtle Crawl (Alzheimer’s Longest Day) – Saturday, June 16 – Sunrise to Sunset –**
 - 20 **Beach Strand**
 - 21 • **Summer Day Camp Begins – Monday, June 18 – Community Center**
 - 22 • **Youth Tennis Camp – Monday, June 18 – Friday, June 22 – 9 am – 10:30 am – Blue Heron**
 - 23 **Park**
 - 24 • **Police Educating the Public (PEP) – Tuesday, June 19 – 10 am – Town Board Meeting Room**
 - 25 **– Beach Safety**
 - 26 • **Golf Cart Advisory Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 19 – 5:30 pm – Town Board**
 - 27 **Meeting Room**
 - 28 • **Dog Park Development Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 20 – 3 pm – Community**
 - 29 **Center**
 - 30 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Will & Tony Show – Thurs, June 21 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm – Western**
 - 31 **Ocean Reg Access**
 - 32 • **Planning Board Regular Meeting – Monday, June 25 – 6 pm – Town Board Meeting Room**
 - 33 • **Coffee With A Cop – Thursday, June 28 – 9 am – Hwy 55 Burgers, Shakes, and Fries**
 - 34 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Wild Honey – Thurs, June 28 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm – Western Ocean**
 - 35 **Reg Access**

- 1 • **Independence Day Holiday – Wednesday, July 4 – Town Offices Closed, Community Center**
- 2 **Closed**
- 3 • **July 4 Fireworks – Wednesday, July 4 – 9 pm – Bogue Inlet Pier**
- 4 • **EmeraldFest Concert – Justin Castellano – Thurs, July 5 – 6:30 pm – 8 pm – Western Ocean**
- 5 **Reg Access**
- 6 • **Youth Surfing Competition #2 – Tuesday, July 10 – 4:15 pm – Western Ocean Reg Access**
- 7 • **Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting – Tuesday, July 10 – 6 pm – Town Board**
- 8 **Meeting Room**

9
10 Clerks Note: A copy of Proclamations 18-06-12/P1, P2, and P3 as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and
11 hereby made a part of these minutes.

12 13 **10. Public Comment**

14 15 **Brief Summary:**

16
17 The public will have the opportunity to address the Board about any items of concern not on the agenda. The
18 Mayor and Board welcome and appreciate all comments from the public, and will take these comments into
19 consideration as they make decisions on Town issues and provide direction to Town staff. Public comment is a time
20 for the Board to listen to the public's concerns and ideas, and is not intended for a lengthy dialogue or question
21 and answer session.

22
23 The Mayor, Board, and Town staff are happy to meet with any citizen during normal business hours or at any other
24 mutually agreeable time to discuss Town issues and answer any questions.

25
26 There were no comments from the public.

27 28 **Consent Agenda**

- 29
- 30 a. **Tax Releases**
- 31 b. **Minutes – April 10, 2018 Regular Meeting**
- 32 c. **Minutes – May 8, 2018 Regular Meeting**
- 33 d. **Minutes – May 16, 2018 Special Meeting**
- 34 e. **Budget Amendments – General Fund, Special Drug Fund**
- 35 f. **Capital Project Ordinance Amendment – Bicycle and Pedestrian Fund**
- 36 g. **Capital Project Ordinance – Islander Drive / Western Ocean Regional Access**
- 37 **Improvements**
- 38 h. **Resolution Authorizing Audit Services Contract (18-06-12/R1)**
- 39

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

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43 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 18-06-12/R1 and all consent agenda items as noted above are incorporated herein by
44 reference and hereby made a part of these minutes.

1 **12. Resolution Naming McLean-Spell Park and Imposing Restrictions Regarding Ownership**
2 **and Use (18-06-12/R2)**
3

4 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following
5 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:
6

7 The Board of Commissioners is asked to approve the attached resolution formally naming the (recently acquired)
8 29.7 acre Surfside Realty, Inc. tract as McLean-Spell Park, in honor of two of the original founders of Emerald Isle.
9 The attached resolution also formally restricts the use of this land to park and recreation purposes only, and
10 specifically prohibits any future commercial and/or residential development on the property.
11

12 The Town agreed to these conditions during negotiations to purchase the property in winter / spring 2017, and the
13 attached resolution formalizes this agreement with the previous owners of the property and will be recorded at
14 the Carteret County Register of Deeds after Board approval. The Board should note that the attached resolution
15 reinforces the restrictions placed on the property by the Town's grant funding partners - the US Department of
16 Defense (Department of the Navy; the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program), the NC
17 Clean Water Management Trust Fund, and the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund – that collectively provided
18 \$2.545 million toward the \$3 million purchase price.
19

20 I have attached copies of the following documents that describe the restrictions on the Town's use of the property:
21

- 22 • Special Warranty Deed, recorded on May 14, 2018, that includes the required restrictions of the NC Parks
23 and Recreation Trust Fund (highlighted in yellow). This restriction is similar to the attached resolution,
24 and only requires the property to be used as a public park in perpetuity, and places no additional
25 restrictions on the use of the property. As per these restrictions (and the attached resolution), the Town
26 may use any portion of the property or the entire property for any public park features desired, passive
27 and/or active - in any combination desired.
28
- 29 • Grant of Restrictive Easement, recorded on May 14, 2018, provided to the US Department of the Navy.
30 This "military easement" is more restrictive than the attached resolution and the NC Parks and Recreation
31 Trust Fund restrictions. The "military easement" prohibits the construction of any significant buildings on
32 the property (small storage buildings, restroom facilities, etc. are permitted), and also prohibits the
33 installation of any other features (buildings, antennae, lighting, towers, wire, etc. that are higher than 50
34 feet above ground level. The "military easement" requires approximately 20 acres of the property to be
35 maintained as a natural area, and specifically allows the future development of active recreation facilities
36 on up to 10 acres of the property. The "military easement" also limits the total impervious coverage on
37 the property to 10% of the total land area, or approximately 3 acres (for sidewalks, impervious walkways,
38 buildings, shelters, tennis courts, skate park facilities, etc. that may be constructed in the future). The
39 "military easement" does allow the use of the property for public utilities if desired in the future.
40
- 41 • Declaration of Restrictions and Covenants, recorded on May 14, 2018, provided to the NC Clean Water
42 Management Trust Fund. This "declaration" includes very similar restrictions as the "military easement"
43 regarding the allocation of approximately 20 acres as natural area and up to 10 acres for future active
44 recreation facilities. This "declaration" also requires all features in the new park to be at least 50 feet
45 from the banks of Archers Creek, where practicable.
46

47 As discussed several times in the past year+, the Town pursued the acquisition of this land to prevent the future
48 residential development of the property (since 1977, up to 237 condominium units were permitted by right under
49 the Town's zoning ordinance), to assist MCAS Cherry Point and MCALF Bogue with their goal of preventing

1 additional development in the MCALF Bogue flight path, and to secure strategic and valuable land (adjacent to the
2 Town Government Complex) at minimal cost to the Town's taxpayers for future park and recreation facilities. This
3 land acquisition is primarily an investment in the future of Emerald Isle, and is intended to preserve approximately
4 20 acres of maritime forest for enjoyment by current and future generations, and also make it possible (on up to
5 10 acres) for the leaders of the Town to provide active recreation facilities that may be desired by current and
6 future generations.

7
8 The future development of active recreation facilities (on up to 10 acres) will be determined by the Board of
9 Commissioners, with public input, as plans materialize in the coming months and years. At this time, McLean-Spell
10 Park includes a network of nature trails and incidental signage and amenities only, with two secondary park
11 entrances (no automobile parking) established on Sound Drive and one behind Fire Station 1. A new pedestrian
12 walkway is planned to cross Archers Creek and link the Community Center (and associated automobile parking) to
13 McLean-Spell Park, and this new walkway will become the primary park entrance. We expect to construct the new
14 walkway later this summer, and there are currently no other specific park development plans. The Town's new
15 Dog Park Development Committee has indicated its preference to include a dog park at McLean-Spell Park in the
16 future, but has not yet made a formal recommendation for consideration by the Board of Commissioners. Any
17 future development of active recreation facilities (on up to 10 acres) will be carefully considered, and constructed
18 in an environmentally-friendly manner that integrates with the remaining approximately 20 acres of McLean-Spell
19 Park. Although not required by any of the aforementioned restrictions, I imagine that the Town will also work
20 diligently to provide a significant buffer between any future active recreation facilities and nearby residential
21 properties.

22
23 As you know, the Town worked diligently with our funding partners (also including The Conservation Fund of NC
24 and NC Representative Pat McElraft) to secure the necessary grant funding for this land acquisition, which would
25 not have occurred without the Town's proactive efforts and the support and cooperation of many committed
26 individuals and organizations. I am thankful for the cooperation of the previous land owners (Surfside Realty, Inc.,
27 led by Emerald Isle resident Georgia Ricks) on this land acquisition, and also thankful for the timing. With the
28 increasing demand and price escalation in the local real estate market, it is likely that this property would have
29 been developed in the near future had the Town not acted to acquire the property in early 2017.

30
31 I recommend approval of the attached resolution.

32
33 Town Manager Rush discussed the Resolution for the Board's consideration that formally
34 named the recently acquired Surfside Realty Tract (29.7 acres behind the Town Government
35 Complex) as McLean-Spell Park, in honor of two of the original founders of Emerald Isle. Town
36 Manager Rush also explained the formal restrictions to the use of the land to park and
37 recreation purposes only, as outlined in further detail in his memo.

38
39 Town Manager Rush recognized Paxon Holz, and Georgia Ricks, who were both in attendance,
40 noting his appreciation for their cooperation during the land acquisition process.

41
42 Mayor Barber asked for any comments from the public. There were no comments from the
43 public.

44
45 Commissioner Messer commented good job.

46

1 **Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to adopt the Resolution Naming McLean-Spell Park**
2 **and imposing Restrictions Regarding Ownership and Use. The Board voted unanimously 5-0**
3 **in favor. Motion carried.**

4
5 Commissioner Normile thought this action deserved a round of applause, and the Board and
6 public applauded. Commissioner Normile also noted that the land could have been sold for
7 200+ condominiums and Paxon and Georgia came to the Town to volunteer this and he
8 thanked them for his children, and grandchildren.

9
10 Mayor Barber felt generations in the future would see this as a great opportunity.

11
12 Commissioner Messer said people not born yet would enjoy it for a long time.

13
14 **Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 18-06-12/R2 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part**
15 **of these minutes.**

16
17 **13. Resolution Requesting NC 58 Traffic Improvements (18-06-12/R3)**

18
19 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following
20 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

21
22 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to consider the attached Resolution Requesting NC 58 Traffic
23 Improvements at the June 12 meeting.

24
25 The attached resolution formally communicates the Town's request that beneficial traffic improvements at 5
26 signalized intersections along NC 58 be included in the new 2020-2029 State Transportation Improvement Program
27 (STIP) currently being developed by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). The resolution
28 places the highest priority on the inclusion of a new elevated interchange at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection, and
29 requests that the Carteret County Transportation Committee, the Down East Regional Planning Organization
30 (RPO), and NCDOT Division 2 leaders assign the highest possible "priority points" to projects involving all 5 of these
31 intersections in order to enhance project scores and promote inclusion of all 5 locations in the 2020-2029 STIP.

32
33 **General Background**

34 As we all know, NC 58 via the Cameron Langston Bridge is the primary entrance to and exit from Emerald Isle. The
35 vast majority of Emerald Isle residents and visitors use this route, along with a portion of the other Bogue Banks
36 towns' residents and visitors. NC 58, including the Cameron Langston Bridge, is essentially a 2-lane highway, with
37 1-lane traveling in each direction. For most days of the year, this design effectively moves traffic through Emerald
38 Isle with relatively little delay. As we all know, however, the Town experiences traffic congestion on NC 58 during
39 peak periods, primarily on summer weekends and busy holidays, and the delay can sometimes be significant.

40
41 The obvious bottleneck locations are the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection in mainland Carteret County and the 4
42 signalized intersections on NC 58 in Emerald Isle (Coast Guard Road, Loon Drive / Emerald Plantation, Mangrove
43 Drive / CVS, and Bogue Inlet Drive). The Town has worked with NCDOT over the years to promote smoother traffic
44 flow on NC 58, and I believe various traffic signal timing improvements, turn lane additions and extensions, and
45 side street improvements have improved traffic flow during this time. Anecdotally, the duration and distance of
46 traffic backups appears to be less now than 10 or 15 years ago, but there is still significant traffic congestion in
47 Emerald Isle at certain times.

1
2 Perhaps the most important background information to consider when thinking about traffic congestion is that the
3 majority of Emerald Isle residents and property owners (and likely our visitors also) oppose the widening of the
4 Cameron Langston Bridge and NC 58 to multiple lanes in each direction. Our residents, property owners, and
5 visitors value the Town's "family beach" image and "small-town atmosphere" most, and the Town has always
6 sought to maintain safe and convenient access between the oceanside and soundside areas. Additionally, over the
7 past decade+, the Town has developed extensive bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and these features are
8 arguably the most popular features in Emerald Isle - other than the beach and sound. When one considers this key
9 background information, the reality is that there are only a few options available to improve traffic flow, and any
10 such improvements will be incremental in nature. Thus, the Town's and NCDOT's recent efforts have reflected this
11 reality and have focused on incremental intersection improvements, and will continue to do so, unless the
12 community and the Board supports a significant bridge and highway widening project through Emerald Isle.
13

14
15 Recent Background

16 In 2015, the Down East RPO completed the NC 58 Corridor Study in conjunction with NCDOT, and that study
17 recommended the replacement of the 4 signalized intersections in Emerald Isle with modern roundabouts that
18 would enable traffic to flow continuously rather than typical traffic signal delays. The Town hosted NCDOT and
19 other planning officials to learn more about modern roundabouts in late 2015 and early 2016, and expressed an
20 uncertain, but open-minded approach toward roundabouts.
21

22 In April 2016, during development of the 2018-2027 STIP, the Board approved a resolution requesting intersection
23 improvements at the same 5 intersections, and also noted its priority on improvements to the NC 58 / 24
24 intersection at that time. The April 2016 resolution (copy attached) noted that the Town was open to any effective
25 intersection improvements, potentially including additional traffic signal improvements, additional new or longer
26 turn lanes, installation of roundabouts or mini-roundabouts, or any other improvements that may be effective.
27

28 Ultimately, the 2018-2027 STIP included improvements at 2 of the 5 intersections, and NCDOT is actively working
29 on both of those projects. Although the 2018-2027 STIP did not include the requested NC 58 / NC 24 elevated
30 interchange, it does include additional turn lane and merge lane construction at the NC 58 / NC 24 intersection,
31 and this work is scheduled for construction in 2020 and 2021. This project scored much better than the elevated
32 interchange option, in part because of the relatively lower cost (an elevated interchange is estimated at more than
33 \$40 million). The 2018-2027 STIP also includes improvements to the NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive intersection, and
34 NCDOT is currently evaluating different alternatives for this location. Due to limited highway right of way (100 ft.,
35 whereas the other 4 locations have 200 ft. or more), this location is more challenging than the other 4
36 intersections, and we are uncertain as to whether the ultimate improvements will consist of additional through
37 lanes, additional turn lanes and/or a new traffic signal, or nothing at all. There is also a very slim possibility that a
38 single-lane roundabout will be considered, however this outcome is highly unlikely. The perception of many is that
39 the NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive intersection is perhaps the worst bottleneck, thus I am hopeful that some
40 incremental improvement can ultimately be constructed.
41

42 In 2016, the new Publix grocery store proposed a new traffic signal at the NC 58 / Mallard Drive intersection.
43 There was concern about the impact of a 5th traffic signal on congestion in Emerald Isle, and the NC 58 Corridor
44 Study had recommended modern roundabouts for the other 4 signalized intersections. Ultimately, the
45 roundabout option was constructed in order to 1) avoid the installation of an additional traffic signal, and 2) to
46 serve as a "pilot project" and enable our community to better evaluate the utility of roundabouts at the other 4
47 locations recommended by the NC 58 Corridor Study. The new roundabout opened on March 1, and appears to be
48 functioning well thus far, however, it will likely be advantageous to gain additional experience this summer and fall
49 before making a judgment on the other 4 signalized intersections.
50

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1 Current Planning Process / Consideration of Resolution

2 NCDOT updates the 10-year STIP every two years, and is currently developing the 2020-2029 STIP. NCDOT has
3 completed a review of the current STIP and safety, congestion, and cost data for hundreds of projects all over
4 North Carolina, and has released draft scores. These draft scores are the initial step in the planning process, and
5 represent 70% of the criteria for the inclusion of regional projects (much of eastern NC) and 50% of the criteria for
6 inclusion in division projects (the general area between Greenville, Goldsboro, and the coast in central eastern NC).
7 The assignment of “priority points” by the Down East RPO and NCDOT Division 2 leaders represents the remaining
8 30% and 50% of the project scores, and these “priority points” will be assigned later this summer and fall. The 5
9 intersection improvement projects that we are concerned about have received the following scores:

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11
12

13	Regional	Division
14 <u>Intersection</u>	<u>Score (max 70)</u>	<u>Score (max 50)</u>
15		
16 NC 58 / Loon Drive intersection (Em Plantation)	48.46	37.23
17		
18 NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive intersection	46.93	36.47
19		
20 NC 58 / Coast Guard Road intersection	45.82	35.01
21		
22 NC 58 / Mangrove Drive intersection	42.85	33.23
23		
24 NC 58 / NC 24 elevated interchange	35.34	27.73.
25		
26		

27 Each of the 4 NC 58 signalized intersection projects in Emerald Isle have estimated costs ranging from \$1.4 – \$1.9
28 million. The NC 58 / NC 24 elevated interchange has an estimated cost in excess of \$40 million.

29
30 The scores noted above are very high scores relative to other projects, particularly the 4 locations within Emerald
31 Isle. The Board should note that the 4 intersections in Emerald Isle are the 4 highest scored projects in Carteret
32 County, and are also 4 of the 5 highest scored projects in the entire Down East RPO region. The STIP process and
33 the scoring system is very complex, and the ultimate inclusion of certain projects in the STIP is dependent on the
34 cost of projects all around the State and the relative scores, however, **if the Down East RPO and NCDOT Division 2**
35 **leaders assign “priority points” to these projects, there is a high probability that 3 of the 4 signalized intersections**
36 **in Emerald Isle will be included in the new 2020-2029 STIP, and perhaps all 4.** It is not out of the question, but it is
37 probably unlikely that the NC 58 / NC 24 elevated interchange project will be included.

38
39 The assignment of “priority points” by the Down East RPO and NCDOT Division 2 leaders are critical in order to have
40 these projects included in the new 2020-2029 STIP, and the attached resolution presented for Board consideration
41 is aimed at effectively communicating Emerald Isle’s request so that Down East RPO and NCDOT officials will know
42 that these projects are important to Emerald Isle.

43
44 It is important to note that the attached resolution, nor inclusion in the 2020-2029 STIP commit NCDOT and the
45 Town to a particular type of improvement (i.e., additional turn lanes, roundabout, etc.). After a project is included
46 in the STIP, NCDOT will complete additional analysis and evaluation, with Town involvement, to determine the most
47 effective and locally-desired project for each location. Essentially, if these projects are included in the STIP, NCDOT
48 will embark on a process similar to that currently being used for the NC 58 / Bogue Inlet Drive intersection.

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1 The crucial action now is to promote the inclusion of these 5 intersection improvement projects in the 2020-2029
2 STIP, as if these improvements are not included in the STIP then there will be no State funding allocated for NC 58
3 intersection improvements. Projects must first be included in the STIP in order to receive funding, and, as you may
4 know, these projects often take several years to come to fruition. The Board's consideration of the attached
5 resolution will enhance the likelihood of future beneficial traffic improvements in Emerald Isle. Even with the
6 inclusion of the Emerald Isle projects in the STIP, any improvements are still likely at least 2 – 10 years away from
7 construction.

8
9 Mid-Island Bridge?

10 A frequent suggestion from Emerald Isle residents and visitors is that NCDOT should construct a new, mid-island
11 bridge from Hibbs Road to Indian Beach, Salter Path, or Pine Knoll Shores, and that "that will solve all of our traffic
12 congestion". A new, mid-island bridge would be beneficial to Emerald Isle in many ways, however, I don't believe a
13 new bridge will be constructed in any of our lifetimes. The mid-island bridge project is not even on the list of projects
14 for consideration by NCDOT as part of the 2020-2029 STIP process, will likely cost hundreds of millions of dollars to
15 construct, face significant permitting challenges, and face potential political opposition from Indian Beach, Salter
16 Path, and/or Pine Knoll Shores. The Town can certainly put forth an official request for a new, mid-island bridge, but
17 it would first need to be presented to the Carteret County Transportation Committee for consideration before
18 NCDOT would even begin consideration.

19
20 Some Historical Context

21 In short, I am hopeful that Board adoption of the attached resolution will keep potential traffic improvements
22 along NC 58 in Emerald Isle at the forefront of discussion by local, regional, and State decision makers, and that
23 this effort will ultimately result in State funding for beneficial traffic improvements (regardless of what form they
24 may ultimately take) in Emerald Isle within the next decade.

25
26 As noted above, it is critical to communicate the Town's priorities and be included in the STIP, and Emerald Isle can
27 point to two historical examples of this impact for context. First, an elevated interchange at the NC 58 and NC 24
28 intersection was considered in the early 2000s. At that time, the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners expressed
29 opposition to this project, it was no longer considered, and it has not advanced further over the past 18 years.
30 Second, and more importantly for Emerald Isle, the Town's NC 58 bicycle path project from Black Skimmer Drive to
31 the Indian Beach town line was included in the STIP in the mid / late 2000s. In 2009, when the Federal "economic
32 stimulus package" (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or ARRA) was authorized, Emerald Isle was
33 fortunate to receive \$500,000 from NCDOT (Federal funds were passed through to the State) to extend the NC 58
34 bicycle path from Black Skimmer Drive to Hurst Drive. If the NC 58 bicycle path project had not been included in
35 the STIP, these funds would likely have never been realized by the Town. If future Federal funding becomes
36 available for transportation projects, Emerald Isle could potentially benefit if these improvements are included in
37 the STIP. If these projects are not included in the STIP, it is unlikely that they would benefit from such future
38 Federal actions.

39
40 Do Nothing?

41 Finally, if the community does not believe that traffic congestion is a significant issue and/or does not support these
42 incremental intersection improvements, the Town can certainly do nothing and not pursue any improvements. As
43 noted earlier, in the absence of widening NC 58 and the Cameron Langston Bridge, there do not appear to be any
44 options other than those included in the attached resolution.

45
46 I look forward to discussing this issue with the Board at the June 12 meeting.

47
48 Town Manager Frank Rush outlined in detail the Resolution Requesting NC 58 Traffic
49 Improvements for the Board's consideration as noted in his memo. Town Manager Rush stated

1 the proposed Resolution would formally communicate the Town’s request for traffic
2 improvements at the 4 signalized intersections on NC 58 in Emerald Isle, and also at the NC 58 /
3 NC 24 intersection on the mainland. Town Manager Rush stated that the Transportation Plan
4 was critical for any community that would like to see transportation related improvements in
5 their community going forward, and because it was so critical to receive funding the Board was
6 asked approve the Resolution. Town Manager Rush said part of the planning process, both the
7 Down East RPO, and the NCDOT Division 2 leadership, had the ability to apply priority points to
8 various projects. Town Manager Rush said if the Board communicated specific improvements
9 on NC 58 it would increase the chances that the priority points would be assigned to our
10 projects. Town Manager Rush noted the Resolution asked NCDOT to consider making traffic
11 improvements at 5 intersections – 24/58 on the mainland, specifically an elevated interchange,
12 Coast Guard Road intersection, Loon Drive/Emerald Plantation intersection, Mangrove
13 Drive/CVS intersection, and the Bogue Inlet Drive intersection. Town Manager Rush said the
14 request was for any traffic improvements at the four locations in Emerald Isle that would
15 improve traffic flow. Town Manager Rush said they didn’t know specifically what those
16 improvements would be but they would be determined in the future after more evaluation and
17 analysis by NCDOT. Town Manager Rush noted the Resolution was structured this way as it had
18 been referenced in past planning documents the vast majority of people in Emerald Isle were
19 opposed to any widening of the NC 58 bridge or NC 58 through the middle of town. Town
20 Manager Rush said there was a general belief in the community that any widening would
21 change the family beach / small town atmosphere. Town Manager Rush stated that if they
22 didn’t get these projects included in the State Transportation Improvement Program nothing
23 would happen and this was the critical first step.

24
25 Mayor Barber asked for any public comments. There were no comments from the public.

26
27 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to approve the Resolution Requesting NC 58***
28 ***Traffic Improvements. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor.***

29
30 Clerks Note: A copy of Resolution 18-06-12/R3 as noted above is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part
31 of these minutes.

32
33 **14. FY 18-19 Budget**

- 34
35 a. **Budget Ordinance**
36 b. **Fee Schedule**
37 c. **5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program**
38 d. **FY 18-19 Pay Plan**

39
40 Town Manager Frank Rush addressed the Board concerning this Agenda item. The following
41 excerpt from his memo to the Board is provided for additional background:

42

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1 The Board of Commissioners is scheduled to formally consider the FY 18-19 budget ordinance, fee schedule, 5-year
2 capital replacement / improvement program, and FY 18-19 pay plan at the June 12 meeting.

3 FY 18-19 Budget Ordinance

4 The attached FY 18-19 budget ordinance is identical to the Town Manager's Recommended Budget presented on
5 May 8 and reviewed by the Board at its May 16 and June 5 budget workshop meetings, with a few minor
6 adjustments (discussed with the Board at the May 16 and June 5 meetings) that appropriate an additional \$20,000.
7 As you know, the required public hearing was held on June 5, and the FY 18-19 budget ordinance is presented for
8 formal consideration and adoption at the June 12 meeting.

9
10 The total FY 18-19 Recommended Budget is \$10,689,900, an \$803,733, or 8.1% increase from the adopted FY 17-
11 18 budget. The Board should note that this increase is skewed by an accounting change for EMS service fees
12 (\$215,000), and also by the one-time inclusion of proceeds from the Islander Drive land sale (\$200,000) that will
13 reimburse the Future Beach Nourishment Fund. Without the inclusion of these two revenue sources, the increase
14 would be \$388,733, or 3.9%. The General Fund is the largest component of the Town's budget, with total
15 expenditures of \$10,018,100, which is a \$563,924, or 5.96% increase from the adopted current year budget.
16 Without the accounting change for EMS service fees, the increase would be \$348,924, or 3.7%. The Future Beach
17 Nourishment Fund budget is \$939,500, which includes \$200,000 from the Islander Drive land sale proceeds, and is
18 thus more than recent years. The full amount of \$939,500 would be reserved for future beach nourishment
19 activities. Appropriations are also included for the Half-Marathon Fund (\$72,000), the Beach Music Festival Fund
20 (\$55,300), and the EMS Volunteer Fund (\$5,000).

21
22 In accordance with the Board's top budget priority, the FY 18-19 budget includes no increase in property tax rates,
23 and only a few minor fee adjustments. The General Fund tax rate for FY 18-19 is unchanged at 15.5 cents per \$100
24 of assessed value, with 14 cents allocated for general Town services and 1.5 cents specifically earmarked for beach
25 nourishment. The Primary Benefit District (oceanfront and inlet-front properties only; for beach nourishment)
26 property tax rate would remain at 4 cents, and this rate, along with the \$400,000 transfer from the General Fund,
27 will enable the Town to reserve the historical annual amount for future beach nourishment activities (plus the
28 \$200,000 Islander Drive land reimbursement). There is also no change in the Town's annual solid waste fee, and
29 this fee would remain at \$228 for all developed residential properties, which equates to \$19 per month for all
30 Town solid waste services (trash, recycling, yard debris collection, beach strand collection, and more). The budget
31 does include two relatively minor fee increases: a \$50 annual (or \$4.17 per month) increase in all Community
32 Center membership categories, and the addition of Fridays for regional beach access parking fees. These fee
33 increases will impact approximately 350 of the Town's 7,370 real property taxpayers.

34
35 The FY 18-19 budget includes sufficient resources to enable Town staff to maintain the high service quality
36 expectations of our residents and visitors, and includes funding to compensate Town employees fairly, replace
37 necessary vehicles and capital equipment, meet inflationary and other service demand pressures, and enhance
38 staff capabilities. The budget includes a few notable service enhancements, including:

- 39
40 • funding (total of \$30,000) for additional NC 58 corridor aesthetic enhancements, including the conversion
41 of "downtown" street lighting to LED fixtures, initial funding to replace pine straw with river rock, and
42 additional uplighting near the NC 58 bridge,
43
- 44 • additional lifeguard coverage during the summer season (\$11,907), increasing the Town's daily summer
45 staffing to 6 on the beach strand each day,
46
- 47 • funding for a new financial, tax, and payroll software system to improve efficiency and enhance public
48 access to tax payment information (\$17,000),
49

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- 1 • full-year funding for the new EMS department (total annual budget of \$653,982), and
- 2
- 3 • the establishment of a reserve fund for future golf cart path infrastructure improvements (\$18,000).
- 4

5 The budget also facilitates a few significant capital projects, including:

- 6
- 7 • a major beach nourishment project in eastern Emerald Isle, at a total cost of \$9.2 million – funded by
- 8 State funding, County room occupancy taxes, and Town beach nourishment reserve funds,
- 9
- 10 • significant streetscape improvements along Islander Drive and improvements to the Western Ocean
- 11 Regional Access, at a total cost of \$263,000 – funded by Islander Drive land sale proceeds and a State
- 12 grant, and
- 13
- 14 • and initial park improvements at the new McLean-Spell Park, at a total cost of \$58,000 – funded by the
- 15 remaining installment financing proceeds associated with the land acquisition.
- 16

17 In addition to the items discussed above, some of the other more notable items in the FY 18-19 budget are

18 highlighted below:

- 19
- 20 • a total of \$2,000,000 of sales tax revenue is anticipated in the General Fund, which is an increase of
- 21 \$150,000 over the FY 17-18 adopted budget, which included an intentionally conservative estimate due to
- 22 potential sales tax threats that (thankfully) were not adopted by the NC General Assembly,
- 23
- 24 • for the first time, EMS service fees are included in the General Fund budget, and a total of \$215,000 is
- 25 anticipated in FY 18-19,
- 26
- 27 • a total of \$185,000 of regional access parking fees are anticipated in the General Fund budget, including
- 28 an additional \$30,000 projected as a result of the Town’s plan to now charge for parking on Fridays (in
- 29 addition to Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays),
- 30
- 31 • an additional \$18,000 of Community Center membership fees associated with the planned \$50 increase in
- 32 the annual membership fee across all membership categories,
- 33
- 34 • General Fund balance is projected at nearly \$2.3 million at June 30, 2018, the highest in the Town’s
- 35 history, and there is no reliance on General Fund balance for the FY 18-19 budget,
- 36
- 37 • a total of \$81,420 is included for the first annual debt service payment for the McLean-Spell land
- 38 acquisition and initial park improvements,
- 39
- 40 • with the planned sale of the Islander Drive land, a total of \$200,000 of the total sale proceeds will be
- 41 credited to the Future Beach Nourishment Fund, and this land sale will enable the General Fund transfer
- 42 to the Future Beach Nourishment Fund to be reduced to \$400,000 (the annual historical appropriation
- 43 necessary to meet the Town’s future beach nourishment needs; the equivalent of 1.5 cents on the Town’s
- 44 General Fund tax rate),
- 45
- 46 • a total of \$15,000 is again included for the installation of small storm water solutions to address very
- 47 localized storm water flooding areas in certain locations,
- 48

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- 1 • a total of \$90,000 is included for the replacement of beach access walkways at Randy's Way (Page Place),
2 Channel Drive, and Joel Street,
3
- 4 • a 2.3% cost of living adjustment (equal to the CPI change as of March 2018) is included for all Town
5 employees, at a total additional annual cost of \$97,084, along with an additional \$40,000 for targeted
6 salary adjustments (the equivalent of approximately 1% of the Town's payroll),
7
- 8 • a total of \$16,000 is included for the establishment of a new retiree health insurance program for Town
9 employees with 20 or more years of service to the Town,
10
- 11 • as discussed with the Board at the May 16 and June 5 special meetings, a total of \$25,000 is now included
12 for the construction of one new pickleball court at the Town Government complex,
13
- 14 • funding is included for the replacement of Police and Parks and Recreation vehicles, and also the
15 replacement of asphalt repair equipment (\$156,000),
16
- 17 • a total of \$18,000 is included for July 4 fireworks, with the Town funding 100% of the cost this year, and
18
- 19 • a total of \$15,000 is included for the replacement of the Lee Avenue culvert over Archers Creek.
20

21 Overall, I believe the FY 18-19 budget represents a fiscally responsible spending plan for the next year, that it
22 addresses the Board's expressed priorities, and that it will continue to move the Town forward.
23

24 Fee Schedule

25 The Town's official fee schedule for FY 18-19 is presented in conjunction with the budget ordinance. As noted
26 above, the fee schedule includes only a few minor fee adjustments, and these adjustments are in **bold** in the
27 attached fee schedule. Recommended fee adjustments include:
28

- 29 • a \$50 increase in annual Community Center membership fees for each membership category; individual
30 taxpayer memberships would increase to \$150, family taxpayer memberships would increase to \$200,
31 non-taxpayer memberships would increase to \$350, and non-taxpayer memberships would increase to
32 \$500; these fees have not been increased since 2009 and would impact approximately 350 Emerald Isle
33 taxpayers,
34
- 35 • the implementation of a \$10 per vehicle per day parking fee on Fridays at the Eastern Ocean Regional
36 Access and Western Ocean Regional Access; Emerald Isle residents and property owners would not be
37 impacted by this fee increase because they receive free parking permits, and
38
- 39 • the elimination of the \$100 fee charged by EMS for calls that involve minimal treatment but no transport;
40 the application of this fee has been inconsistent in the past, causing confusion and concern, and does not
41 generate significant annual revenues for the Town.
42

43 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program

44 I have also attached an updated copy of the 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program, and request that
45 the Board formally adopt this plan in conjunction with the budget ordinance and fee schedule. The attached 5-
46 year plan is similar to the plan included in the Recommended Budget and discussed at the Board's budget
47 workshop meetings (with two minor adjustments), and includes all capital expenditures included in the FY 18-19
48 budget ordinance (planned beach nourishment project, Islander Drive / Western Ocean Regional Access
49 improvements, initial McLean-Spell Park improvements, replacement vehicles and equipment, beach walkway
50 replacements, and others noted above).

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1
2 The total investment included in the attached 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program is approximately
3 \$30.8 million, and is funded with a mixture of pay-as-you-go funding, installment financing proceeds, grant funding,
4 and fundraising proceeds. The Board should note that \$24.2 million of this amount is allocated for two significant
5 beach nourishment / inlet management projects in FY 18-19 and FY 21-22. As discussed with the Board in recent
6 months, the planned eastern Emerald Isle beach nourishment project is expected to be constructed this coming
7 winter, and we have also included a “placeholder” in FY 21-22 for the next planned relocation of the main Bogue
8 Inlet ebb channel and associated beach nourishment in western Emerald Isle. The main Bogue Inlet ebb channel is
9 currently located approximately 1,300 feet from The Point vehicle ramp, and the Town intends to relocate the
10 channel once it encroaches within 1,000 feet of The Point. If the migration of the main ebb channel occurs faster or
11 slower than anticipated, the schedule for this \$15 million project will be adjusted accordingly. The total estimated
12 cost of \$15 million is expected to be funded by a combination of State funds (\$10 million; Shallow Draft Channel
13 Dredging and Lake Maintenance Fund), County room occupancy tax funds (\$3.75 million), and Town reserve funds
14 in the Future Beach Nourishment Fund (\$1.25 million).
15

16 The other most significant project included in the 5-year capital plan is the renovation of Fire Station 1 in FY 19-20,
17 at a total estimated cost of \$1.5 million, to be financed by a new installment financing agreement. As discussed
18 during the Board’s review of the budget, the exact scope of this project will be carefully reviewed and finalized during
19 FY 18-19 in order to have the Town in a position to proceed with detailed design and construction in FY 19-20. The
20 5-year capital plan also includes the expansion of Fire Station 2 (\$450,000) in FY 19-20, the replacement of the Fire
21 Department’s ladder truck (\$1 million) in FY 19-20, and the replacement of an EMS ambulance (\$225,000) in FY 19-
22 20. The exact timing and cost of these planned initiatives will likely have a significant impact on the Town’s future
23 General Fund property tax rates, and the Board will need to carefully consider these initiatives over the next few
24 years.
25

26 The 5-year capital plan also includes scheduled vehicle replacements and other minor capital initiatives over the next
27 five years, to be funded primarily with pay-as-you-go funding in the General Fund.
28

29 The two minor adjustments to the 5-year capital plan that was presented on May 8 include the earlier construction
30 of one new pickleball court (\$25,000) in FY 18-19, and the reduction of funding for initial McLean-Spell Park
31 improvements from \$70,000 to \$58,000 based on actual remaining project funds after the completion of the land
32 acquisition in mid-May.
33

34 FY 18-19 Pay Plan

35 The Board is also asked to approve the attached FY 18-19 Pay Plan at the June 12 meeting.
36

37 The attached Pay Plan includes a 2.3% across-the-board adjustment to the pay grades established for all Town
38 positions, in accordance with the Board’s decision to provide a 2.3% cost-of-living adjustment for all Town
39 employees as part of the FY 18-19 budget. The hiring rate, minimum salary, mid-point, and maximum salary for
40 each position is increased by 2.3%, and will insure that the Town’s overall pay plan remains competitive in
41 retaining existing employees and recruiting new employees in the future.
42

43 Additionally, the salary grades for EMT-Basic (grade 6 to grade 8) and EMT-Intermediate (grade 10 to grade 12)
44 positions have been adjusted to more accurately reflect the value of these positions. As you recall, the Town
45 initially integrated the new EMS personnel into the Town pay plan at the same pay grades / rates utilized by
46 Emerald Isle EMS, Inc. We have been incrementally working to increase EMS pay grades / rates since the
47 transition, and this change represents additional progress on this effort. I hope to continue this approach,
48 incrementally, in the future.
49
50

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1 Additional FY 18-19 Budget Information

2 I have again included summary information about the FY 18-19 Budget in your agenda packets. This summary
3 information is consistent with the budget totals included in the attached FY 18-19 budget ordinance and the
4 attached 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Plan.

5
6 The following information is attached:

- 7
- 8 • "Quick Summary" of the FY 18-19 Budget
 - 9 • "All Funds" Summary
 - 10 • General Fund Budget Summary
 - 11 • Net Change in Annual Town of Emerald Isle Tax Bill (for selected property values)
 - 12 • Graph – General Fund Property Tax Rate History
 - 13 • Graph – Primary Benefit District Property Tax Rate History
 - 14 • Town Organization Chart and Summary of Authorized Positions
 - 15 • General Fund 5-Year Forecast
 - 16 • Graph – Adjusted General Fund Balance
 - 17 • Property Tax Rate Breakdown
 - 18 • Itemized Property Tax Receipt
 - 19 • Graphs – Annual Solid Waste Service Fee History and Annual Solid Waste Service Fee Revenues
 - 20 • Graph - Annual Bill – Average Value Property Owner
 - 21 • General Fund Tax Rates for NC Beach Towns (FY 17-18 Actual)
 - 22 • Graph – General Fund Revenues
 - 23 • Graph – General Fund Expenditures by Function
 - 24 • Graph – General Fund Expenditures by Category.
- 25

26 As you know, the detailed FY 18-19 Recommended Budget was distributed under separate cover on May 8, and
27 copies have been made available for public review since that time. The FY 18-19 Recommended Budget has also
28 been posted on the Town's website since early May. A full copy of the FY 18-19 Approved Budget will also be
29 made available in Town buildings and on the Town's website after Board approval.

30
31 I will be happy to answer any questions about the budget ordinance, fee schedule, capital replacement /
32 improvement program, and pay plan at the June 12 meeting.

33
34 Town Manager Rush discussed the four budget items to be considered by the Board as part of
35 the FY 2018-19 Budget. Town Manager Rush said the numbers in the budget ordinance were
36 consistent with the numbers in the Recommended Budget and consistent with all of the
37 conversations to this point. Town Manager Rush noted they did add \$25,000 to the budget
38 ordinance for the construction of a new pickleball court so the budget ordinance increased by a
39 net of \$20,000 as they were able to identify some reductions of \$5,000 in a few line items in
40 other departments. Town Manager Rush stated the FY 18-19 budget was \$10,689,900 for all
41 funds, with the General Fund being the largest in the amount of \$10,018,100. Town Manager
42 Rush noted the general fund property tax rate was unchanged at 15.5 cents, also including the
43 special district property tax rate for the primary benefit district unchanged at 4 cents.

44
45 Town Manager Rush noted the official FY18-19 Fee Schedule included a few changes which
46 included a \$50 increase in all community center membership categories, plans to charge the

1 \$10 per day parking fee on Fridays in addition to Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and they
2 had eliminated a \$100 Treat/No Transport fee for EMS services. Town Manager Rush said the
3 Fee Schedule included all of the other fees charged such as the annual solid waste fee which
4 also remained unchanged at \$228.

5
6 Town Manager Rush noted the 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement Program was
7 consistent with discussions at the Board's workshop meetings with a couple of changes. Town
8 Manager Rush stated one change was the addition of funding for a pickleball court in the FY18-
9 19 budget, and they had reduced the amount available for additional park improvements after
10 accounting for the closing costs, and deed stamps associated with the land purchase to
11 \$58,000.

12
13 Town Manager Rush stated that the FY 18-19 Pay Plan was similar to the current Pay Plan and
14 included a 2.3% adjustment for all of the ranges. Town Manager Rush stated an adjustment
15 had also been made to two of the EMT position classifications, the EMT-Basic and EMT-
16 Intermediate, recognizing when brought on as a new department in March they were too low
17 within our Pay Plan so this was an effort to move those up gradually to higher grades.

18
19 Mayor Barber asked for public comments.

20
21 James Wolfe, 9100 Reed Drive, commented on the salary schedule and the 2.3% increase and
22 thought the cost of living adjustments over the last 17 years was a tribute to the kind of
23 resources this Town had, however, when he looked at other Town Managers in communities
24 that surrounded us he saw a Town Manager in Morehead making \$110,000, a Beaufort Town
25 Manager making \$90,000, and the Emerald Isle Town Manager making \$144,000. Mr. Wolfe
26 said he did some research and North Carolina's average Town Manager made about \$70-76,000
27 depending on the source. Mr. Wolfe felt the Town had done the Town Manager a disservice by
28 promoting his salary as high as it was. Mr. Wolfe explained that it cost the average Emerald Isle
29 resident \$47 per person per 3,800 people, he had looked at the Town of Fayetteville with
30 204,000 people, and they paid .89 cents per person. Mr. Wolfe said that 3 years from now
31 when Frank reached 20 years of service he would make about \$150,000 based on the current
32 cost of living adjustments, and if you looked at the cost of living adjustments over the last 17
33 years it was about 52.1%, and his pay raise had been 160%. Mr. Wolfe said he wasn't saying
34 that was a bad thing as he had done an excellent job and was doing great things but felt they
35 could get a Morehead \$90,000 manager and as asst. manager for \$50,000 and still be paying
36 less. Mr. Wolfe said we were promoting him out of a position and thought that was why he had
37 looked for other jobs in other places. Mr. Wolfe said they needed to seriously consider a cap to
38 the highest paid individual in the room. Mr. Wolfe asked whether that was fair to a man who
39 performed his job well – no, but at some point even the Town Manager had to establish HR
40 responsibility, and at some point it had to stop. Mr. Wolfe said they couldn't continually pay
41 more and more for a Town Manager when they could have two Town Managers, and an Asst.
42 Town Manager for the same price. Mr. Wolfe said they had stated they had a small work force

1 here and that was why they had things that didn't always get accomplished, he thought with a
2 smaller cost evaluation they would have a bigger work force.

3
4 Commissioner Messer said he had been self-employed all of his life until he retired and had
5 worked with a lot of different people and in his work he found that the highest paid man in the
6 long run with what he produced was probably the cheapest man he had. Commissioner Messer
7 disagreed 100% with what Mr. Wolfe said – they didn't want a Morehead City Town Manager, a
8 Beaufort Town Manager to just ask for a 10% tax increase, they wanted the Town Manager
9 they had and he was worth every penny.

10
11 Commissioner Normile thanked Mr. Wolfe for his comments but one of the things he looked at
12 and he knew the whole Board had each year was the salary survey the Town Clerk prepared for
13 them with the salaries of other Town Managers from coastal beach districts and it was a
14 different ballgame. Commissioner Normile said it was a different ballgame for what our Town
15 Manager did here on the island in dealing with the ocean, sand, sound, bridge, inlet, and trying
16 to balance a staff based on 40,000 people magically appearing overnight rather than 4,000
17 people who lived here. Commissioner Normile said it was apples to oranges to compare what
18 any island manager did to Jacksonville, High Point, Asheville or anywhere else. Commissioner
19 Normile noted salaries from their beach manager survey – Kill Devil Hills \$136,336, Southern
20 Shores \$155,464, Ocean Isle Beach \$131,250, Emerald Isle \$140,031, Carolina Beach \$121,266,
21 Holden Beach \$136,500, and so on. Commissioner Normile said while he appreciated the
22 comments you were dealing with an apple and an orange – he was very proud that Frank was
23 here and he didn't want to lose him.

24
25 Mayor Barber stated that as Commissioner Normile said they conducted a survey of other
26 beach communities and Emerald Isle fell right in line with his years of experience, and he
27 thought Mr. Wolfe was incorrect with the salary of Morehead City after their recent hire they
28 were paying more than \$95,000. Mayor Barber said he was extremely satisfied with our Town
29 Manager and thought he was doing an outstanding job, and worth every penny.

30
31 Commissioner Finch added that if they had to pay Town Manager Rush by the hour they
32 probably couldn't afford him because he put in so many endless hours that most people
33 weren't even remotely aware of. Commissioner Finch said it was not a 9-5 job; his job was 7
34 days a week, 15 – 20 hours a day. Commissioner Finch said he was very appreciative of
35 everything he did every day and had done for 17+ years.

36
37 Commissioner Dooley thought you wouldn't find anyone else in any of those towns who would
38 be responsive on a Sunday afternoon when they should be sitting with their family and not
39 responding to kind, and unkind people in this community who would say things like that – we
40 support Frank 100%.

41

1 Commissioner Taylor said as the newest member of the Board he was amazed at the amount of
2 work Frank did, and you wouldn't believe the amount of work, the hours he put in to the job,
3 and agreed with Commissioner Finch that if we were paying him by the hour we couldn't afford
4 him. Commissioner Taylor said the Town was getting a great deal – the money Frank brought in
5 with the grants, knowing the right angles to push it, and all the things he did for the town –
6 bottom-line he was like an artist. Commissioner Taylor said he was happy to see all the work
7 Frank had done for the Town.

8
9 Anne Schrott, Emerald Isle resident, said she was a homeowner now and had been coming to
10 Emerald Isle for 30 years. Ms. Schrott said she had a lot of experiences with the Town and
11 thought they were an amazingly conscientious group of people and they in fact paid for value,
12 had always paid for value, and scrutinized that. Ms. Schrott said she personally found it very
13 insulting that the Town Manager's salary would become a public concern that the Board had
14 already obviously granted, and paid for value. Ms. Schrott said she had been in sales all of her
15 life and it was the top sales person you were going to pay. Ms. Schrott thought Town Manager
16 Rush and many other Town Managers did an amazing job. Ms. Schrott thought Town Manager
17 Rush was underpaid for what he had brought to into the Town. Ms. Schrott said she would
18 hate to see our Town Manager walk away, or what would happen if they got two town
19 managers, or a \$50,000 manager – they were not commodities, they were people.

20
21 Tom Rule, 103 Howe Street, shared kudos to Frank when he thought about the budgetary
22 situation they had on this island and the many years Frank had worked the budget with success.
23 Mr. Rule said working for a multi-national organization as he had over the years one of the
24 hardest time you had was how you kept the budget level and kept it the same level as you had
25 for many years, and Frank had put his time and effort in to serving the residents here. Mr. Rule
26 said he thought of the amount of money Frank had saved the residents with the tax structure
27 and budgeting. Mr. Rule said again kudos to you Frank, and thank you very much.

28
29 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to adopt the FY 18-19 Budget Ordinance. The***
30 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

31
32 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Dooley to adopt the FY 18-19 Fee Schedule. The Board***
33 ***voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

34
35 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the 5-Year Capital Replacement /***
36 ***Improvement Program. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

37
38 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to adopt the FY 18-19 Pay Plan. The Board voted***
39 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

40
41 Mayor Barber thanked Frank and Laura for their hard work on the budget, and for an
42 outstanding job. Mayor Barber appreciated the many hours and weeks spent on the budget.

1
2 Clerks Note: A copy of FY 18-19 Budget Ordinance, FY 18-19 Fee Schedule, 5-Year Capital Replacement / Improvement
3 Program, and Fy 18-19 Pay Plan as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these
4 minutes.

5
6 **15. Appointments**

- 7
8 a. Fishing Tournament Executive Committee
9 b. Fishing Tournament General Committee

10
11 **Brief Summary:**

12 The Board will appoint 7 individuals to serve on the "Executive Committee" for the new Emerald Isle Fishing
13 Tournament that is tentatively scheduled for August / September 2019. Commissioner Mark Taylor would serve as
14 the Chairman of the committee, which would be charged with overall coordination and oversight responsibilities
15 for the new tournament. The new tournament will hopefully become another quality event in Emerald Isle, attract
16 additional visitors in the shoulder season, and raise money for future Bogue Inlet dredging costs and scholarships.

17
18 The Board will also consider appointing the other 16 individuals who expressed interest in working on the new
19 fishing tournament to the "General Committee", which is expected to supplement the efforts of the Executive
20 Committee in performing essential tasks associated with the fishing tournament.

21
22 The first meeting of the Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, June 14 at 4 pm.

23
24 Commissioner Taylor said he was happy with the response by 23 individuals interested in
25 volunteering for the fishing tournament in 2019. Commissioner Taylor said they reviewed the
26 resumes, accepting everyone to the general committee but would appoint seven as executive
27 committee members with voting/decision rights.

28
29 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to appoint Kenny Sullivan, Jim Woolard, Ed***
30 ***Holland, Athan Parker, Vic Gulley, Greg Dennis, and Christine Jordan to the Fishing***
31 ***Tournament Executive Committee. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion***
32 ***carried.***

33
34 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to appoint all other individuals expressing interest***
35 ***to the Fishing Tournament General Committee. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor.***
36 ***Motion carried.***

37
38 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Normile to appoint Commissioner Taylor as Chairman of***
39 ***the Fishing Tournament Executive Committee. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor.***
40 ***Motion carried.***

41
42
43
44

1 **16. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney, and Town Manager**

2
3 There were no comments from the Town Clerk or Town Attorney.

4
5 Town Manager Rush reminded everyone of fireworks on July 4th at Bogue Inlet Pier at 9pm.
6 Town Manager Rush wanted to make sure everyone understood how kind Mike Stanley, owner
7 of Bogue Inlet Pier, was to allow the Town to use the pier for the fireworks. Town Manager
8 Rush said the fireworks explosion in Ocracoke about 10 years ago led to significant regulations,
9 and as a result Mike had to close the pier around 12noon-1pm in order to comply with those
10 regulations. Town Manager Rush noted that Mike Stanley was sacrificing a significant amount
11 of revenue by closing the pier that day and the Town really appreciated his cooperation for the
12 fireworks show.

13
14 Town Manager Rush mentioned regarding the pedestrian bridge at McLean-Spell Park that they
15 had initially solicited quotes from some pre-fabricated bridge companies but they were more
16 significant in cost than hoped. Town Manager Rush said they had changed the focus to a
17 wooden pedestrian bridge similar to the beach access walkways and they hoped the cost would
18 be in the \$5-12,000 range, and they would reschedule the dedication ceremony for the new
19 park sometime later in the summer/ fall.

20
21 Town Manager Rush noted the good news thanks to Representative McElraft that there was \$5
22 million in the State budget, assuming the General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto, and
23 there was language that made it very favorable for the Town to secure that funding for their
24 beach nourishment project.

25
26 Town Manager Rush said they were always looking for ways to make the lifeguards jobs easier
27 and safer and the Fire Department was investigating a motorized boogie board type of device.

28
29 Town Manager Rush reminded everyone that the August meeting would take place on Monday,
30 August 13 at 6pm instead of the normal second Tuesday. Town Manager Rush also mentioned
31 the test banners they had installed outside of this building and the Town Administration
32 building to evaluate whether they will hold up to wind events and be stable enough for the
33 poles, and hopefully they can implement the banner program the Board had talked about over
34 the last few months, with his goal being to have that in place before the 2019 tourism season.

35
36 The following is an excerpt from the Town Manager Comments memo to the Board providing
37 additional background information for all items of importance:

38
39 **July 4 Fireworks at Bogue Inlet Pier!**

40 Alesia Sanderson, Parks and Recreation Director, and Fire Department personnel are working to insure a safe,
41 quality fireworks show on July 4. The Town has contracted with Class A Fireworks, based in eastern NC, for this
42 year's show.

43

1 We greatly appreciate the partnership with Mike Stanley, owner of Bogue Inlet Pier, for the fireworks event. State
2 fireworks regulations require the pier to close early to allow for safe setup, and we expect the pier to close to the
3 public early afternoon on July 4. The concession stand and beach areas will remain open all day.
4

5 **Retiree Health Insurance Assistance Program**

6 We expect to present a formal amendment to the Town's Personnel Policy at the July 10 meeting to establish this
7 new program. The new program will provide a total of \$10 per month, per year of Town service, to any retirees
8 with more than 20 years of Town service to be used for post-retirement health insurance and/or other medical
9 expenses. The new program is expected to benefit 5 – 10 Town retirees at any one time, with an average annual
10 cost of approximately \$24,000 per year for the next 10 years.
11

12 **Potential Dog Park Location**

13 The Dog Park Development Committee continues its work, and I expect a location recommendation to be on the
14 Board's July 10 meeting agenda for formal Board consideration. After also considering locations at Emerald Isle
15 Woods Park, the Town Government Complex, the vacant tract adjacent to the Town Administration Building, and
16 the Senator Jean Preston Playground, the Committee has identified a potential location in the new McLean-Spell
17 Park.
18

19 **McLean-Spell Park Pedestrian Bridge**

20 We have received several quotes for the purchase of a pre-fabricated aluminum or steel bridge to cross Archers
21 Creek and connect the Community Center parking lot with the new McLean-Spell Park. Price quotes range from
22 approximately \$14,000 – \$62,000, depending on dimensions and material, and these costs do not include site
23 preparation and installation. These quotes are more than desired, and we are now planning to construct a
24 wooden pedestrian bridge over Archers Creek. The pedestrian bridge will have a similar design as the Town's
25 beach access walkways, be approximately 12 ft. wide, and span a distance of approximately 50 feet. Preliminary
26 cost estimates indicate a total cost in the \$10,000 +/- range.
27

28 I hope to have the new bridge constructed in the coming weeks in order to provide a convenient link from the
29 Community Center parking lot to the nature trails in the park. Additional signage will be included at this location,
30 and this will become the primary park entrance. Once the bridge is complete, we will schedule a formal dedication
31 ceremony for the new park later this summer or early fall.
32

33 **State Budget Includes Funding for Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund**

34 The recently approved State budget includes \$5 million in the new Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund, and we
35 expect these funds to be released for the eastern Emerald Isle beach nourishment project (and companion
36 projects in Indian Beach and/or Pine Knoll Shores) planned for construction later this winter. The State budget was
37 recently approved by the NC General Assembly, and then vetoed by Governor Cooper, however, the NC General
38 Assembly is expected to override the veto in the coming days. Thanks to Representative McElraft, the budget
39 includes the following provision targeted to assist our project:
40

41 SECTION 13.10.(a) Funds appropriated by this act for the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund for the
42 2018-2019 fiscal year shall be allocated to a locally sponsored project that is (i) derived from a regional
43 management plan and formal interlocal agreement and (ii) authorized under a multidecade,
44 programmatic permit authorization issued to the local sponsor.
45

46 Design work for the planned beach nourishment project is underway, and we expect to solicit construction bids in
47 late summer or early fall. Assuming reasonable bids, construction will likely begin sometime around January 1.
48
49
50

1 **EIFD Investigating Motorized Water Rescue Board**

2 The Fire Department is considering the purchase of a motorized water rescue board to improve the safety and
3 effectiveness of water rescue efforts. The device is essentially a more substantial “boogie board” with a mini jet-
4 ski motor, and includes a rescue tube mounted into the body of the device. The device is marketed by a company
5 in Great Britain, and EIFD staff are consulting with other customers to determine its applicability for our lifeguard
6 team. If this device performs well, it is likely that we will equip all lifeguards on the beach with the new device in
7 the future.

8
9 **August Regular Meeting Date**

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

12
13 **Meeting with Islander Drive Property Owners**

14 I met recently with all but one of the adjacent property owners (and will meet separately with the other owner)
15 along Islander Drive to listen to their ideas for future streetscape improvements along Islander Drive. We had a
16 very good discussion, and I am currently working on refining these ideas and developing cost estimates to share
17 with the Board later this summer.

18
19 Perhaps the most interesting idea is to relocate the overhead power lines underground in this area, which would
20 significantly improve the aesthetic quality of this area. I met recently with Carteret-Craven Electric staff, and they
21 are developing a cost estimate for us to consider as part of the overall “menu” of potential improvements in this
22 area.

23
24 I will also likely engage the services of Ark Consulting, Greenville, NC, to assist with conceptual plans for this area in
25 order to provide graphic renderings to the adjacent property owners, the Board, and the public. Ark Consulting
26 prepared previous conceptual plans for the streetscape in this area last summer.

27
28 A-Team Enterprises LLC has indicated that their plans are progressing according to schedule, and we expect to
29 close on the sale of the land in August.

30 **Beach Music Festival Funding Approved**

31 The Tourism Development Authority has approved the Town’s \$20,000 funding request to support the 3rd annual
32 Emerald Isle Beach Music Festival on Saturday, September 29. Planning for this event is underway, and we look
33 forward to another big crowd in Emerald Isle on the beach.

34
35 **Internet Auction of Surplus Items**

36 The Town’s recent internet auction of surplus items yielded total sales of \$24,990. The auction included 6 surplus
37 Town vehicles and 3 surplus ATVs, some of which were not fully functional. These funds have been credited to the
38 FY 17-18 General Fund budget.

39
40 **Parrott Head Club Donates More Money**

41 The Emerald Isle Parrott Head Club recently held a disc golf tournament at Emerald Isle Woods Park, and raised
42 \$2,650 for future improvements to the disc golf course. We greatly appreciate the Parrott Head Club’s support!

43
44
45 **Lee Avenue Sound Access Steps Complete**

46 The Town’s contractor has completed the construction of new steps at the Lee Avenue access to Bogue Sound.
47 The new steps allow for an easier route from the street to the sand path that leads to another set of steps to the
48 water’s edge.

1 **New Welcome to Emerald Isle Sign Installed at Eastern Town Limits**

2 A new welcome sign, with the new Town logo, has been installed at the eastern Town limits. The sign is identical
3 to the sign at the base of the bridge, but smaller.
4

5 **Gateway “Up-Lighting” Completion Expected Later in June**

6 Commissioner Finch, with assistance from Commissioner Taylor, installed new electrical panels for the up-lighting
7 project in mid-May, and Town staff will finish remaining work later this month. Town staff is awaiting work by
8 Carteret-Craven Electric to bore an electrical line under NC 58. Once this step is complete, Town staff should be
9 able to have all work complete in a few days. We hope to have the vegetation lit up in this area before the end of
10 June.
11

12 **Test Banners Installed at Town Administration Building**

13 Public Works has installed 4 test banners on existing decorative light poles in front of the Town Administration
14 Building, and we will be monitoring these banners in the coming weeks to make sure the poles are strong enough
15 to support the banners during wind events. If this test goes well, we intend to implement the Town’s new banner
16 program on other decorative light poles prior to the 2019 tourism season.
17

18 **Adopt a Beach / Adopt a Street Program**

19 Town Planner Josh Edmondson has been contacted by 5 businesses interested in sponsoring a beach segment
20 and/or street under this new program since the Board approved it at the May 8. He will be working with the
21 sponsors to begin clean-up efforts in the selected areas, and is also coordinating the posting of signage.
22

23 **EmeraldFest Concerts Scheduled**

24 The first EmeraldFest concert was held on Thursday, June 7. Weekly concerts will be held at the Western Ocean
25 Regional Access each Thursday evening for the next 10 weeks.
26

27 **Decorative Street Lights at Roundabout**

28 The installation of 5 decorative street lights on the perimeter of the roundabout was expected prior to Memorial
29 Day weekend, but was delayed due to unexpected concerns regarding underground utilities. These issues have
30 been resolved, and I am hopeful that Carteret-Craven Electric will complete the installation of the new lights in the
31 next week or so.
32

33 **New Street Lights for Coast Guard Road Bicycle Path**

34 At the request of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, a total of 10 new street lights have been added
35 to the Coast Guard Road bicycle path. The new lights are traditional street lights mounted on existing and new
36 wooden poles, and include the new LED fixtures that Carteret-Craven Electric is gradually transitioning to
37 throughout the Town.
38

39 **New Plants Installed Along Coast Guard Road Under New Electric Lines**

40 Town staff recently planted more than a hundred new “yew pine” plants along Coast Guard Road near the
41 entrance to Spinnakers Reach and adjacent to Dolphin Ridge in an effort to re-establish a buffer between the road
42 and existing homes. These areas were impacted most significantly by the recent electric line installation project
43 completed by Carteret-Craven Electric, and Town staff have been working to improve the appearance in these
44 areas. “Yew pines” were recommended by Parks Maintenance staff because they grow relatively quickly, serve as
45 a good buffer, and won’t grow tall enough to interfere with electric lines in the future. Town staff are also
46 planning to install mulch and additional ornamental plants in this area in the coming weeks.
47
48
49
50

1 **Friday Parking Fees at Regional Beach Accesses**

2 We expect to begin charging the \$10 per vehicle per day parking fee at both accesses no later than Friday, July 6.
3 Depending on staffing levels, we may bump the Friday start date up to either June 22 or June 29, and will publicize
4 this change accordingly.

5
6 **Potential TDA Funding Request for Emerald Isle Fishing Tournament**

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

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

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

17
18 The construction of a new golf cart path in this area would enable golf cart users from Cape Emerald, Ocean Oaks,
19 Sea Dunes, Deer Horn Dunes, and Osprey Ridge to legally travel from these areas to the rest of Emerald Isle,
20 including Emerald Plantation, CVS, the “downtown” area, etc. The new path would be approximately 550 feet
21 long, and will require significant retaining wall segments due to the topography and limited public right of way.
22 The total estimated cost of this segment is approximately \$35,000. The Town’s new golf cart infrastructure fund is
23 expected to generate approximately \$18,000 next year, and could be used to provide 50% of the funding necessary
24 to construct the new path. The Golf Cart Advisory Committee is considering various fundraising options to
25 generate the remaining funds necessary for this project. Police Chief Reese and I will be assisting the committee
26 with these efforts in the coming months.

27
28 The Committee has also recommended the construction of several new golf cart parking spaces, and Public Works
29 staff has already installed spaces at 3 of the locations recommended. Public Works will add the others as staff
30 time permits later this summer or fall.

31
32 **Bogue Inlet ATONs Relocated, Touch-Up Dredging Planned**

33 The Coast Guard recently relocated the aids to navigation (ATONs) into a better channel segment closer to The
34 Point that will require less dredging and results in a straighter route from the ocean bar into Bogue Sound.

35
36 The entire channel across the ocean bar and in the connecting channel from The Point to the Atlantic Intracoastal
37 Waterway is in reasonably good shape, with a couple of minor shoaling areas present. I remain in communication
38 with the Corps of Engineers, and hope to have touch-up dredging in the channel completed within the next month
39 or so. The Corps’ sidecast dredge, the Merritt, has been out of service for several months for repairs, but is
40 expected back in service in the coming weeks. I am hopeful that Bogue Inlet will be one of the Merritt’s first
41 projects once it returns to service.

42
43 **Bundled (Gigabyte Level) Broadband Fiber To The Home**

44 Commissioner Normile and I continue to learn more about this issue and consider different strategies, both by the
45 private sector and through any potential public-private partnerships, to promote additional competition in this
46 market in Emerald Isle. Depending on how this issue progresses, I may schedule industry experts and/or other
47 officials with experience in this issue to address the Board at an upcoming Town meeting.

48
49
50

1 **Old Circle Pizza Building Near Ocean Drive ‘Dog-Leg’**

2 Town Planner Josh Edmondson continues to work with the owner of the Old Circle Pizza building near the Ocean
3 Drive “dog-leg” to address concerns about the abandoned building. The owner is now considering repairing the
4 building rather than demolition, and either approach is acceptable as long as the building is restored to a safe and
5 attractive condition. We hope to have this issue resolved in the coming weeks.

6
7 **NC 58 Flashing Pedestrian Crosswalks**

8 NCDOT has constructed a new sidewalk segment near Water’s Edge mobile home park, and has installed crosswalk
9 markings at Islander Drive, the Town complex, and at the Ocean Drive “dog-leg”. New, push-button flashing
10 beacons are also planned, and should be installed in the coming weeks.

11
12 **Wyndtree Drive Storm Water Improvements**

13 The low, impervious area on Wyndtree Drive, just east of the Coast Guard Road terminus, is the next storm water
14 location to be addressed by Public Works staff. Public Works will install a small relay pump in an existing catch
15 basin, and relay this water to the large storm water pump station at Island Circle, where it will then ultimately be
16 pumped to Emerald Isle Woods Park.

17
18 **Sunset Lane Storm Water Improvements**

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

22
23 **New Kayak Launch Device at Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area?**

24 We are attempting to secure permission from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission and the NC Division of
25 Coastal Management to install an aluminum kayak launching device in the southeast corner of the launch basin at
26 the Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area. The new feature would be similar to the existing kayak launch in
27 Emerald Isle Woods Park.

28
29 **Entrance Channel Shoaling at Emerald Isle Public Boating Access Area**

30 I have received a concern about shoaling in the entrance channel where it reaches Bogue Sound. I have asked the
31 NC Wildlife Resources Commission to survey this area to determine if dredging is necessary. If dredging is
32 necessary, it is likely that the NCWRC would fund and coordinate this work.

33
34 **17. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor**

35
36 Commissioner Taylor thanked the Town Manager again for the magic he did with the budget
37 every year.

38
39 Commissioner Finch dittoed that comment, and added that he and his wife just returned from
40 traveling just about across the entire country, 6,600 and some miles, but by far the prettiest
41 sight was coming back to Emerald Isle. Commissioner Finch said he personally took it for
42 granted sometimes, where he lived and what we had, but there was nothing any finer than
43 Emerald Isle.

44
45 Commissioner Dooley said thanks for the incredible work on the budget, also noting that the
46 lights on Coast Guard Road looked fantastic.

47

1 Mayor Barber said he was glad to see they had completed the steps at the intersection of Lee
2 and Sound Drive and thanked Frank for the work in getting that done before this season.

3
4 **18. Closed Session – Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(6), for the Purpose of Evaluating the Town**
5 **Manager’s Performance**

6
7 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to enter Closed Session – pursuant to NCGS 143-***
8 ***318.11(6), for the Purpose of Evaluating the Town Manager’s Performance. The Board voted***
9 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

10
11 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to return to Open Session. The Board voted***
12 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

13
14 Upon returning to open session, ***motion was made by Commissioner Messer to provide the***
15 ***Town Manager a 2.3% COLA plus a \$2,000 bonus. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor.***
16 ***Motion carried.***

17
18 **19. Adjourn**

19
20 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted***
21 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

22
23 ***The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.***

24
25 Respectfully submitted:

26
27
28
29 Rhonda C. Ferebee, CMC, NCCMC
30 Town Clerk

31
32