

Board of Commissioners

By Valerie Payne

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) was held on August 10. All commissioners were present.

Mayor Brodman called the meeting to order. There were no disclosures or conflicts of interest added, and the agenda was approved, followed by an announcement that town hall will be closed on September 5 for Labor Day.

There was a special presentation for the town's Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) fundraiser in support of our Wounded Warriors. Jean McDanal thanked all who helped make the event possible. This year's proceeds of \$85,800 were presented to Danielle Rose from Hope For The Warriors.

During the public comment period, board members once again called for more citizens to come forward with their concerns. Those who wish to speak are asked to sign in prior to the public comment segment of the meeting.

Mayor Brodman noted that our first responders had a busy week in early August. A motion was made and approved to send a letter of appreciation to all personnel who were involved in the ocean rescues. EMS/Fire Chief Jason Baker shared details of the rescues and praised the teamwork of each department for acting quickly and efficiently.

Unfinished Business:

- The BOC continued discussion on the Citizen Finance Committee. The BOC's goal in this matter is to update the language in the financial policy and to amend or add language to the wage compensation portion. It was decided that a new committee was not needed; however, public involvement is encouraged in an advisory capacity. After the draft is written, a public hearing will be held to discuss the draft and consider suggestions. A second public meeting will be held, with final approval by the BOC in July.
- Anyone interested in working on this process should contact committee members Commissioner Cox or Commissioner Durham. They will have an agenda for each bi-monthly meeting and will include you in the meeting when your topic of interest is discussed.

New Business:

- Town Manager Kramer announced that the major landscape permit was approved for the Foundry Market that will be located at 112 Salter Path Road.
- Fire Chief Jason Baker explained the intended revisions to the fire hazard provisions of the town code. Gas and clean-burning wood in a fire pit will not require a burn permit, but open burning on private property will require a permit. With significant differences in structures (house vs condominium) and safe distances from structures to fire pits, it was determined that more clarification was needed before the revisions can be added to the town code.
- The Coastal Federation will move to a new headquarters and is fundraising for a new building. In appreciation for all they have done to help Pine Knoll Shores, the board voted to join the federation for a \$50 fee and donate \$1,000 toward the building fund.

Town manager and staff reports:

Brian Kramer gave an update on several grants:

- **FEMA funds.** Requests for qualification for the public safety building were sent out in July, with responses due by August 19. These were posted on the town website (townofpks.com) and the Historically Underutilized Businesses website (HUB). Also posted on the website and HUB was information on the request for procurement (RFP) for the ladder truck. Responses were due on August 15, with one response already received. The second meeting to approve the ladder truck contract was scheduled for August 24. RFP for radios and storm shutters was to go out following the meeting.
- **Resilient Community Grant.** In early August, the town received the signed agreement with the state, and it was sent to the Division of Coastal Management (DCM). The project must be nature-based, and the design of infiltration swales and crowning of road at the most flood-prone areas has been selected. Locations were to be identified and adjacent homeowners notified. A design professional will be selected, with the design completion due by February 1, 2023.
- **NCEM Grant—Emergency Storm Drain Lines.** The head of NC Department of Public Safety Recovery Division visited the sites on Arborvitae Drive and Cedar Road. The Arborvitae design is completed, and the Cedar Road site is awaiting a proposal from Cullipher Engineering. The four impacted homeowners are on board and were to receive a draft easement proposal soon. The completion deadline is June 2025.
- **DEQ/Division of Water Infrastructure Grant.** The town was not successful in qualifying for this grant this spring, but there will be an automatic re-submission in the fall round.

Sidewalk segment possibilities for safely crossing Highway 58. Town Manager Kramer and Commissioner Clark Edwards visited the following public beach accesses as a follow-up to July's discussion: Ocean Glen, Beacon's Reach and Dayton Place (across from public safety building). In conjunction with these visits are discussions of a sidewalk segment from Dayton Place on the south side of Highway 58, east to the traffic light at Pine Knoll Boulevard; a sidewalk segment from the crosswalk at Juniper Road east to Laurel Court (which was discussed in the spring and had a cost estimate of \$100,000 for construction and \$13,000 for design); and a small segment from the eastern Bermuda Greens driveway to the Hotel Alice driveway (cost estimate of \$30,000 for construction and \$9,000 for design).

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Office Julie Anderson discussed three items:

- Preliminary estimate of the total fund balance gain of over \$200,000 (inspections fees and Sales & Use tax estimates). There was a paving capital expense rollover to the new fiscal year of \$93,000 (a budget amendment is forthcoming). Savings were also added from the Police Department salaries due to turnovers.
- Tax bills will be delayed due to Carteret County's implementation of new software. We should expect tax statements in September.
- Lightning struck at town hall: Insurance will cover repair costs, but as of the BOC meeting, staff was still finding damages to the building. Some locks needed repair and computers were continuing to have issues.

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