

PINE KNOLL SHORES COMMISSIONERS MEETING

By Paige Gillespie

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on August 12 at 6 p.m. at town hall. There were 12 members of the public in attendance.

Mayor Ken Jones made several announcements: town hall will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, September 7; on Friday, August 14, the second annual summit with the area HOA presidents was to be held; and rolling recycle bins will be available at Ace Hardware in Atlantic Beach (town residents may pick up a \$5 coupon at town hall toward the purchase of these bins).

During the public comment session, Bill Hotham spoke regarding concerns with recycling and garbage collection.

A public hearing was called for on the Zoning Enforcement Ordinance.

Town Manager Brian Kramer's report included multiple items. He reported on the Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative (CCEC) smart meter agreement. On September 30, there will be a roll-out briefing at town hall to inform the public about the installation and implementation of the smart meter project. Installation will begin around October 1, with hopes of finishing by January or February. He also reported that there has been interest from Bogue Pines regarding dredging permits. They are hoping for input from Beacon's Reach, McGinnis Point, PIKSCO and PKA by October 1. A grant application will be submitted after receiving their input. Negotiations are underway to install a Verizon antenna on the western water tower. The tower sits on land the town leases from Trinity Center. There is zero impact to Trinity Center, but the town needs their approval to proceed. Mr. Kramer reported there have been increased sightings of coyotes near Pine Knoll Boulevard, along with an increase of missing pets near the Loblolly loop, although at this point there is no proof that one has anything to do with the other. The Wildlife Resource Commission was contacted

and advised that eradication or moving the animals does not work due to proximity to the 275-acre natural area. He notified the public via email and Facebook of this concern and the availability of an informational flyer. He said there has been no word yet on the SAFER Firefighter grant. The annual PARC yard sale will be October 10 at the fire station.

Police Chief Thompson reported that the Department of Justice will make its biennial inspection of the police department on September 2.

Fire Chief Baker reported that the OSHA Star application was to be submitted on Monday, August 17.

Sonny Cunningham reported that the mosquito program is going well, and has been increased to three days a week due to increase in rainfall. In an effort to further improve the town's water quality, Sonny is checking into a sequestering agent that is supposed to help reduce spotting or staining.

Jim Taylor reported that there are several buildings under construction, with a few more pending. He has responded to two calls regarding deck issues.

Julie Anderson reported that the auditor completed the onsite work on August 12, with a favorable result. Tax bills were to be sent out at the end August.

Commissioner Edwards thanked Sonny Cunningham for taking care of the visibility issues at the Pine Knoll Shores and Atlantic Beach line pedestrian crossing, and for dealing with the recent flooding on Beechwood Drive.

Mayor Jones announced that he and Town Manager Kramer went to Raleigh on August 11 to meet with legislators regarding the Sales and Use Tax bill. There are 20 coastal and 80 noncoastal counties in the state, and Carteret County will be the fourth most-impacted county if this bill passes. Passage would result in tax increases. It has passed the Senate with Senator Sanderson being one of three who voted against the bill. Mayor Jones asked that everyone contact his or her Representatives and Senators to voice opposition to this bill. The board adopted a resolution supporting the current North Carolina Sales Tax distribution formula.

Under new business, a surplus property resolution was adopted to dispose of an E250 van. The Utility Services Support Agreement, the smart meter agreement, with CCEC was adopted with Commissioner Fulcher abstaining due to a conflict of interest. The Beach Monitoring and Maintenance Plan resolution was adopted. Dominic Baccollo was approved as an alternate on the Board of Adjustment. A motion requesting a public hearing on September 9 for the Flood Ordinance was approved. The Sidewalk Funding Resolution was adopted with Commissioner Corsello dissenting. The board adopted proposed staff administrative changes to the Pedestrian Plan.

Two members of the public signed up to speak during the public comment session. Frances Jilcott spoke regarding the flooding that occurred on Acorn Court. Public Services is already working to resolve this problem. Craig Letchner spoke regarding the poor service from Verizon in the area. Town Manager Kramer said that he would call to see if there is a remedy for this problem. Mr. Letchner also voiced concern over the town's liability if it gives advice on deck issues. Residents with concerns are being directed to the Home Builders Association for contractor referrals.

The next regular Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on September 9 at 6 p.m. at town hall.



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