

Board of Commissioners

By Valerie Payne

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) was held on November 9, 2022. All commissioners were present.

Mayor Brodman called the meeting to order.

A special presentation followed to honor Representative Pat McElraft, who served the 13th congressional district from 2007 to 2022. Please see “Representative Pat McElraft Retires” and the mayor’s column, “Tacks in the Road,” for more information on the important support received during her time in the NC House of Representatives.

The agenda was approved. No disclosures or conflicts were voiced.

Mayor Brodman introduced Paula Hodges, CPA from Martin Starnes and Associates of Hickory. Ms. Hodges led a power point presentation detailing the 2022 Town of Pine Knoll Shores audited financial statements. She praised and thanked Town Manager Brian Kramer and Finance Director Julie Anderson for the efficient and timely preparation of materials needed for the audit. Other performance indicators addressed were segregation of duties and a stable property tax valuation and high collection percentage. Hodges’ full presentation can be viewed at townofpks.com.

During the public comment segment there were no speakers. If you would like to share a concern or opinion, sign in on the speaker roster, or you can also participate through letters, email or the meeting link. Public input is welcomed.

The consent agenda, which included the corrected October minutes, tax discoveries, releases and volunteer board appointments, was approved. Volunteer appointments relate directly to the Strategic Plan, which strives for 95% fill on volunteer boards. Planning Board members Ken Rozewski, Michelle Powers, Bob Holman and Paul Payne all requested to be reappointed and will serve on the board for one to two years. Clare Winslow and Walter Steele requested reappointment to the Community Appearance Commission. They will serve for a three-year term. A vote was taken and passed to appoint these candidates.

The NC Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) sand fencing resolution was passed, and the dual band radio purchase agreement was approved under New Business.

Town manager and staff reports:

Town Manager Kramer gave an update on projects, including:

- *The attorney’s recommended changes to the agreement with the design professional for the public safety building roof.* Mr. Kramer expects to present this to the BOC at the December meeting.
- *EPA lead and copper inventory on water system.* This is a federal mandate and will be a significant task. Testing for lead and copper in our water has been required every three years since passage of the Safe Water Drinking Act in 1991, and Sonny Cunningham has been doing the testing in 20 locations in town. The good news is that, to date, no lead or copper has been found in the town-owned distribution system. Syncing databases from the tax collector and Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative billing will be required by October 2024, which necessitates a visit to each water service and meter box to record specific information on both the town side and customer side. Mr. Kramer has a detailed 164-page (suggested) guidance document in the form of a spreadsheet. Guidance from NCDEAQ is forthcoming.
- *Salter Path Road water main reconstruction project.* The Salter Path Road water main reconstruction plans have been completed. There was continuing

work on permits and specifications, with anticipation of bids going out by Thanksgiving.

- *DCM Resilient Community project.* The Division of Coastal Management (DCM) requires this project to be completed by March. Homeowners have been notified, and the town is awaiting word on a possible subsequent grant for construction.
- *Dune and vegetation monitoring.* The contract with Moffat & Nichol was extended for five years for a fee of \$12,500 annually. Two items were added to the task list: (1) vegetation line survey and analysis and (2) dune volume calculations and analysis. This also falls under the Strategic Plan.

Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director Julie Anderson reported there was no update on the ladder truck reimbursement as of the meeting date. The Finance Committee has been working on the second financial policy revision draft, with a goal of presenting it to the BOC at the December meeting. She explained that changes need to be made on the financial officer fidelity bond minimum coverage due to changing regulations of Session Law 2022-53 (NC Senate Bill 265). The premium impact of these changes is not yet known.

Fire Chief Jason Baker reported the beach flags have been taken down as of November 1. He reminded everyone to be mindful of safety concerns with holiday lighting, extension cords, ladders, etc. He further recommended checking outdoor electrical receptors for covers, especially if they are exposed directly to salt air. The Fire Department recently responded to a fire at an oceanfront condo. A good neighbor called 911 and reported it, and with swift action by the Fire Department, the owner was spared damages that could have been catastrophic or deadly. If you have any questions on any of these or other safety issues, please call the department and they will be happy to answer questions or to discuss possible safety issues.

Police Chief Ryan Thompson reported he had been notified the week before that an investigation of fraud that occurred several months ago had been resolved. Sgt. Brian Rogers investigated the incident. The victim was reported to be very grateful and attributed the efforts and investigations of Sgt. Rogers for the reimbursement settlement of \$20,000. Besides two other unrelated fraud cases, the police department has been busy investigating a suspected drug overdose death, two larcenies, tree cutting complaints, and a sexual exploitation of a minor. Chief Thompson proudly reported that 100% of the staff, including part-timers, has completed the 40-hour class in Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. It is a jail diversion program that focuses on getting intervention faster for individuals who are experiencing a mental health crisis. The national standard is for 20% of department personnel to be trained in CIT.

Public Service Department Director Sonny Cunningham reported two new water meters were installed for new homes, and a water leak at Maritime Place was stopped at the water main. The department is preparing for the rule changes for the lead and copper sampling. Mosquito spraying was to continue through the warm weather.

Planning Administrator/Town Clerk Charlie Rocci reported that one single-family landscape permit was currently pending. He continues work on stormwater improvements and a transportation plan that will require volunteers.

Building Inspector reports for October included 209 inspections performed, 17 building permits, 1 plumbing, 14 mechanical and 10 electrical permits. The total value of all permits issued was \$2,720,868.

There were no speakers at the second comment period.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners will be on December 13 at 6 p.m. at town hall. The full minutes of BOC meetings are included in the agenda packets available through the calendar at townofpks.com. If you have questions about access to the minutes, contact Town Clerk Charlie Rocci at 252-247-4353, ext.11.