

## June Commissioners Meeting

By Yvette Bannen

The commissioners' meetings were held on the summer schedule with the work session at 1 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7 p.m. at town hall. There was a public hearing on the fiscal year 2008-2009 budget. Commissioner Edwards mentioned that the sales & use tax will be going away and the revenue stream will have to be increased.

A comment and suggestion was made to consider installing a yield sign instead of the proposed stop sign at Fairways Court.

Chair of the recreational advisory committee Jo-Ann Shallcross thanked the volunteers, support people and participants in the Hope for the Warriors kayak race. She reported that \$700 was raised from the event.

Greg "Rudi" Rudolph spoke about the coastal "protect the beach" website that contains maps that can be enlarged as well as other information. He then delivered a power point presentation on the static line of vegetation that dealt with state rules for oceanfront setbacks. It was noted that there are presently 19 non-conforming houses on the beach and 16 do not have room to move back in the event of a disaster.

The town manager Brian Kramer reported that after reviewing applications for a town auditor he was recommending the firm of Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs be awarded the contract for one year. The firm has extensive experience with towns of a similar size.

Commissioner Danehy reported that *The Shoreline* mailing list is being examined for duplicate names in order to reduce the amount of postage paid.

The planning board's subcommittee on stormwater has gotten some helpful information from other communities. The re-zoning of 110 Salter Path Road has been approved by the planning board with no conditional use and a public hearing is

scheduled on July 8.

Because there was a \$32,000 shortfall last year, the waste disposal fee will be increased by \$15 to \$160 for residential households. This was approved. A water availability fee of \$10.10 per month was approved and will be charged to residents (approximately 80) who are not connected to the town's water system. All residents pay this base amount in their water bill to cover water used in hydrants.

Three contracts were approved for 2008-2009: an emergency pumping contract for stormwater with Godwin Pumps; a phase I clearing contract for emergency access has been awarded to Garrison Construction of Newport; and a phase II vegetative and debris removal contract was awarded to Ceres Environmental Services of Sarasota, Florida and this will probably be subcontracted to a local business.

A report on the Mimosa Blvd bridge was given. The town manager, Commissioner Edwards and public services director Ernie Rudolph met with an engineering firm. DOT agrees that the bridge needs to be replaced. There is no line item in the budget to fund any work in 2008-2009.

Because the communities of Pine Knoll Shores, Indian Beach and Salter Path did not receive the full measure of sand during the beach re-nourishment of 2001-2002, both Indian Beach and Salter Path have agreed to pursue a declaratory ruling from the state that would invalidate the static line of vegetation currently in place for the three communities. A request to have Pine Knoll Shores become the third party to this declaratory ruling failed. Two commissioners favored the request while three were opposed. The main concern is unwise seaward development.

By a vote of 3-2 a motion to accept the 2008-2009 budget with a tax rate of 11.5 cents per \$100 of evaluation passed.

## Police Report

During May, there were 119 calls for service including five accidents, three assist other agencies, seven assist fire/EMS, three domestic calls, 11 town ordinance violations, 43 welfare checks, six alarms and two unlocked doors.

Seventy-seven citations involving 93 charges were issued for three driving while impaired, 16 speeding, ten driving with a suspended license, 12 seatbelt violations, three drug violations, ten alcohol violations and 39 other; 28 warning tickets were issued.

There were 76 residence checks and 369 business checks during May.

Police Chief Culpepper addressed the anonymous letter to the editor in the Sunday paper of June 8. He noted that an investigation is on-going and indicated that the alleged behavior will not be tolerated from police officers in Pine Knoll Shores.

## Emergency Services

During May, there were 49 calls for service; EMS had 18 calls and 11 patients were transported, eight of them requiring paramedic assistance.

The fire department had 31 calls for service including ten activated alarms, 16 service calls, two structure fires, two outside fires and one HAZMAT call. May training consisted of 249 hours.

A reminder was given that, when requested, the fire department will conduct a house survey to identify questionable wiring or other potential hazards.

Director of emergency services Bill Matthias mentioned that we are now in hurricane season and it is time to plan and prepare. See separate article on preparations for hurricane season.



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