

Board of Commissioners

By Paige Gillespie

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on December 9, 2020. All commissioners were present.

No comments were read during the public comment session.

The Consent Agenda including past meeting minutes and tax discoveries and releases was approved unanimously.

Town Manager Brian Kramer reported on these items:

- Phase 2 stormwater project: Construction is underway. The line survey verified the elevations. He met with the country club regarding entry to the work site through the mobile home park in Atlantic Beach, and noted that weather delays could necessitate doing the country club work before finishing the east end area.
- Electric cooperative tree trimming: He reported that 96 trees needed to be removed, with approximately 50 being replaced. No citizen concerns were noted.
- Quick updates: There are plans to paint a center line on Oakleaf Drive. The cyber security analysis of the town's computer network has been completed, and he is awaiting the report. His primary concern is data security. Quotes have been received for replacement of the five public safety building doors and one door at town hall. This issue will go before the commissioners at their January meeting.

Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Julie Anderson reported that tax collections remain slightly ahead of last year. A check was sent to Kayak for the Warriors for \$50,000, an amount that was better than expected due to the inability to hold most events because of the pandemic. Angel Tree donations to benefit Hope For The Warriors totaled \$6,765, which will bring Christmas cheer to 20 warrior families.

Fire Chief Jason Baker reported on fire safety reminders for the winter, stressing that a space heater should never be plugged into any kind of power strip (UL-approved or not) and that space heaters should be kept well away from combustible materials. He also said residents should check their CO detectors, especially if gas appliances are in use.

Police Chief Ryan Thompson reported that he recently tested the department's radios, and determined that 800 MHz gives superior coverage to VHF. He reminded everyone to keep home and vehicle doors locked at all times, and cautioned that valuables, especially firearms, should not be left in vehicles. In addition, he suggested documenting the makes, models and serial numbers of valuables in your home.

Town Planner Kevin Reed reported that town staff has met with an engineering firm that will be submitting a proposal for the cost to design the three replacement entrances to town hall as well as the replacement of Beach Access A. He noted that town staff has begun working on the application for the NC Resilient Coastal Community Program that is due on January 15. He also reported that the civil penalty assessed against 122 Arborvitae Court has been paid but a tree replanting schedule has not been submitted. Staff has issued one single-family landscape permit and is reviewing two others. Staff is responding to multiple inquiries regarding single family landscape permit applications for new homes. He and Town Inspector Jim Taylor attended CAMA Local Permit Officer training.

The building inspector's report noted that 23 permits were issued at a value of \$589,930. Fees generated by these permits totaled \$5,163. There were 80 inspections performed, and 11 tree removal permits were issued.

Town Clerk Charlie Rocci reported that the Environmental Enhancement Grant stormwater project and the living shoreline project are on track for construction to begin in May 2021. He gave an update on the CARES Act project, which is the telecommunications system update for town hall. Construction was to take place during December. He reported that the 2021 recycling calendar is available and that there will be some town website updates in January to make the site more user friendly.

Public Services Director Sonny Cunningham reported the leak detection project is complete. He said that the water tower at Trinity Center is being painted now and both tanks are being better maintained by Southern Corrosion.

Under unfinished business, Town Manager Brian Kramer presented a list of recommended expenditures for the excess FEMA fund allocation. After a lengthy discussion, the board voted unanimously to accept Town Manager Kramer's recommendation. He will submit the town's list to FEMA.

A public hearing was held regarding the Town Committee Ordinance. No one from the public commented.

Under new business, Town Manager Kramer requested the board's approval to hire Dave M. Harvell & Associates to secure and review competitive bids regarding the 2021 waste removal contract. The board voted unanimously in favor of this request.

The board voted unanimously to approve the Pine Knoll Shores-Crystal Coast Country Club Phase II stormwater project amendment. This amendment provides for several additions to the scope of the project.

Town Clerk Charlie Rocci reviewed the town's ordinance for boat trailers. Following a discussion, the board decided not to pursue looking into establishing a location in town for boat trailers.

During the mayor and commissioner reports, Commissioner Corsello requested that the board continue to look into an ordinance prohibiting leaving items on the beach overnight. Mayor Brodman discussed sidewalks and public safety.

A discussion was held regarding a public comment from November concerning being able to have fires on the beach. Following input from Fire Chief Baker and a discussion, the board decided not to allow this.

No comments were read during the public comment session.

The next regular Board of Commissioners meeting will be on January 13 at 6 p.m. at town hall.

The full minutes of Board of Commissioners meetings are included in the agenda packets that are publicly available through the calendar on the town website (townofpks.com) and are sent out via email prior to the next month's regular board meeting. If you have questions about access to the minutes, contact Town Clerk Charles Rocci at 247-4353, ext. 13.

Copies of the current issue of *The Shoreline* are now available in the side foyer at town hall, which is accessible during and after business hours.