

Life at Town Hall

By Joan Lamson, Mayor

Near the end of February, your elected officials met with all of the Town's Department Heads to prepare a plan of work for the year. This planning retreat has traditionally focused on a five-year horizon. With a new mayor and three new commissioners hardly familiar with the "business of government" we were far from prepared to complete a full, formal five-year plan.

With our "listening and learning" hats on, we took the information provided by the staff and then did some brainstorming of things we thought should be accomplished. Some of these projects were very simple and would be done quickly and others were much more complex and might require multi-year efforts. When we were finished the items on the list totaled 66, much to our surprise.

We then sorted the list by the applicable departments of Administration and Finance, Public Works, and Public Safety. There were a few projects that did not seem to fit within these departments so we added a column for Board of Commissioners and two lonely items fell only under the Mayor's responsibility.

The Commissioners were recently asked to rank these 66 items by priority. We found that nine of the items were already finished and more were "in the works." Seven additional items were ranked as high priority by a majority of the Commissioners.

Here's what has been accomplished:

- Bring back The Shoreline
- Continuation of the occupancy tax program
- High-speed Internet access for the Police Department
- Artist's Project
- Improvement of lighting at Town Hall
- Look into cable TV charges
- New printer for administration office
- Computer for Mayor
- Computer for Commissioners

Items on the list that are high priority and in the works now include:

- Purchase of the water company
- Storm water solutions
- Accredited Fire and EMS Department
- 933/50 year project
- Building code change to reduce flood insurance premiums
- Review visibility at rights-of-way
- Location markers on the beach for emergency purposes

Obviously there are many other projects that have been accomplished that we didn't even know about when we made the brainstorm list and we will be reporting the status of those in future articles.

Big Bang Thanks!

Thanks are due to the Town's Police and Fire Departments for their participation in the Fourth of July Celebration at Bogue Banks Country Club. The Police Department set up a table to display our Community Policing information, including the new "I am OK" program. This program allows the Police Department to call the subscriber (no-charge) every morning between certain hours to ascertain if everything is, indeed, "OK." The Community Policing bike was also on display as well as information on appropriate lock systems for your home. The Police also talked about the availability of a Home Safety Survey wherein a Policeman will come to your home at your request and go through a checklist with you of the safety and security of your home. Most of the questions that were asked at this event had to do with security such as how to best secure doors and windows. The "Friendly" Policemen also passed out coloring books and crayons to the children attending this event. Call the Police Department at 247-2474 for more information on any of these projects.

Our Fire/EMS Department was also present at the celebration. As they have done for many years, there was a fire truck parked near the fireworks display area. The EMS ambulance was parked at Garner Park, standing ready if needed, and out of the way of a very fully parked parking lot. Rumor has it that the firemen did not get hot dogs due to rain-soaked buns...or was it rain-soaked dogs?

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County Commissioners Approve County Paramedic Service at PKS EMS Building

Mayor Lamson announced at the beginning of the July Board of Commissioners meeting that the County Commissioners had approved County Paramedic service for the middle of the island to be stationed at the Public Safety Building. There will be no cost to the Town.

The Planning Board is working on updating the Waterways Ordinance that has been in place since 1984.

Gerry Walters was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Planning Board. **THREE MEMBERS' TERMS WILL EXPIRE IN SEPTEMBER AND NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBMIT RESUMES FOR CONSIDERATION.**

The Community Appearance Commission appointed Alternate Clinton Anderson to fill a vacancy. It was noted that Chairman Bob Curry is back at work after his recent medical problems.

Two bids were received for street resurfacing, and APAC Atlantic, Inc. had the significantly lower bid. The work will be done in August and should take about two weeks. Work will be done on Pine Knoll Blvd., Ramsey Dr., Arborvitae Dr., Mimosa Blvd., Oakleaf Dr., and Hawthorne Dr., and will include 13,200 feet of double yellow pavement marking lines. This will be paid for from the Powell Bill fund.

Removal of yard waste from McGinnis Point &

Beacon's Reach private roads will be done by Robert Youngblood.

Police Chief Culpepper reported that the "flasher" was seen again. Take your cell phone with you to the beach so that you can call the police dispatch at 504-4800 if you see him.

The Fire & EMS departments are getting prepared for hurricane season with a new policy that provides more guidance. The Emergency Management & Post-Recovery plan is being updated (it is five years old) and, when finished, it will be submitted to the County.

The new ISO rating went into effect on July 1. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Municipal Water System - Mayor Lamson reports that, "It isn't over, so we are working on it." 933 Project - "Very close to having it approved", but Federal budgets have to be approved first.

NEW BUSINESS: A proclamation was read honoring Dick Cumberland who has been inducted into the Senior Musicians Hall of Fame in Columbus, Ohio. A second proclamation was read honoring Vivian Macdonald's 30 years of volunteer service in the PKS Garden Club.

By Yvette Bannen, Contributor

Seawall Maintenance

By Bob Ruggiero

It is the responsibility of all property owners whose lot abuts the canal to maintain the seawall and their dock in accordance with Town of Pine Knoll Shores Ordinance 16.2-3. The ordinance states that:

"The owner of each property adjacent to a navigable canal within the Town shall maintain a bulkhead, or seawall, along the canal at his sole cost and expense. All bulkheads shall be maintained in a good state of repair and in such a fashion as to prevent erosion of sand, soil, other debris and sediment into the canal. Canal front properties that are not currently bulkheaded shall be bulkheaded at the sole cost and expense of the owner of such property within three years of the date of the adoption of this ordinance. June 13, 2000."

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