

Board of Commissioners

By Charlie Rocci

The first regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on December 8. Mayor Brodman and all commissioners were present, including newly elected member Robert Cox.

Mayor John Brodman announced that the Board of Commissioners will be meeting with the Strategic Planning Committee on January 19 to present the latest revision of the town's Strategic Plan and that on February 24 the Beach Commission will present to newly elected officials the 50-year beach master plan.

Under unfinished business, the board unanimously approved ordinance changes to allow for criminal charging of specific parts of the town code such as obstruction of emergency services, open fire burning, water meter tampering, and sand dune disturbance. This was the second reading of these ordinance changes as required by the North Carolina General Assembly.

Outgoing Commissioner Larry Corsello was presented a silver platter engraved with his name and years of service. Following a speech from Mayor Brodman, Robert Cox, along with reelected Commissioners Alicia Durham and Bill Knecht and Mayor Brodman were sworn into office.



Recently elected town officials, from left: Commissioner Bill Knecht, Mayor John Brodman, Commissioner Alicia Durham and Commissioner Robert Cox. All were sworn in at the Board of Commissioners meeting on December 8.—Photos by Brian Kramer

Under new business, the board unanimously approved Julie Anderson's American Rescue Plan (ARP) Premium Pay policy to compensate essential town employees who have continued to work throughout the pandemic. The policy incorporates a three-level system for types of services and multiplier based on state average salary. The board also unanimously approved a special revenue budget amendment specifically for public health expenses and ARP expenses.

Commissioner Goetzinger requested the addition of a sidewalk item to instruct Town Manager Kramer to begin searching for design specialists and find financing opportunities. Commissioner Knecht added that this is not a board

decision on installing sidewalks. The board agreed and no action was necessary.

Town Manager Brian Kramer reported on these items:

- The town is beginning to transition solid waste services from GFL to Waste Removal. The last week of December was to be very important in this process.
- Mr. Kramer is seeking contractors for replacing the water main along Highway 58. This is not a project we want to be working on in the summer.
- NCDOT is requiring a permanent construction easement in order to take control of the pipe issues on Arborvitae Drive. Mr. Kramer is continuing to work to strike a deal with DOT.
- The town identified a leaking tank on the dunes between the Seahawk and Windjammer hotels. Neither property has claimed ownership of the tank. The town was to dig into the tank and plug the pipe the week following the meeting.
- Survey work is almost finished for the Public Services Department equipment barn. The town will have to figure out where to move the dog park, or if it is necessary to keep one. This has held up FEMA Excess Funds, and we will likely not receive those funds until March.
- Just prior to the board meeting, the state passed its annual budget. In the budget, \$200 million was allocated to stormwater projects, and \$2 million was allocated to living shoreline projects. We have potential to receive some of these funds.

Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Julie Anderson reported another budget amendment will come in January to address *Shoreline* contract changes, equipment building site plan, sidewalk survey printing, and the UDO consultant contract. The Finance Committee met to look at key performance indicators for the water enterprise fund. This item will be on the agenda for the February offsite meeting.

Fire Chief Jason Baker cautioned residents to be careful with Christmas decorations during the holiday season.

Police Chief Ryan Thompson reported the town apprehended a fugitive charged with extorting money through a landscaping scam. He then gave a summary of major investigations of 2021.

Public Services Department Director Sonny Cunningham reported that the Public Services Department repaired a 6-inch water main leak and was into an ongoing project to replace street signs in town.



Outgoing Commissioner Larry Corsello (left) and Mayor John Brodman. Mr. Corsello was presented with an engraved silver platter commemorating his years of service to the town (2009-2021).

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