

PINE KNOLL SHORES COMMISSIONERS MEETING

By Paige Gillespie

The regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held on March 9 at 6 p.m. at town hall. There were five members of the public in attendance as well as one via webinar. All commissioners were present.

Mayor Jones announced that the Pine Knoll Shores History Committee's exhibit, "Beach Town in a Forest: The Story of Pine Knoll Shores" would open in mid-March at the History Museum of Carteret County and remain open until March 2017. It was reported that the exhibit came in just \$91 over budget.

A resolution was passed unanimously renaming the beach access at 511 Salter Path Road, the Clam Digger Inn access, in memory of Dr. Edward Walter Erickson.

Officer Matthew Drake was presented with a plaque in honor of his being chosen as Police Officer of the Year.

Town Manager Brian Kramer reported that 1,055 smart meters have been programmed. Sonny Cunningham reported that 1,360 meters have been installed, and that there are approximately 300 left to be installed. The installed meters are running well and have saved several residents money by alerting officials to water leaks. The Beacon's Reach beach access repairs have been bid, and Boulia Construction was awarded the contract. Work should be completed before the heavy summer season.

Mr. Kramer reported that bids for the town's garbage contract were due by March 18, and that the contract will be awarded on April 13. Stillwater Engineering was scheduled to present a proposal on March 23 on the cost of road maintenance.

Mayor Jones, Commissioner Edwards and Mr. Kramer met the town's new intern, Alex Gottschalk, who will be interning from May 18 through August 15. The town is looking for housing for him.

It was also reported that there is a leak in the diesel tank, which will need to be replaced before the fiscal year ends.

Julie Anderson reported that 99.3% of property taxes and 98.9% of beach taxes have been collected. All back taxes have been collected also. The auditor agreed to not increase the town's fee this year; however, the town was randomly selected by the state for an audit of the pension system, and the town will have to pay for that.

Scott Sherrill reported that the town should know where it stands regarding possible state funding for sidewalks by the end of March. He continues to collect pictures for the visual preference survey.

It was reported that the Sign Ordinance Committee has drafted an ordinance that is being reviewed by attorney Neil Whitford. It will go to the Planning Board and then to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Jim Taylor reported that the beach access repairs were scheduled to begin by March 9. He inspected the roof at town hall and does not recommend a new roof at this time. In addition, he reported that the new National Electric Code would go into effect on April 1.

Sonny Cunningham reported that the sand fencing has been repaired.

Under unfinished business, the Indian Beach Tax Collection Agreement and the Asset Inventory and Assessment Applications Resolution both passed unanimously. Public hearings were called for on April 13 on the Approved Grade Proposal and the Tree Diameter Ordinance.

The April Board of Commissioners meetings will be held on April 13 and 27 at 6 p.m. at town hall.

Not All Charities Are Created Equal

By Jean McDanal

And some are back in the news—in a negative way

In recent television and print reports, wounded warrior charities have been under scrutiny, with good reason. We would like to assure you that our own Kayak for the Warriors (K4TW) and Hope For The Warriors are in no way affiliated with Wounded Warrior Project. As we look forward to hosting our Kayak for the Warriors events, which support Hope For The Warriors, we seem to be getting more and more questions about the validity and effectiveness of Hope For The Warriors. While television advertisements continue to solicit donations for other charities, be certain this is not us. But how do you really know how effective any of these organizations are? There is a website, charitynavigator.org, that will provide all the necessary information you need to evaluate any charity you may wish to learn about. According to their website, they evaluate financial health, accountability and transparency.

For instance, Hope For The Warriors is the only wounded warrior charity that received a four-star rating for five years. It consistently spends 90 to 93 percent of funds raised to serve our wounded warriors. It has also been recognized once again as a top-rated nonprofit by Great Nonprofits. Hope For The Warriors has its roots and origins at Camp Lejeune. Please compare Hope For The Warriors ratings with others that might appear to be more prominent. It can really be eye-opening. We want our dollars to go to those individuals who need the most help. With the number of wounded warrior organizations out there, it can be confusing. Please do not be confused. Hope For The Warriors is a premium, top-notch charity. Please go to their website, hopeforthewarriors.org, to learn more about them.

Also, please be assured that all money the Kayak for the Warriors team garners each year is given to Hope For The Warriors. We do have a few expenses and usually keep a little bit of seed money to help with printing, mailing, etc., for the next year; our expense ratio is in line with Hope For The Warriors.

When May and June roll around, please keep our events in mind. You do not have to participate in any of the activities, but if you wish to support a very worthwhile organization, check out our website, k4tw.org. You can learn how you can donate on our website and see more about this year's events as well as last year's events. You will be able to register and donate shortly.

April Sudoku

			7				4	
		2				9	6	
7		9				1		3
						7		
	7	1	9					
9		4	5		8			
				1	2	6		
8				4				
	2						8	9

See solution on page 10.



Please Recycle