

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE EMERALD ISLE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2000 – 7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL

Mayor Barbara Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Present for the meeting were Mayor Harris, Commissioner Emily Farmer, Commissioner Jay Murphy, Commissioner John Wootten, Commissioner Emory Trainham, Commissioner Pat McElraft, Town Attorney Derek Taylor, Town Manager Pete Allen, Town Clerk Carolyn Custy, Public Works Director Robert Conrad, Police Chief Mark Wilson, Fire Chief William Walker, Inspections Department Head Carol Angus, Inspections Director Jimmy Taylor, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Landscaping Division Mark Penry, and Chairman of the Planning Board Roy Brownlow.

Absent was Parks and Recreation Director Alesia Sanderson.

Commissioner Emory Trainham delivered the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2000

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF MARCH 14, 2000

Commissioner Farmer made a correction in the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of March 14, 2000, Page 10, Paragraph 7 which reads in part "we have about 7,000 parcels right now - - -". This should be corrected to "7 sound front parcels right now - - -". Correction has so been noted and will be changed in the March 14th Minutes by the Town Clerk.

Commissioner Trainham moved, Commissioner Farmer seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Special Joint Meeting of February 28, 2000 and the Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of March 14, 2000 with the Correction to Page 10, Paragraph 7 of the March 14th meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Harris announced that another Amendment to the Codification entitled "An Ordinance amending Sections 102 and 103 of the Emerald Isle Building Regulation Ordinances Codified in Chapter 6 of the Emerald Isle Town Code limiting Each Waterfront Lot to One "Beach Walkway Structure" and Adopting State Building Code For Construction" needed to be added to the Agenda under **OLD BUSINESS**.

Commissioner Murphy moved, Commissioner McElraft seconded and the Board voted unanimously to add the additional Amendment to the Agenda.

Mayor Harris added that under **NEW BUSINESS**, Item b., Discussion and possible consideration of a request by Ms. Howe, Ms. Murray, et. al., for the Town to abandon or temporarily close Crew Drive Extension is to be pulled from this Agenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATION OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 19 SECTION 16-4 OF THE CODIFICATION RELATIVE TO ISSUES REGARDING WETLANDS.** For official action to be taken on this issue since it falls Under Chapter 19, a Public Hearing will be scheduled within the May, 2000 time frame to take Public Comment and official action on this Amendment.

Commissioner Farmer commented one of the priorities of the Board is Stormwater and on the Capital Priorities List was number 1. The Board feels that the wetlands in Emerald Isle go a long toward helping with the flooding problems we have. However. She asked that this item be tabled until it can be further studied.

Commissioner Farmer moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to remove this item from the Agenda and table it until such time as the Board is ready to bring it back again.

No further discussion ensued.

- b. **The Board will also briefly discuss the following proposed Ordinance amendments and schedule each of these items for regular or Special May meetings which will require Public Hearings since each Amendment is located in Chapter 19 (Zoning) of the Town Code.**

Commissioner Wootten read the list of proposed amendments to the codification and summarized each one. He said these proposed amendments will be publicized for Public Hearings during the May time frame if approved to proceed by the Board. At the time of the Public Hearings, each amendment will be addressed individually and will require public comment at that time.

Commissioner Wootten commented that four of the changes address the heights of buildings and the remaining four were received from the Inspections Office for changes that will make them match CAMA regulations.

One amendment deals with piers, pier lengths and sitting areas in Chapter 6. One change is to limit one pier per building lot. The other is to shorten the length of a pier that the town can approve from 200 to 100 feet and this change matches CAMA regulations. The regulations used to be that the town could approve a pier 200 feet and if anyone wanted to go beyond that you had to meet CAMA regulations, but CAMA regulations have changed now and the town is limited to approving only 100 feet. If someone wishes to go beyond that they have to apply to CAMA for the Permit to go to a limit of 400 feet.

Another change is to limit the use of temporary signs from 100 days to 30 days.

One change deals with the construction of swimming pools and prohibits the construction of swimming pools in CAMA regulated areas in town.

The last item that was added to the Agenda (number 8 of the below listed list) deals with limiting beach walkway structures to one per lot with a maximum of a 200 foot sitting area on that walkway. The sitting area would have to be landward of the first line of vegetation.

The list of proposed amendments is as follows:

- (1) Chapter 19, Section 101 (5) relative to maximum building heights for Residential/multi-family (RMF) zones.
- (2) Chapter 19, Section 102 (6) (a) relative to building heights in Residential Motel/Hotel (RMH) zones.
- (3) Chapter 19, Section 106 (4) (a) relative to building heights in Institutional zones.
- (4) Chapter 6, Sections 6-82, 6-83, 6-84, and 6-85 relative to "T's" and "L's" and seating areas on walkways and limiting their numbers.
- (5) Chapter 19, Section 134 concerning temporary signs.
- (6) Chapter 19, Sections 101, 102 and 103 of the Town Code restricting swimming pools on oceanfront lots.
- (7) Chapter 19, 103 (12) (a) establishing maximum building heights for structures in Mobile Home-1 districts.
- (8) Chapter 6, Sections 102 and 103 concerning beach walkways.

Commissioner McElraft asked Town Attorney Taylor if clarification on the single walkway had been determined to be totally legal because of condominiumization of duplexes. Attorney Taylor commented "totally legal is a term used by the military" but generally he feels it is a reasonable restriction with which you can continue on the path you are going. "Yes, I think you can do it."

Mayor Harris opened discussion up to the public. **Mr. James Heatherly 8512 Woodcliffe**, asked if these would be published in such a manner that the public can read the amendments and understand them before the meeting? **Mayor Harris** commented that there would be a copy in Town Hall that could be reviewed at any time. In the Public Hearing they will be explained thoroughly and the public will have the opportunity to comment. **Mr. Heatherly** asked if it would be shared with the public prior to that. **Commissioner Harris** said "No, you will need to come in.

Commissioner Wootten said it is his understanding that the requirement has to be made public so many days before a Public Hearing and he would think that the details of the changes would be made in that process. If nothing else, it can go on the Web Site.

Commissioner McElraft commented that there should be a copy of each of the amendments available at Town Hall for anyone who would like to review them. **Town Clerk Custy** said they will be available.

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Trainham seconded and the Board voted unanimously to proceed with the date, draft, Ordinance changes to a Public Hearing in the May time frame.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR LOT3, BLOCK 38,

SUNSET HARBOR CONDOMINIUMS.

Mr. Ricky Farrington, 8802 Sound View Drive, Emerald Isle and Lori Morris, a representative of Parker & Associates Surveying in Jacksonville, N.C. were present to represent this request.

Commissioner Farmer questioned a possible error and addressed the question to Mrs. Angus of the Inspections Department. Her question concerned the area on the map under the Area of Environmental Concern Standards "This subdivision conforms to the standards of the North Carolina Coastal Area Management Act of 1974, and is not located within an Area of Environmental Concern standards" has been signed. **Mrs. Angus** confirmed that the subdivision is in an Area of Environmental Concern. It is within the 575 AEC.

Commissioner Farmer also commented, when the subdivision was formed, the road was widened and lengthened to accommodate the subdivision and in order for it to fit into the CAMA regulations, CAMA required that the additional land be subtracted from the whole parcel as a buildable portion of the parcel. She notices that on this map it does not show what was buildable, what the allowable buildable was by CAMA and she is not sure about this particular lot, but she does know that some of the walkways were considered pervious and it has now changed to concrete which is now impervious and Commissioner Farmer is concerned that the allowable portion has been exceeded.

She asked if there was any way that this could be confirmed? Planning Board Chairman Roy Brownlow commented, this was brought up at the Planning Board review committee meeting and that question was asked. They asked that this change to impervious coverage which did increase it but he believes they are still consistent according to Lori Morris.

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Final Plat, Lot 3, Block 38, Sunset Harbor Condominiums.

b. Discussion and Possible consideration of abandonment or temporarily Closing of Crew Drive Extension.

This item was removed from the Agenda.

c. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF A GRANT RESOLUTION AS APPLIED FOR BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM THE GOVERNOR'S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM TO HELP IMPROVE HIGHWAY SAFETY.

The Town's Police Department is making grant application from the Governor's Highway Safety Program for funding of equipment needed to provide additional safety and protection for the Town. This grant is a 75%-25% federal-local matching grant with the Town's share at \$6,576 for equipment needed.

None of the Board voiced any questions regarding this grant application.

Commissioner Trainham moved, Commissioner McElraft seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the Grand Resolution for application from the Governor's Highway Safety Program for the Police Department.

d. BOARD APPROVAL TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN TAX COLLECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR DELINQUENT TAXES AS REQUIRED UNDER NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 105-369.

A list of delinquent taxes totaling \$22,294.44 was presented for the Board's approval to advertise as required by NCGS 105-369.

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve authorization for the Tax Collector to advertise for delinquent taxes.

e. ROUTINE TAX REFUNDS AND RELEASES

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Farmer seconded and the Board voted unanimously to approve the routine tax refunds and releases.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Helen Stoughton who lives at 115 Blackskimmer made an announcement of an upcoming event the 1st week of May is Tri-County Ability Awareness and the Carteret County Mayor's Committee with Persons with Disabilities is sponsoring a Spring marathon on Saturday May 6th. It begins at 9 A.M on Friday evening, May 5th. There will be a participants picnic and orientation at Swenson's Park in Morehead City. The marathon is 26.3 miles from Beaufort to Cape Carteret. It will begin at Morehead High rise bridge to Atlantic Beach and down Hwy 58 and ending at Cape Carteret. Ms. Stoughton made a plea for any donations for refreshments like cookies and potato chips. The marathon is expected to end at Cape Carteret around 5:00 P.M. if anyone wishes to donate anything. She commented she would be glad to take it over if she is called Friday afternoon or by 3:00 P.M. on Saturday. The Marathon is for anyone, handicapped or otherwise. Anyone interested in participating can call Chris Smith at 726-4855.

Mr. Dick Eckhardt of 2304 Ocean Drive addressed the Board concerning garbage. He asked for help in addressing some of the problems during rental season, especially on Ocean Drive. He told of an instance about 2 years ago when a rental property was completely out of control. This property slept 21 people and they had four 30-gallon cans for garbage without lids on them. He contacted the owner and then went to Pete Allen. Within a week it was taken care of. Apparently Mr. Allen went to the property-managing firm and requested that they upgrade to three or four 90-gallon cans. That was done and there were no critters running around, etc. Since that time, he has dealt with Coldwell Banker concerning any problems with that property and they have been very responsive in resolving problems.

Mr. Eckhardt recommended that someone with the Town work with property managing agencies to develop some guidelines. He presented some pictures of the problems he is addressing. One place sleeps approximately 12 people and has one 90-gallon can. Then find someone to resolve some of the problems.

Mayor Harris informed Mr. Eckhardt that forms were in the back for sign-up of committees and she feels that he would be an excellent candidate to head a committee of this type. She encouraged him to sign up. She commented, "we would definitely work with you."

Mr. Eckhardt said some kind of plan needs to be developed, down the road, to address possibly obtaining the 90-gallon cans and where we plan to end up. He commented he thinks we started this approximately 2 years ago and never really finished it. He suggested that that plan get started.

Town Manager Allen commented, we did have a meeting with all the rental agents last year or it might have been the year before. They have been very cooperative. Every time we have told them there was a shortage of cans they have purchased them. When we get a complaint that is reported directly to town hall or when the trash men report a situation of this type, we have a form that we send to all rental agencies which informs them about the problem and they have always replied. He does not know if there is a long-term solution. He is working on one that may prove to be a long-term one. The problem is the checking in and out on Saturday and Sunday. Having Waste Industries collect garbage on Sunday would alleviate a lot of the problems. The problem with this is that the Land Fill is not open on Sunday and if a truck is packed out, they cannot dump until Monday morning. It will cost additional money to staff the Land Fill if that facility is going to be kept open on Sunday. We are working on the problem.

Mr. Eckhardt asked what to do with the complaints of problems. Mr. Allen asked that the public get them to Town Hall and we will get in touch with the responsible party (i.e., owner or rental agent).

Mayor Harris asked that these be put in writing. She also reminded the public there were sign-up sheets in the back of the room and a committee could be formed.

Mr. John Grady, 113 Fawn Drive, addressed the Board hoping he would get some positive response as to beach nourishment. He is not asking that the Board approve a plan or anything of that nature. He commented that his group is in the process of working on a plan for renourishment this year and stated it was awfully embarrassing when you go to the realtors, hotel/motel owners and they do not "owe you a penny of money". We are not going to get anything done if we don't get everyone together. Mr. Grady continued, we need something from you folks letting us know how you feel about it and if you don't feel up to it, then I will go on to Fayetteville to see my grandson.

Mayor Harris commented, she will be making a statement to the Press concerning this. The Board has agreed to it.

Commissioner Wootten suggested Mayor Harris go ahead and tell the audience what she is going to say and not hold them in suspense.

Mayor Harris commented, the majority of this Board has always said that we support beach renourishment. The problem was the tax districts. Several of this Board came out against that. I personally had a meeting and talked over the phone with the County Commissioners informing them that most of the calls that Town Hall was getting and I was getting was for beach renourishment but not the tax districting. She said she thinks that is what killed it. She continued that we have to have beach renourishment. She does not know how we are going to get it. Commissioner Farmer has been to Raleigh already on this subject. We cannot wait 10 years. This is basically what the feeling is. We certainly are supporting beach renourishment as a majority.

Commissioner McElraft added she wants to thank Mr. Grady for the time he is putting in to contact Legislators and to work for beach renourishment.

Commissioner Trainham emphasized that the fact of the majority does not mean it was unanimous.

Mr. Eddie Barber, 322 Sea Dunes commented, recently he and his wife have opened up Windows to the World in the old Ellen's Gift Shop. He came to Town Hall and asked about what was needed to open up a new business and was told he needed a permit. He paid a pro-ration for a Gift Shop and a pro-ration for Ice Cream Sales. They started to get the building ready to open up in March. At the time he paid his fees, he was given no information about what the rules and regulations are for Emerald Isle. In

Swansboro, where he had his shop previously, you are given an informational packet containing rules about what you can and cannot do and it makes it much simpler when you go to open up a business. In Emerald Isle, he was given nothing. He assumed that he could do a few things. He put up a neon sign with an Ice Cream Cone on it. This is the only neon sign he has up. He was surprised to have a person come by from the Zoning Office with a letter from Carol Angus stating "Neon must be removed from window. Thank you for your cooperation. Carol Angus, Zoning Officer". The person who came by said he felt bad about having to come by because there are neon signs in the additional buildings. Mr. Barber got some information from Ms. Angus after he called her regarding informational signs. He commented that the word "Informational" is the key. "What does the word information mean?" He called the Institute of Government and several places and everyone had a different interpretation of what "Informational means". Mr. Barber asked for relief from this ruling because he feels it is unfair and nit picking. He asked for an interpretation of what "informational" is. He called the Mayor and some of the Council regarding this issue and is amazed with the response he received. He commended the Board for responding and stated he really appreciates that.

Mayor Harris asked about the actual size of the sign. **Mr. Barber** indicated it is about 18 inches high and about 12 inches in width.

Commissioner Murphy asked what is on the Privilege License? **Mr. Barber** answered Gift Shop and Ice Cream Sales.

Commissioner Murphy asked Mrs. Angus about the fact that having both businesses listed on the Privilege License if that would entitle Mr. Barber to advertise both businesses? **Mrs. Angus** answered they could advertise both businesses as 32 square feet of the regular sign. **Commissioner Murphy** asked if the sign above and the Ice Cream Cone would exceed 32 square feet. **Mrs. Angus** commented she does not know what the original sign size is but said she does not think it is 32 square feet but she would need to have some type of guidelines of where does she draw the line if the Board is going to consider doing this.

Mayor Harris commented the Board could really make that decision. She is asking the question if the next step is to go to the Board of Adjustment. **Mrs. Angus** said yes. She asked the question "can the Town Board of Adjustment even listen to a request that is going to vary the Ordinance?"

Attorney Taylor commented that what is being dealt with is a matter of interpretation. The Inspections Department has made an interpretation according to what they see the Ordinance saying. An appeal, based on the Inspections interpretation, is a valid thing to take to the Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment has no authority to create or change Ordinances but they do have the authority to interpret them. When you are getting into an issue of what is an informational sign, they have rights to interpretation.

Mrs. Angus asked, in the event this could be something that is going to happen again, would it be possible for her to ask the Board of Adjustment for an interpretation, not just for this Ice Cream Cone but for any type of something in the future that may come up so that she would have some type of guideline.

Attorney Taylor answered, "No, the Board of Adjustment can only deal with the facts that are before it. It cannot make any broad sweeping situations. If they determine that the Ice Cream Cone is an information sign, then the next Ice Cream Sign that comes before you, you will be OK. Should it be a Schultz Liquor Bull, you might have a problem. Until this Council makes a further determination of what they want informational signs to be and creates a definition, you can only look for the same facts

pattern coming before you again. Signs that are up in other stores were there before the Sign Ordinance was put in place and they were grandfathered in. Until that sign gets destroyed somehow and they have to re-put it up, they can continue to use the signs they have before the Ordinance was passed.

Mr. Allen asked if the sign could be left up until the Board makes a decision . **Mayor Harris** asked if it was agreeable to the Board to leave it up until a decision is made?

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded to proceed to allow the sign to stay in place while the Board of Commissioners takes this situation under advisement and decides how we want to proceed.

DISCUSSION: Attorney Taylor stated that if the Board does it in this case, they will have to follow through with the same thing on others. Commissioner Wooten commented that Mr. Barber has stated his case. The Board does not seem to be ready to make a decision. This will buy some time.

Commissioner Farmer stated, she does not think this is a decision this Board can make. She agrees the whole thing is ridiculous. **Commissioner McElraft** asked Mrs. Angus "what is an informational sign in neon?" **Mrs. Angus** commented, "because I am the Planning Director here, the interpretation that I make is supposed to be not to go against everyone out there. When the interpretation was made the informational size during all the discussions during 1997 – 1998 was open, closed, watch your step, parking in the rear, anything like that which would have been no more than 2 square feet was an informational size. She said she has no problem with it if the Ordinance is amended to some degree in the wording for information.

Commissioner McElraft asked what if there was a limit to the size of these signs and the number of signs, maybe one per building or whatever, and then they can have an Ice Cream Cone, they can say Open, etc. The Ordinance would have to be changed to do that.

Commissioner Wootten withdrew his motion at this point and Commissioner Trainham withdrew his second.

Commissioner Wootten questioned the possibility of waiving the \$100.00 Board of Adjustment fee on this case. He feels is it reasonable to let Mr. Barber proceed to the Board of Adjustment without paying the \$100.00 if the Board can do that without setting precedence. **Attorney Taylor** commented, this could be done as long as the Board is willing to do the same thing for the next person under the same or similar circumstances.

Commissioner Wootten moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to allow Mr. Barber to proceed to the Board of Adjustments without a fee.

Bill Reist, 8520 Woodcliff Drive commented he was under the impression that neon signs were not allowed in Town. **Mayor Harris** replied informational ones are.

Gordon McAdams, 325 Loblolly Street came to talk about wetlands and was glad to see that the Ordinance amendment he had looked at had been tabled. The amendment has a lot of holes in it and he has a lot of concern about some of the language in it. It is a serious issue and has serious legal implications for the Town and quite a bit of work needs to be done on it before it is brought back to the Board.

Mr. McAdams spoke about the proposal about changing the terms of office of the elected officials. He is

not sure where that is or where it is going. There was a proposal about 10 years ago similar. His position at that time was that any proposal to change the method of electing Town Officials should be carried to a vote of the people pro or con. He is not here to address the specifics of good change, whether he is in favor of it or against it but any change should be carried to a vote of the people.

Mr. McAdams referred to a meeting last night where Mrs. Harris attended where there was some discussion regarding beach renourishment. She mentioned that the majority was in favor of a form of beach renourishment. He asked, for the benefit of those who were not present at that meeting, he gathered that Mr. Trainham was not in favor of it, could they ascertain that the remaining four Commissioners were in favor of it? **Commissioner Murphy** said. "you can ascertain that".

Commissioner Wootten questioned Mr. McAdams' feelings as to why it needs to go to the people as opposed to a Public Hearing form and the significance of that as opposed to an Ordinance change that would restrict things in town as opposed to the staggered terms. Commissioner Wootten does not see Mr. McAdam's point of the two issues. He asked if there was something from an Ordinance or legal standpoint.

Commissioner McAdams commented, from a personal standpoint, as a voter, how the public officials are elected should be decided by the people at a referendum. He is not certain that you get a representative feel of the populous with a Public Hearing. **Commissioner Wootten** stated the disadvantage, however, is that you tend to criticize the movement or idea at the time of an election. **Commissioner McAdams** commented, it could be put on the upcoming election which is not a local election and that he might very well support the proposal.

Pat Patteson, 8607 Emerald Plantation Road commented on the sign problem. He said, we do have a code on signs. There have been people who have had to take signs down and people who have wanted to put signs up and have not been allowed to put the signs up. He feels that the sign needs to come down because that is what the code says and we need to follow it.

Commissioner Wootten commented it is equally important that process be followed. He thinks the Board has decided to follow the process. What the board has done is modified that process slightly to allow Mr. Barber to do that. **Mr. Patteson** said but you are allowing him to leave it up. Commissioner Wootten stated "we are allowing him to leave it up until the process is completed". **Mr. Patteson** said, "that is what I am saying, I don't think it is right because there are other people who wanted to put one up and were not allowed to and who have gone through the process the correct way.

Commissioner Farmer interjected "that motion to allow him to leave it up was withdrawn. We did not vote on that". **Commissioner Murphy** commented, you are correct.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Inspections – **Mrs. Angus** said she has a request for a fish market where the property is in a B-2 zone and it is not in the permitted use table. She asked if the Board would consider sending it to the Planning Board for their review for the next meeting maybe? This is not an outside thing. It is a fish market in a building with closed doors, roofs and everything.

Commissioner Murphy moved, Commissioner McElraft seconded and the Board voted unanimously to send the proposed Fish Market to the Planning Board for their review.

Mrs. Angus asked if the other eight items (Ordinance Amendments) previously were supposed to go to

the Planning Board as well? **Mayor Harris** answered "yes".

Mrs. Angus also made a comment that a number of mobile homes and homes are coming down due to condemnations. People are cooperating very well.

Public Works, Administration, Parks & Recreation, Police Department and Fire Department and Planning Board Chairman all gave short department reports. Fire Department is now accepting applications for Beach Patrol.

Town Manager Pete Allen commented on the Fiscal Year 2000-2001 budget. He said that the tax rate now is 19.5 cents and it looks like we may have to raise it about 57 cents. There was an overwhelming laugh from everyone in the audience.

No comments came from the Town Attorney.

Commissioner Wootten commented on the Beach Vehicle Survey. The committee worked on these very hard. He is hoping to have a preliminary report by May but not to hold him to that. The information is being put into a data base for sorting purposes.

Commissioner Trainham spoke about communication. At the March Board meeting there was a misunderstanding as to the Mayor's role regarding the Web Site. He clarified that the Board asked John Wootten to be the advisor to the Web Site and he appointed Art Schools as the Web Master. Art and John have spent many hours creating the Web Site and the Board continues to give them their support for the management of the Web Site as well as the content of the Web Site. Mr. Trainham expressed the Board's appreciation to these two individuals. He knows the Board joins him in thanking Art for the many hours he has spent as a volunteer. Volunteerism is a wonderful thing. He addressed Mr. Schools and told him "we appreciate everything you have done".

Commissioner Farmer commented about a discussion regarding a Special Meeting in May to handle some of the ordinances to go along with the Regular Board Meeting and she asked if they could do that now? Commissioner Wootten suggested that a Special Meeting on May 8, 2000 to deal with just the Ordinances.

Commissioner Farmer moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded and the Board voted unanimously to hold a Special Meeting on Monday, May 8, 2000 at 7:00 P.M. for Public Hearings on the proposed ordinance changes.

Town Manager Allen asked about the possibility of advertising all of the changes in one advertisement or should they be done separately? Attorney Taylor said you could lump them together but he is not sure what you would say. Each ordinance would have to be described with sufficient clarity so that the public would understand what is being proposed. It was decided to advertise each one separately.

Commissioner Farmer read a statement concerning a letter written by the Mayor Harris to Mr. Jerry Huml and I quote "The Board of Commissioners were made aware only last week of the correspondence between the Mayor and Jerry Huml in his position as Emerald Isle representative to the Bogue Banks Beach Preservation Association. We want to make it clear that the response was the Mayor's own and did not represent the views of the board.

First and foremost, the board appreciates all the time and effort Jerry and the BBBPA have gone to on behalf of the bond referendum. We know what a difficult task they all had before them. We support both

the BBBPA's continuing efforts and Jerry, Bob Isenhour and Charles Vincent as our representatives.

Like the community we represent, the commissioners' feelings toward the county proposal ran the whole gamut from "yes" to "maybe" to "no." We approved the resolution to set up the tax districts, with the stipulated sunset clause, so that the voters would have the opportunity to have their say through the bond referendum. And we respect the intelligence of Emerald Isle voters enough that we chose to remain neutral rather than putting pressure on them to vote a particular way. While the majority of the board supports beach renourishment in general, the devil is in the details.

We regret that, apparently in part because of the Mayor's letter, these three hard working volunteers have resigned. We request that they reconsider and have asked Commissioner McElraft to be the contact person.

We thank them for their efforts on behalf of Emerald Isle. With the permission of the board I'd like to put this in letter form to send to Jerry."

Commissioner Trainham moved, Commissioner McElraft seconded and the Board voted unanimously to allow Commissioner Farmer to put the above statement in letter form to send to Mr. Jerry Huml.

Commissioner McElraft reported on the reforestation and the program. They will be applying for a grant to get up to \$10,000 for tree planting and hopefully to put in an irrigation system. She thanked everyone who planted trees. She planted 100 herself and they are already growing. More trees have been ordered. Hardwoods will be ordered in the fall. She encouraged everyone to replant.

Commissioner Murphy had no comments.

Mayor Harris asked Mrs. Cindy Henson to stand and she was given a round of applause for doing the Emerald Tidings. She also asked Art Schools to please stand and he too received a round of applause for his work on the Web Site.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn K. Custy
Town Clerk