

# Board of Commissioners

By Charles Rocci

The first regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on June 9. All commissioners were present.

Following announcements, Matthew Selves, Public Safety Management Consultant for the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), presented Police Chief Ryan Thompson with an award for the Pine Knoll Shores Police Department passing its three-year NCLM risk assessment, which includes a policy review and comprehensive agency site evaluation designed to validate that policies and practices are meeting the recommended best practices.

The consent agenda, including past meeting minutes, closed session minutes, tax discoveries and releases, and a Heritage Tree application, was approved unanimously. There were no public comments.

Town Manager Brian Kramer reported on these items:

- **Water Main Replacement:** For the water main replacement along Highway 58, the board must decide between trenching and boring. Construction target is between October 2021 and March 2022.
- **PSB Access:** A new side entrance to Pine Knoll Village, next to the public safety building (PSB), is under consideration. The town can move forward on this project in FY2023.
- **Town Hall Roof:** The town hall roof has missing shingles which need to be repaired now. This would be an acceptable use of FEMA funding.
- **Quick updates:** The Phase 2 pump is hooked up to Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative service. Sonny Cunningham is ordering more reflective street signs for the eastern side of town. The Pedestrian Planning Group was to meet the week after the commissioners meeting. There is interest in upgrading the town's fuel station so we can accurately tell how much gas each department is using. Sonny Cunningham fertilized the 4.5 miles of dune plantings.

Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Julie Anderson reported that FEMA requested further information for GPS locations, dimensions and ages of buildings for upcoming FEMA funded projects. She contacted our consultant at Witt O'Brien to help with this process. She also reported delinquent taxes, noting that we are in good shape compared to previous years. Currently, totals for outstanding real ad valorem taxes are \$6,067.60, real beach taxes are \$1,007.30, and real Solid Waste Fee taxes are \$2,535.81.

Fire Chief Jason Baker cautioned residents to take care when doing household maintenance. Before attempting to do a particular task, homeowners should try to think about where the hazards are. Residents should also be preparing for hurricane season now.

Police Chief Ryan Thompson gave an update to the speed limit change on Highway 58. He is happy to report that most residents are complying with the speed reduction. The police department ordered nonpermanent stickers to put on cars indicating they are illegally parked in the right-of-way.

Public Services Department Director Sonny Cunningham reported that road striping on Oakleaf Drive and Mimosa Boulevard was to begin the week following the meeting and that the paving work for the five cul-de-sacs had begun. The five cul-de-sacs are Cottonwood, Hemlock, Locust, Hickory and Redwood courts. In addition, he reported that last month's repairs on well #2 are working well.

Town Planner Kevin Reed reported that five single family landscape permits

were issued in May. Last month, the Board of Adjustment granted a variance for 10 trees at 113 Knollwood Drive. Staff and the Community Appearance Commission (CAC) will discuss post-development tree density for oceanfront parcels.

Town Clerk Charlie Rocci reported that he is working on an Environmental Enhancement Grant Application to install a living shoreline behind Bogue Pines. He also was to hold a preconstruction meeting for the stormwater line on Acorn Court on June 21.

A public hearing was called for the FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance. Following a brief discussion, the FY 2021-22 Budget Ordinance passed unanimously.

Under New Business:

- Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Julie Anderson presented a budget amendment that included amendments to general fund revenues, beach funds and the water enterprise fund. The amendment passed unanimously.
- Town Planner Kevin Reed presented a preliminary plat for the Trinity Forest Subdivision. The proposed subdivision is a 4.459-acre parcel located on the south side of Highway 58 at the far western boundary of the diocese's oceanfront parcel. Following some discussion, the preliminary plat was approved unanimously.
- Fire Chief Jason Baker presented two bids for the emergency pumping from DRC and Double T. Based on the positive past experience with the owner of Double T, Chief Baker recommended the board contract with them for emergency pumping. Following some discussion, the board approved Double T for the emergency pumping contract unanimously.

*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.*

## Joan Lamson, 1937-2021

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it was for us to edit it (it absolutely, positively could not be edited by us). Years later, when the town staff redesigned the website, she called me to tell me it was the ugliest, most user-difficult and horrible website ever created. I laugh at all this now, but when Joan designed that website, such things were just starting to become standard in small-government circles. She was truly ahead of her time (she also started the process of digitizing town documents, another step into the 21st century with which she took the lead.)

Joan loved the arts. Much of what hangs in town hall today was put up by Joan. She established a historic preservation project of matting and reframing photos of past elected officials, which hang in the board room still today. Joan reestablished the publishing of *The Shoreline*, which had gone into hiatus. She started the still-in-place practice of formally honoring our veterans when she organized a World War II veterans commemoration event. We have since done the same for the veterans of past and future wars. When you go to Veterans Park behind town hall and see the granite monument honoring all Pine Knoll Shores veterans, you can thank Joan for taking the lead in all of that.

Joan tackled things big and small. She succeeded in some initiatives and not in others. But with all that said, having been involved in many of the organizational aspects of local government that Joan put together since her time in office, I think she put her stamp on Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall, both literally and philosophically.