

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE EMERALD ISLE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2000 – TOWN HALL – 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Barbara Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Commissioner Emory Trainham gave the invocation.

Present for the meeting were Mayor Harris, Commissioner Farmer, Commissioner Wootten, Commissioner Trainham, Commissioner Murphy and Commissioner McElraft, Town Manager Pete Allen, Town Clerk Carolyn Custy, Police Chief Mark Wilson, Fire Chief Billy Walker, Parks & Recreation Director Alesia Sanderson, Public Works Director Robert Conrad and Building Inspector John Yost.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Murphy moved, Commissioner McElraft seconded and the board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Special Meeting of January 4, 2000 and the Minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting of January 11, 2000 as written.

PRESENTATION BY MR. JAMES UPCHURCH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RELATIVE TO THE CARTERET COUNTY THOROUGHFARE PLAN.

Mr. James Upchurch, Jr., Transportation Engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation updated the Board and the audience regarding the Carteret County Thoroughfare Plan. Mr. Upchurch said when thoroughfares are planned, they are planned out 30 years in the future. Local leadership is a very integral part of how this area will grow. If his department has this infrastructure they can plan for any kind of growth. Growth is the decisions that are made at the local level.

Mr. Upchurch presented the Crystal Coast Long Range Plan of which a copy has been incorporated into these minutes. Included in this plan's boundaries are Cape Carteret, Cedar Point, Emerald Isle, Indian Beach, Morehead City, Beaufort, Atlantic Beach and Indian Beach.

Three perspectives of this plan are: it is a long range plan, it is a future plan, it is a plan that reaches 30 years into the future. The year 2025 is the projected date that is planned for with all the things that have gone into the planning process. It is a dynamic plan and it invites discussion. Travel counts have been and will be taken.

He gave objectives and issues that recommend new and improved facilities, encourage communities to bond together and create pedestrian plans and bicycle plans and to encourage development of safe operation. An objective to promote safe and more efficient hurricane evacuation operations is included.

Mr. Upchurch discussed the process of doing roads, project funding, project study, thoroughfare development, mutual agreements in the process, determination of improvement needs, traffic counts, determine alternatives and all the other areas necessary for study and determination.

Mr. Upchurch also commented that a third bridge has been talked about but is not in the plan at this time. He does not know if it will ever be included in a plan. Widening of Highway 58 within the Town of Emerald Isle has also been discussed.

Recommendations have been made by the Department of Transportation for the following priorities for inclusion in the 2002-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

1. Replacement of the Gallants Channel Bridge (R-3307) that is a relocation project.
2. U.S. Corridor between Raleigh and Carteret County (including bypasses at Clayton (R-2552), Goldsboro (R-2553), Kinston (R-2554) and Havelock (R-1015)
3. Carteret County "Northern Bypass" from Havelock Bypass to Beaufort/Port of Morehead City (controlled access highway on new location)
4. Overpass at intersection of N.C. Highway 24 and N.C. Highway 58 with an N.C. 58 interchange. NC 24 project in progress now. NC 24 bridge widening to 4 lanes. NC 58 Bogue Banks widening. Hibbs Road widening.
5. Widening and improvement of U.S. 70 from Beaufort to East Carteret High School. Country Club Road in Morehead City widening, 35th street widening in Morehead City, Bridges Street widening in Morehead City.

A copy of the Crystal Coast Area Transportation Study with Preliminary Recommendations has been incorporated into these minutes.

There was a question/answer session after Mr. Upchurch's presentation.

Mr. Larry Spell asked about an overpass at NC24. Mr. Upchurch answered that he does not see an overpass in that area because he does not really see how an overpass would help us with traffic.

Mr. Robert Conrad, Public Works Director, commented in reference to the widening of NC 58 on Bogue Banks. He said that the change in warrents for passing zones has resulted in all of Emerald Isle now being a no passing zone and the rest of the banks will be as they are restriped. Now the capacity is governed by the slowest moving vehicle. He thinks some widening or some other form of relief would improve the situation.

Commissioner Wootten asked about Mr. Upchurch's thoughts on sewer systems in this area? **Mr. Upchurch** replied that what they use is the Land Use Plan and it is their hope that these are already built into that plan. The Land Use plans and projections that the Board has includes how we are going to grow and where we are going to grow and the water/sewer assumptions that are made at the local level. He said that the Department of Transportation Planning Section does try to validate it as to being reasonable, not reasonable, out of line, etc. It is Mr. Upchurch's understanding that the land use projected exceeded the requirements in this area with the assumption that there would be no high rise development and that is the assumption they used.

Commissioner McElraft asked about when the widening would be finished that is in progress now? Would it be finished before the season begins? Mr. Upchurch replied that he really does not know. **Mr. Yost** said it is supposed to be finished in August. It was a two-year project.

Commissioner Farmer commented she has been having a problem with vehicle projection. Emerald Isle is pretty close to build-out. She thinks that the residents are pretty determined to keep this mode of development . She is not quite sure why the vehicle results are like this when there is really not that much more development to go.

Mr. Upchurch replied " these are average summer weekday traffic volumes and they are really 28 percent greater than what is experienced year around. This is an attempt to capture some of the congestion that happens at peak season when tourist' come back and forth. These numbers are inflated to be able to

try to capture congestion at peak season.

This is what is designed.

Commissioner Farmer said this is what the community needs to think about. Do we want 5 lanes of pavement across a good portion of Emerald Isle to accommodate more traffic? She would be interested in seeing how the figures for peak summer of 2026 compares with the traffic now.

Mr. Don Kirkman of the Economic Development Cancel made an announcement regarding two public meetings, one on February 21st and one on February 28th. One meeting will be held at White Oak Elementary School and one will be held at Duke Marine Lab. After these meetings the Thoroughfare Plan will be circulated to all municipalities for their approval and to the County for its approval and then it will go to the Board of Transportation for its approval. Once all approvals are in place, this will become the long-range plan for road improvements in Carteret County. There is simultaneously a Town of Newport Thoroughfare Plan which will be a similar path and there is a Thoroughfare Plan for the unincorporated area of the County outside of this jurisdiction.

OLD BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR KRYSTAL VILLAS TOWNHOMES, LOCATED IN DAISYWOOD SUBDIVISION IN BLOCK 40 OFF OF REED DRIVE.

A request for final plat approval for Krystal Villas Townhomes in Block 40 at Reed Drive and Janel Street has been made by the developer, Mr. Larry Spell. The Map Committee has recommended approval of this project to the full Planning Board and the Planning Board, at its January 24th meeting, unanimously recommended approval to the Town Board for consideration.

Commissioner Farmer asked how elevated Janel Drive is as opposed to the wetlands? Does it look like there may be a problem? **Mr. Spell** said it is about the same height as the parking lot which runs about 14 feet elevation.

Commissioner Wootten commented that he can't determine from reading the plat whether these are single story structures. **Mr. Spell** said they are two-story.

Commissioner Farmer asked Mr. Brownlow, Planning Board Chairman, if the Planning Board has any particular input? **Mr. Brownlow** said it was worked out at the map meeting and to the best of his knowledge, it was reviewed under two different boards. He said he has reviewed it carefully and it appears to be consistent with all regulations.

Commissioner Trainham moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the final plat for Krystal Villas Townhomes.

NEW BUSINESS.

a. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LAND AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDING AS REQUESTED BY THE DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION.

Commissioner Trainham read the Resolution for the benefit of the audience. A copy of the Resolution

has been incorporated into these minutes.

Commissioner Farmer asked if "wetlands areas on Coast Guard Road" could be added. Ms. Sanderson said it depends on how this program is reinstated. She commented that if the Board wanted to include that in the 5th paragraph, it could be added. One typo correction was made from the word "acquisition over to acquisition of open space" in the last sentence of paragraph 5.

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner McElraft seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution with the editing made.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Oral reports were given by each department head and the Planning Board Chairman.

Administration is status quo with a tax collection rate at this time of approximately 93%.

Building Inspections has had a very good month considering it was January. Over a million dollars worth of value was generated.

Public Works is working on a Powell Bill project with grading and rocking done. The paving contractor started today.

Planning Board had members sworn in. Roy Brownlow was elected Chairman and Cary Harrison was elected Vice-Chairman and he will chair map committee meetings. Carol

Angus was elected Secretary. Approval of final plat for Krystal Villas Townhomes was given. The new Kwik-mart (CITGO) was approved to go the map committee for review. Subcommittees were formed to review the beautification ordinance that is being drafted. Cary Harrison is chairing the subcommittee on wireless communication ordinance and Ceil Saunders is chairing the subcommittee for the height ordinance.

Mayor Harris asked when the 90 days was up. The moratorium was placed on December 14th, 1999. That means that it is up in March 2000.

Police Department Chief Wilson advised people to check their \$20.00 bills that they received for change. A few have turned up that are counterfeit. The police department have been busy checking houses, handling traffic, drug investigations, etc.

Fire Department Chief Walker advises his department has been busy painting fire hydrants and finishing up business inspections. The safety committee is meeting every

quarter regularly. An OSHA inspection has been requested by the Town and a date is expected to be set up very soon. The HURRICANE CONFERENCE held in Miami, FL which Chief Walker attended, was very informative. He can now put a face with all the names of the people who do the updates every six hours in order for the Emergency Management to make decisions. The Assistant Director of the National Hurricane Center has asked for reports and pictures of what the Fire Department did during the Flooding throughout the State of North Carolina to be put in his National Columns that is done around the United States. **Parks and Recreation** has installed new playground equipment. It is being very heavily used and they are looking forward to completing the project in the very near future.

TAX REFUNDS AND RELEASES

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Trainham seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Tax Refund and Releases.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Trainham explained that the timing of the public speaking has been changed to the end of the meeting instead of the beginning plus the fact that when there is an issue that comes before the Board, they want the public to have a time to speak on that issue. He hopes the next time there is a meeting, the public comes prepared because the Board thinks that near the end of a meeting, the public would have a better idea of what is going on and they would want to make some comments and the Board would like to have those comments.

Mr. Pat Patteson commented that when it is done at the end of the meeting how could the community relate to the Board before they vote on it. **Mayor Harris** said there would be public comment on the agenda line items. **Mr. Trainham** related that by having this at the end of the meeting the public may have several issues they would like to comment on and it can be done then. This will give the Board information at the end of the meeting to work on and look over for the next meeting. What the public are doing is feeding those concerns to the Board so that they can look at them and deal with them.

COMMENTS

There were no comments from the Town Clerk, Town Attorney, Town Manager.

Commissioner Wootten said the Town Clerk put out an important piece of information in that 93% of the taxes that were due December 31st have been collected. He related that to his knowledge that is better than it has been in the past. He complimented the staff for doing that. Commissioner Wootten was corrected that the rate has been 98% at the end of June 30th.

Commissioner Wootten commented that Mr. Art Schools and he have been working on a new Web Page. The Web Page is about two weeks from being up and running. It will have minutes of meetings, schedule of events coming up, discussion of Planning Board meetings, etc. Contractors will be able to go into the Web Page, in the near future, and pull up electronically by links, the book of Ordinances and By-Laws so that they can look into it as it appears on the Town Clerk's desk. Another site will contain Hurricane/Tropical Storm status which was available on the old Web Page but it is hoped to be used on the Internet.

Commissioner Trainham commented on the excellent workshop on January 4th and the way in which it was presented. It was delightful that a number of the public attended. It started at 8:00 A.M. and finished at about 4:00 P.M. In that workshop, Town Manager Allen presented a topic which was the Census and the Board wants the public to be thinking about this. Commissioner Trainham asked the public to think about how they can encourage everybody to do their part in making sure the Town of Emerald Isle gets an accurate census. It is not an easy thing to take and it does impinge on the town's impact.

Commissioner Farmer commented that a joint meeting between the Town Board and the Planning Board is coming up February 28th. She also commented that the Board would be very interested in hearing feedback from the public on the Transportation Plan that was presented at this meeting.

Commissioner Murphy commented that it was good to see everyone out tonight and thanked the public for coming.

Commissioner McElraft commented that next month the Urban Forestry representative would be present to talk about reforestation and revegetation and the Western Carteret Landscapers are going to be involved in that meeting. They will be giving away free trees and planting them for Senior Citizens. Anyone who wants to be involved in that can sign up on the sign up sheets in the back of the room. She commented that "we need to get the island back to its green state".

Mayor Harris informed the public that she or one of the Commissioners would be here at Town Hall every day from 10:00 to 1:00 P.M. She asked that they do let the Board have feedback on the transportation issue.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Trainham moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn K. Custy
Town Clerk