

Budget Needs

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Reserve Fund were utilized to balance the annual budget. When the 2006-2007 audit revealed the Reserve Fund had fallen below state required levels, an analysis exposed the accounting error. With the assistance of the State and Local Finance Division a Special Revenue Fund has been established and a process of replenishing the Reserve Fund is underway.

The evening meeting that convened at 7 p.m. attracted a number of citizens. The mayor, three commissioners and the town manager were in attendance as were the town department heads and some staff. Town Manager Brian Kramer in a power-point presentation identified more than a dozen decisions facing the BOC before they finalize the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget. He then asked each of the five department heads to briefly identify their programs and services so as to present the context upon which those decisions would be based. Following these presentations the floor was opened for questions.

Of the approximately 55 in attendance 20 individual citizens spoke. Some asked questions, others offered opinions and suggestions. Positive support for the various services provided by the town was also expressed. Some specific reactions, including the practice of the police using the town's cruisers to drive to and from their homes, elicited some strong opinions both pro and con. Likewise, the town's contract with the Sports Center elicited some favoring its discontinuance while others held the opposing position, citing the fact that some employees and volunteers perform duties that require physical fitness. Comments about the planned Soundside Park tended to be in favor

of either completely dropping the plans or postponing them to a future date. A strong concern was expressed about the underlying cause of the current income shortfall and what is being done to keep it from occurring in the future. Several citizens acknowledged a need to increase taxes but cautioned that such increases should be modest and only considered after expenditures had been reduced as much as possible.

Kramer reported that when the income shortfall was discovered it totaled approximately \$920,000. He immediately had the departments review their current and expected expenses to determine which should be continued and identify those that could be eliminated or postponed. Examples included delaying replacement of high mileage police cars; deferring replacement of the heating / ventilating / air conditioning system at town hall and some other reductions. With those cutbacks a total of \$350,000 was identified thereby reducing the deficit to \$570,000. He noted that as a consequence those expenses remaining constitute needs not wants and further reductions would of necessity come as a result of personnel cutbacks.

Prior to adjourning the meeting Kramer noted that the 2008-2009 town budget is required to be in place on July 1 and that he expected the BOC to approve the budget at its regular meeting June 10. He reminded everyone both the June and July BOC meetings are scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

Mayor Lamson offered two points of clarification. First, she reported that according to current IRS regulations the use of an automobile by town police was not considered a perquisite since their employment required them to be available 24 hours per day. Second, she noted that the Sports Center contract was a flat fee. The contract allows any employee, elected official or town volunteer to sign-up to utilize the center. Further, this fee has been in place for a number of years at a significant discount to the town.

Finally, commissioners Danehy, Peter and Edward each expressed their thanks to those in attendance and welcomed additional thoughts and ideas.

Tennis (Over 80) Anyone

By Jane Ashland

Whoever thought people over 80 can't play tennis should think again. A vigorous group of veteran players at the Country Club of the Crystal Coast is not even thinking of retiring and some are still participating in local tournaments.

Knee replacement recipient, John Adler happened to mention this morning that he was playing three different times today,

a fellow player piped up, "If I could play tennis three times a day, I'd have knee replacements too." Adler also swims in the ocean and bikes every day. One of the most avid players, Evelyn McCord, was not available for the picture on page 1.

So hats off to the spritely seniors including Jeanne Mays who was quoted as saying "We're still having fun."

Tour Guides For Fort Macon

Fort Macon State Park on the eastern tip of Bogue Banks needs volunteer tour guides to fulfill its upcoming season schedule. In the May issue of *NC Magazine* Fort Macon was listed as fifth out of the 25 most visited historic attractions and museums in the state.

The Fort Macon staff and volunteer corps will provide interested men and women with the necessary background reading material, a mentor to work with you and guide you in developing your own tour

style and a park historian to see you through the actual tour process.

A recent visitor taking the Fort Macon Tour remarked that they had a terrific guide who made history come alive for them. Actually, her words were, "It's as if I stepped out of history!"

If you would like to become a guide or need more information, please call John Rhodes at 393-7313 or Paul Brand at 726-8908.

Annual Fourth of July Parade

It will start at Garner Park at 10 a.m. and adults, kids and pets are welcome to participate. Watch for signs at the park and around town for more details.

Town of Pine Knoll Shores Board of Commissioners

Joan E. Lamson	Mayor	240-3110
Robert M. Danehy	Administration, Emergency Management, Finance	240-2945
Clark S. Edwards	Police, Streets & Public Property	726-7429
Vincent Larson	Finance, Fire & Rescue Streets & Public Property	247-3187
Ted H. Lindblad	Emergency Management, Fire & Rescue, Planning	240-0580
Bonnie J. Peters	Administration, Planning Police	726-2735

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Public Safety Building
Police 247-2474 • Fire/EMS 247-2268 • Police/Fire Fax: 247-2897
After Hours Non-emergency Phone for Police: 504-4800
Emergency call: 911

In Memoriam

~
Eleanor Hardman