

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**  
**OF THE EMERALD ISLE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**NOVEMBER 14, 2000 – 7:00 P.M. – TOWN HALL**

**CALL TO ORDER.**

Mayor Barbara Harris called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**INVOCATION.**

Commissioner Emory Trainham gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL.**

Present for the meeting were Mayor Barbara Harris, Commissioner Emory Trainham, Commissioner Emily Farmer, Commissioner John Wootten, Commissioner Jay Murphy, Town Manager Pete Allen, Town Attorney Derek Taylor, Town Clerk Carolyn Custy, Planning Board Chairman Cary Harrison, Inspections Department Head Carol Angus, Public Works Director Robert Conrad, Fire Chief William Walker, Parks & Recreation Director Alesia Sanderson and Police Sergeant William Bailey. Commissioner Pat McElraft was absent due to a business conflict.

*Commissioner Murphy moved, Commissioner Trainham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to excuse Commissioner Pat McElraft's absence.*

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA.**

Mayor Barbara Harris explained that other towns in the county are using this agenda.

*Commissioner Trainham moved, Commissioner Wootten seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to try the new agenda as laid out.*

**CONSENT AGENDA.**

Mayor Harris explained that when the Consent Agenda lists many items, each item does not have to be read out loud and voted on separately. Tonight it includes approval of minutes of the Workshop Meeting of September 25, 2000; approval of minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 10, 2000; approval of minutes of the Workshop Meeting of October 16, 2000; and tax refunds and releases and line item budget transfers.

*Commissioner Farmer moved, Commissioner Murphy seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the Consent Agenda as read.*

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS.**

Mayor Harris mentioned that Police Chief Mark Wilson's father had passed away and announced that the funeral would be held in Graham. Chief Wilson's address is posted on the bulletin board so residents

can send notes or arrangements.

**Mayor Harris** continued that with the agenda change, there is a timer that she thinks will not have to be used, but the people need to be aware of it. If there are 20 people wishing to speak, they could not allow 10 to 15 minutes per person.

**Commissioner Farmer** asked for clarification on the timer. **Mayor Harris** replied that Alesia Sanderson has a timer in case it is needed. **Commissioner Farmer** said she assumed that the Board has the option of letting a person continue to speak. **Mayor Harris** agreed.

#### **5. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF TAKING COMMENT AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODIFICATION CREATING A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS ORDINANCE.**

**Mr. Cary Harrison**, Planning Board Chairman, explained that nine months ago, the commissioners had the foresight to declare a moratorium on all new cell towers in Emerald Isle; and at the same time, they requested that the Planning Board look into the matter, do research on it, and write up an ordinance if need be. There is no one-size-fits-all ordinance; you cannot walk into some other town, grab a copy of their ordinance, and write Emerald Isle on the top of it. It has to be adapted to the town's image, interests, and concerns. It is a 20-page document, and rather than going through the whole document, he provided a thumbnail sketch of the issue.

Mr. Harrison explained that the law that says that the Town must allow cell towers was mandated by the FCC in the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The Act says that the Town has to allow the companies to come in and fill out their grids (or cells) to allow telecommunication across the entire country, so every community in the country has to write an ordinance like this or be bowled over when the companies come in. The Town is trying to pre-empt that, and that was the idea of the initial moratorium. The Telecommunications Act basically lets the telecommunications companies do what they need to do to accomplish their job functionally, but it also provides towns a lot of latitude as far as the siting and the appearance of these towers, as well as the antennae that go on them. He mentioned the four "basic commandments" for the towns: we cannot discriminate between functionally equivalent providers of the same service; we have to act on their request in a very reasonable timeframe, similar to any subdivision or anything else before the Planning Board and Commissioners; we have to place any decisions made in writing with a lot of evidence backing it up; and we cannot deny any group on the basis of radio frequency emissions, even though there has been a lot of talk about radio frequency waves being problematic for health. Those levels have been set by the American National Standards Institute and the FCC, and they will not allow towns to say the level is wrong. Emerald Isle has to, and wants to, allow wireless providers to come in and set things up so there is an adequate level of service for the people who visit and the people who live here. At the same time, the ordinance is designed to protect the health, safety, and well-being of everybody who lives and visits here.

Briefly, the providers have to certify that there is a need for their service and equipment. They also have to co-locate whenever possible—if there is an opportunity for them to place an antenna on a water tower, a building, a power pole, or an existing cell tower, they have to do that before they can put up their own tower. They must also stay within the realm of this family beach's image and cannot do anything inconsistent with that image.

If someone wants to come in and construct a new tower, it is not an easy thing to do. It is a special use, and there are a lot of meetings and public hearings that they have to go through to be able to accomplish that. They have to give a clear demonstration that there is NO co-location opportunity within a one-mile

radius of where they would like to erect the tower. Only monopole towers are available for use in Emerald Isle, not guy-wired or lattice-type ones. They have to provide at least two new tenants when they put up a tower. They cannot pose an air hazard, especially to Bogue Field. They have to show, by an engineer's statement, that the tower is structurally stable within a 50-year hurricane; and they have to have a substantial liability policy. They have to notify adjacent property owners or those within 500 feet. The setback requirement is unlike anything else in Emerald Isle. It incorporates a theoretical fall radius—if a tower were to collapse, the setback has to be within the radius of that—so there is no likelihood of it collapsing on a residence or business. They have to maintain the radio frequency levels that are in keeping with ANSI and FCC.

For co-location, it is a considerably easier task. It is a permitted use if they go through the Planning Board and Board of Commissioners. The antennae, which are generally pretty small, are on the order of 4 to 8 feet. They would be allowed to be 15 feet high or 10% of the structure height. They have to aesthetically match the building—if it is being chunked on a red or gray building, it needs to be an appropriate color.

The Planning Board will generate a map of co-location opportunities. Both new antennae and wireless towers have some requirements. They have to show absolute demonstration of need in terms of coverage and capacity. They are permitted only in B1, B2, B3, Institutional, the Hwy 58 corridor, and on the existing water towers. They have to have minimal FAA lighting. They are less noxious if they are a flat gray color. They would be subject to an annual review and inspection by the Inspections Department. There are abandonment clauses so that if a company were to go belly up, the Town would not get stuck with removal costs.

There is a tiered review process. The ordinance specifies exactly what the companies have to do and a list of what they have to provide the Inspections Department. They bring those items to the Inspections Department to make sure everything is complete; it goes to the Planning Board; it goes to the Board of Commissioners. If the Board of Commissioners vote "yes", it goes to the Inspections Department, where a permit and C.O. are issued. If the Board of Commissioners vote "no"—and this is where you can get into legal hassles because these firms are used to small towns telling them "no" and have a monstrous staff of attorneys that work with them—they are allowed to go to the Board of Adjustment if it is a fairly minor issue (paint color, for instance). If not, they go through a dispute resolution process that is very well prescribed by both the cellular industry and local and state governments, and both parties have to adhere to the rules of it. If that does not work, they go to third party arbitration where a third group will come in and sit down and tell the Town and wireless providers what they have to do to accomplish the objectives. The last thing is a trip to the courtroom.

The good news is that we currently have two water towers and there is welding going on on the lower rim for additional standing for more cell towers. The antennae themselves are not noxious. The towers are the part most people do not like. One option is to stick cell antennae on telephone poles if the poles are high enough. Mr. Harrison got in touch with the local EMC and said they would do that. We have an entire line of 108 poles over our 13 miles, and if they can't co-locate on them or the water towers and buildings, it would be difficult for them to demonstrate that.

***Commissioner Jay Murphy made motion, Commissioner Emily Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to open the Public Hearing.***

**Mr. George Kuhorn**, resident of 7223 Canal Drive, asked if there was a bond to guarantee removal of the cell tower. **Mr. Harrison** replied they would have to have \$1 million liability insurance and that the company show proof of financial solvency and responsibility. If somebody like MCI were to come in, they would not be required to have a bond. If it were a company that had a poor track record, that was

not very well known or not in good financial standing, the Town could require them to have a bond. **Mr. Kuhorn** wondered if a lawyer would say the Town was being prejudicial against a company because they are in good standing at this time, then later they could get into a financial problem. He suggested a bond for the cost of removal from everyone.

**Mr. Ron Brooks**, resident of 8526 Sound Drive, said that from what he understood, the cell companies have 108 telephone poles plus the two water towers on which to put the towers. He asked about the associated equipment and building to house the equipment. **Mr. Harrison** replied that is very well covered within the ordinance. It is prescribed that they have vegetative buffers, fences to keep people out, be a certain distance from public view, that the road leading to them has to be a non-straight road so that you cannot see straight into it, it cannot be noise-producing equipment that can be heard beyond the boundary of the property. It is as rigid as any of the ordinances he reviewed.

**Mr. Harrison** said there had been a brief miscommunication between Mr. Derek Taylor, Town Attorney, and himself. He asked that they have an addition to the ordinance to accommodate the water towers already in existence, specifically in Article IV, Section 20-37, Zoning, to add "and water towers in existence as of the date of adoption of the ordinance."

*Commissioner John Wooten made motion, Commissioner Emory Trainham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to close the Public Hearing.*

**Mayor Harris** commended Mr. Harrison and the Planning Board on the fantastic job they had done on the ordinance. This was followed by loud applause.

*Commissioner Emory Trainham made motion, Commissioner Jay Murphy seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the requirements set forth for wireless communication antennae as described by the Planning Board and as amended by the water tower provision in Section 20-37.*

**Commissioner Farmer** thanked Mr. Harrison and the Planning Board.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS.**

### **a. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESCINDING RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR HIGHWAY 24-58 OVERPASS OF SEPTEMBER AND REPLACING WITH A RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION TO BE DISCUSSED THIS EVENING.**

**Commissioner Murphy** read the Resolution Supporting Further Study of the Impacts of NC Highway 24 and NC Highway 58 Overpass. A copy of the Resolution has been attached to the end of these Minutes.

**Commissioner Murphy** explained his reasoning for proposing the resolution. The Town has real challenges at Coast Guard Road and Hwy 58, and he thinks that if they stop and take another look at the overpass, they can make a more informed decision on those properties. He had a lot of negative feedback from his constituents pertaining to the decision made in September concerning the overpass. He said he ordinarily does not "un-ring a bell"; but in the interest of the Town, it was up to him—since he was one of the people who voted for the overpass—to go back and submit the resolution. He had talked with Commissioner McElraft, and she supported his revising this.

**Commissioner Wooten** commented that he had voted for the first resolution to up the priority from 4 to 2, but he had a lot of respect for Commissioner Murphy and had seen him do a lot of

things that he thought was best for the Town even though he was uncomfortable doing them. He said he would support this, but he added that he hoped nobody in the room thinks that this resolution would really count in the long run or would have that big an impact on what happens. He does not think we have a lot of power to sway this decision. It is a decision that reflects the wishes of the Commissioners.

**Commissioner Farmer** disagreed with Commissioner Wootten that this would have no impact. She said she would like to suggest to the Board that they put an amendment in their Land Use Plan opposing the overpass and also stating that they wish the bridge to remain two lanes and Hwy 58 two to three. State permits are based on compatibility with the Land Use Plan, and that is an important rule for them to make. She said she thinks they should send a copy of the resolution to the Carteret County Transportation Committee and the NC DOT, which is working on the 2002–2008 state TIP list. The overpass does not appear on the TIP list now, and we should make it clear to them we want it to remain that way. The Land Use Plan changes would be very easy to do and would not take an appearance before the CRC.

*Commissioner Emory Trainham made motion, Commissioner Emily Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the resolution supporting further study of the impact of the NC Hwy 24 and NC Hwy 58 overpass as read.*

## **7. NEW BUSINESS.**

### **a. THE TOWN'S AUDIT REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2000, WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE TOWN'S CPA, MS. JOY BELL OF BELL & POTTER, CPAs.**

**Mayor Harris** introduced **Ms. Joy Bell**, of Bell & Potter, CPAs, who gave the audit report for the year ending June 30, 2000. In their opinion based on their audit, the general service financial statements referred to in the audit report reflect the financial position of the Town of Emerald Isle as of June 30. This is an unqualified opinion, which is a clean opinion with no material mis-statements.

**Ms. Bell** presented the audit in depth, with accompanying data which revealed that the Town of Emerald Isle is in a good financial status. In addition to the financial statements and the breakdowns of the funds, there is a compliance section that they are mandated to report on because of the Town's receipt of federal and state grant money. They report on internal controls and compliance with regulations related to the grants. The only instance they found, and this would be found in most small governments, is segregation of duties related to the accounting functions. She brought it to the Board's attention only to let them know that they need to be more involved. It is not cost-effective at this time for the Town to hire more staff just to perform certain accounting functions, but it is beneficial for the Board to be involved in the review of interim financial statements and the month-end reports. A copy of the Audit has been attached to the end of these Minutes.

**Commissioner Wootten** asked if they had done a fixed inventory to ledger reconciliation. **Ms. Bell** replied that they had done so.

*Commissioner John Wootten made motion, Commissioner Jay Murphy seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the audit report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000.*

**Commissioner Wootten** commented that he had experience as a chief financial officer, so he had an inclination to get involved in the financial process of the Town. He reported that there were three factors going for the Town. The first is Joy Bell, the auditor. The second is Mitsy Overman, the Director of Finance for the Town, who is impressive; will let nothing get past her; will call Ms. Bell right away if she does not know something; and is able to communicate with the Board on what the status of the Town is at any given time. The other factor is the Town Manager, Pete Allen, who thinks he is spending his own money when it comes time to pay bills. The three give him a good feeling on the financial status of the Town.

**b. THE BOARD SHOULD OFFICIALLY APPROVE A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR A JOINT LAND USE STUDY (JLUS) IT TENTATIVELY APPROVED AT A RECENT SPECIAL WORKSHOP MEETING.**

**Mayor Harris** explained that the resolution was offered at the October 16, 2000, meeting, and this should be forwarded to the proper officials to begin the study. The resolution is a resolution of support for a land use study between the Marine Corps and Craven and Carteret counties, and Bogue Field is included.

**Commissioner Wootten** said the Marine Corps had come in at a workshop and went into in great detail what this is about. In simplified terms, it is the recognition on the part of the Marine Corps and the Town that there needs to be a cooperative effort to deal with the problems.

**Commissioner Farmer** read the resolution, which is attached to the end of these Minutes.

**Commissioner Trainham** said it is his understanding that the Town should agree to appoint a commissioner or an officer or an elected official plus the Town Manager to represent the Town in the JLUS Policy Committee. He suggested that item 2 be changed to read "The Town agrees to appoint the Town Manager and a representative to the JLUS policy committee."

*Commissioner Emory Trainham made motion, Commissioner John Wootten seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to adopt the resolution as amended.*

**c. THE BOARD SHOULD DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON AN ANIMAL COMMITTEE.**

**Mayor Harris** explained that all committees are established because a number of the citizens come to the Council requesting a study be done about certain problems in the community. If the Council feels there is a serious problem or concern, they agree to appoint an ad hoc committee to do the study and collect facts. The ad hoc committee then presents the report to the Board in a reasonable time period. At that time, the committee task is completed, and the Board accepts all, none, or part of the suggestions of the committee. The Animal Committee is developed to open a dialogue to resolve problems concerning dogs that are not on leashes and allowed to run free on the beach and in neighborhoods, horseback riding on the beach, and the overpopulation of cats.

This year, this Board has had a Hurricane Committee, Vehicles on the Beach Committee, Turtle Committee, Sign Committee, Bogue Field Committee, and now are adding Animal Committee and Solid Waste Committee. These seven ad hoc committees have been very good.

Those who filled out a volunteer form and submitted it to the Board are: Ann Eckerson, Jean Snyder, Ann Steen, Emily Jordan, Clara VonMeysenburg, Paul Snyder, and Tonya Purcell.

**Mayor Harris** had asked Ann Steen to be the leader, but when the committee meets, which will be December 6, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., they will be asked to elect her as chairman because she has studied this for so long. The committee will have that option.

*Commissioner Emily Farmer made motion, Commissioner Jay Murphy seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to appoint these wonderful volunteers to the Animal Committee.*

**Mayor Harris** then took item "e" below before item "d."

**d. THE BOARD SHOULD DISCUSS THE RELEASE OF \$263.77 OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDS TO THE EASTERN CAROLINA COUNCIL. THIS IS AN ANNUAL ON-GOING REQUEST.**

**Mr. Pete Allen**, Town Manager, explained the request. This is a regular annual routine request. The General Assembly each year appropriates a certain amount of money to local councils. Ours used to be called the Neuse River Council and was recently changed to the Carolina Council. Monies are appropriated to these local councils for economic development. While Emerald Isle generally gets no direct benefit from this, it keeps the money in the area. The total amount going to our region, Region P, is about \$55,000. Past boards have released the money. If we do not release it to them, it goes back into the State General Fund.

**Commissioner Farmer** clarified that in 1998, the Town did not release the funds. She has no objections, but suggested that Mr. Allen give Joe McKinney a call and see if he can help out with storm water.

*Commissioner John Wootten made motion, Commissioner Emily Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to accept the release of economic development funds to Eastern Carolina Council.*

**e. THE BOARD SHOULD DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SERVE ON A SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE.**

**Mayor Harris** said that Mr. Dick Eckhardt has spent months on this problem, taking pictures and studying and doing lots of reports. She asked that Richard Eckhardt, Nancy Eckhardt, Floyd Messer, James Ramsey, JoAnn Sutherland, and Scarlet Williamson be appointed to the Solid Waste Committee.

*Commissioner John Wootten made motion, Commissioner Emory Trainham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to appoint the committee as outlined.*

## **8. PUBLIC COMMENTS.**

**Mr. Frank Vance** reported on the Turtle Committee. The Planning Board was asked for plans to protect sea turtles and proposed a campaign rather than an ordinance to erect sand fences and lighting, the two most dangerous things to the turtles and hatchlings. He thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for their support on the program. Carteret Craven Electric committed \$1,500, which should be coming shortly, for the signs. Six families donated a total of \$238.58. Five of the families donated a total of \$200. The committee had suggested making stickers for the realtors to put on light switches that shine out onto the beach. Mr. Vance has the stickers—that say "Turn lights off. Hazardous to turtles—in hand, and they will be moving ahead with working with the realtors to put them on the light switches. The 3,000

stickers cost \$206.70, and that is what the \$200 donation was used for. An anonymous donor gave the \$38.58 to purchase the mounting hardware to place the metal signs on posts. Sound Hardware gave him a 25% discount, and the total amounted to \$38.58. Mr. Allen has written a letter to the five families thanking them. The signs will probably cost about \$1,600.

**Mr. Rick Farrington**, resident of 8802 Soundview Court, spoke about the work he had done concerning storm water. He could not get a complete grasp of the picture from the Moffatt-Nichol report, but he has lived here for many years and wandered the land in his youth. He was curious as to why the Town would want to purchase land to create wetlands areas. He went to the Planning Board office and got the aerial photographs and put the Coast Guard Road corridor on the wall. What he found out was that there are natural wetland areas that are working in their natural state as well as they can, and some subdivisions require a signature from buyers saying they will not fill the wetlands. Unfortunately, subdivisions that were put in earlier had no protection that the new ones do. The map showed certain problematic areas. There are areas that show serious blockage. What prompted him was the pumping of the water in Lands End into the ocean when there is a huge area 80 feet over that could be used for discharge of some of the water. He also noticed that the water level of the ponds starting at around Sea Dunes is somewhere around 7.8 feet, and at the end of the island, it drops down to 3 feet. One of the things that captured his attention was how the water is getting out naturally. Point Emerald Villas is adjacent to Lands End, and when the road to Point Emerald Villas was built, they dammed off a huge wetland system that flowed naturally into the sound. He showed a picture from the 1940s of the Coast Guard station that shows the Point, and all the homes were built on a marsh. There was a time when the water went down through there.

He met last week with Commissioner Farmer, Commissioner Wootten, some people from Lands End, Shellfish Sanitation, and CAMA, and decided they will have a meeting in January where they will look at the effects on the water in the Sound of reopening the natural flow of water. It would only work in extreme conditions. He asked for help from anybody who has an engineering background.

## **9. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.**

**Ms. Alesia Sanderson**, Parks and Recreation, reported that they annually sponsor a local needy family in the area for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Shawn Butler, a 7-year-old who lives on Canal Street, has been diagnosed with lymphoma. The department has obtained a wish list from Shawn and his older brother Buck, and Ms. Sanderson asked for assistance with this and said the list will be available at the Community Center. Everything will be gathered at the Community Center by December 20 and will be given to the parents for the family. There will be someone in the Community Center from 7:30 A.M. to 9:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M.

**Fire Chief William Walker** reported that the state legislature appointed a committee to overview the state undertaking a new project of the ISO surveys for the state, which surveys fire protection in towns and sets the fire insurance rates. Chief Walker has been appointed to the committee. He said the Town is a class 4.

**Police Department** had no comment.

**Mr. Bob Conrad**, Public Works, reported that they have been very busy. They're working on the Powell Bill prioritization.

**Ms. Carol Angus**, Inspections Department, reported that for the month of October, there were 10 new family dwellings at an added tax value of approximately \$2,380,000. Things have slowed down a little,

but they stay busy thanks to the committees. She is not belittling anything any previous Planning Board did, but the report on wireless communications from Mr. Harrison is fabulous. Mr. Harrison put in at least six solid 40-hour weeks on the ordinance.

## **10. OTHER COMMENTS.**

**Ms. Carolyn Custy**, Town Clerk, had no comment.

**Mr. Derek Taylor**, Town Attorney, commented that you cannot buy a consultant with the kind of detail we got from Cary Harrison. It is as impressive an ordinance as he has ever seen. Mr. Taylor said he appreciated Commissioner Trainham's representing the Town at Mr. Taylor's son's Eagle ceremony.

**Commissioner Trainham** wanted everyone to know how proud and happy he is to be associated with such a talented group that makes up the Bogue Field Committee. The committee has met four times, each for several hours, opening a very effective dialogue between the committee and the military representatives. He expressed appreciation for Lt Col Barry Fetzer's presence at the Committee and Board meetings. The committee has been collecting data, determining priority concerns that affect the citizens. They are drafting a report to be made to the Council at the Board meeting December 12, 2000. He thanked the members of the committee, who are doing a great job: Vincent Bonnano, a former aeronautics engineer and chairman of the committee; Mark Brennesholtz, a former helicopter pilot; Jim Pierce; Phil Gagnon, a former textile engineer for North Carolina, whose information technology is coming through loud and clear; Tom Henson, an attorney; and Shirl Brilakis.

**Commissioner Murphy** thanked the Board and the people in the audience for being positive toward the item he introduced into the agenda.

**Commissioner Farmer** thanked the Hurricane Advisory Committee for keeping the hurricanes away from Emerald Isle. She did not realize that an advisory committee had so much power. She also mentioned the workshop on Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Crystal Coast Civic Center to plan the future of Carteret County. In background, Carteret County decided in 1999 to do a countywide comprehensive plan, which was an outgrowth of the Regional Wastewater Task Force, the group that was trying to put in a four-county regional sewer system with potential ocean outfall out Bogue Inlet. The Regional Wastewater Task Force was told by the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources that, because such a system would result in rapid growth and result of water quality degradation, comprehensive planning would have to be done first. While the Regional Wastewater Task Force has disbanded, the County is still seeking countywide sewers, and thus the planning effort. Planning done right requires citizens who are willing to put in the time and effort to break away from busy lives and go to meetings like the workshop on Saturday to give some thought to what they value about our area, what they want to keep, what they want to change, and then to voice those thoughts. Those thoughts then shape our collective vision of our future. Without that critical citizen input, the drive is merely economic development without regard to our quality of life. Commissioner Farmer is the Emerald Isle representative on the Steering Committee. Among topics to be discussed will be transportation, education, health care, economic development, and the environment. These will be brainstorming sessions with a facilitator leading each one of the small groups. Each group will report back to the whole group. Lunch will be provided free of charge.

**Commissioner Wootten** spoke on beach renourishment. Pine Knoll Shores and Indian Beach are entertaining the idea, or developing the concept, of renourishing their beaches. Members of the Board have received correspondence from citizens in town expressing an interest in doing beach renourishment from 1<sup>st</sup> Street through the 3000 block on Emerald Isle, to be funded and paid for by citizens in that

area. It is just an idea right now. At a workshop on November 20, people will come to talk to the Board about what Pine Knoll Shores and Indian Beach are doing. He would like to direct the Town Manager to get a cost estimate from C. S. Baird. He also suggested a roll call of the people in the area. **Mr. Allen** said this is already in the works.

**Mayor Harris** said workshops are normally for the Board, but the workshop on November 20 at 10:00 A.M. will be open for public comments and suggestions on beach renourishment only.

**Mr. Pete Allen**, Town Manager, had no comment.

**ADJOURN.**

*Commissioner John Wootten, Commissioner Emily Farmer seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn K. Custy  
Town Clerk