

**Village of Bald Head Island
Council Meeting
January 25, 2008
3:00 PM
Location: Bald Head Association**

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Larry Lammert, Mayor Pro Tempore Andy Sayre and Councilors Gene Douglas, Art Morris, John Pitera.

Staff Present: Village Manager Calvin Peck, Assistant Village Manager/ Planning Director Chris McCall, Fire Chief Chip Munna, Lt. Shaun Freeman with the Police Department, Finance Director Deb Straub, Systems Administrator David Cox, Human Resource/Tax Collector Dawn Reno, Utilities Mike Fishburn, Public Works Director Ben Liddle, Development Services Daralyn Spivey

Others Present- Ben Brown with State Port Pilot, Joyce Fulton with BHI Limited, Suzanne Dorsey with BHI Conservancy, Don Eggert with Department of Transportation

Citizens Present- Brooks Powell, Richard Mesaris, Diane Mesaris, King Triplett, Bob Liesgang, Ray Webb, Dick Johnston

1. **Call to Order/Approval of Agenda Approval-** Mayor Lammert
Mayor Lammert called the January 25, 2008 Village Council Meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre made a motion to approve the Council Meeting agenda as presented. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion 5-0)**

2. **Consent Agenda**
2.1-Approval of minutes-
December 14, 2007 Council Meeting/ December 14, 2007 Work Session Meeting
Mayor Lammert motioned for approval of minutes. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion 5-0)**

3. **Old Business**
3.1 – Update on CRC/ Inlet Hazard Area- Chris McCall gave an update on CRC/ Inlet Hazard Area meeting on January 17 and 18, 2008 at New Bern. Those who attended were Steve Coggins with Village Attorney firm, Ray Webb with BHI Limited. The Coastal Management Staff was in the process of drafting rules and amendments for the Inlet Hazard Area Use Standards. The map is out now and the proposed rules to go with the map are being worked on and should be presented to the commission at the May 2008 meeting.

Council Meeting, January 25, 2008

Page 2 of 7

At the last meeting, Steve Coggins, Keith Meyers, Jeff Warren with Coastal Management and Spencer Roberts worked on the proposed map and suggest some minor change. This was a positive meeting. Also, Steve gave Jeff and Spencer a copy of Eric Olson paper in response to scientific expert opinion on the proposed Inlet Hazard Area boundaries. The DCM staff will present the proposed rule changes to the commission at the May meeting. In July, the CRC will set a public hearing for the November meeting. Then in March 2009, the new rules would take affect.

Richard Mesaris asked Chris who established the boundaries for the new Inlet Hazard Area and what are the bases for these boundaries? Chris replied the Division of Coastal Management has a science panel that makes these recommendations to the commission. They are experts in various fields. There are 12 inlets in NC which the report out lines how each is used. A copy of report is on the Village web site.

3.2 Council Retreat- Mayor stated that the council had a nice retreat for two and half days and worked on our 2008 Priorities. The Mayor corrected the heading for the beach priority. It should read Private Sand Placement/Beach Stabilization instead of Beach Stabilization.

3.3 Update Private Sand Placement Project- Calvin stated that the Village has submitted an Environmental assessment for a private sand placement that will take a large amount of sand approximately two million cubic yards. This will be taken out of Jay Bird Shoals and placed on South /West Beach. This process will take place next winter around January 2009 if we are able to meet Federal and State agencies approval. Calvin stated that we have a good environmental assessment and a good engineering plan to do the work. Calvin stated that if things were handled in a timely manner than this could be done and if not approved then we would have to look at something else.

4. New Business

4.1 Financial Statement- Deb Straub stated that all the departments were under budget. In January the Police Department purchased a Hybrid Police Vehicle. There was also a \$30,000.00 transfer to purchase a transformer for Utilities.

4.2 Rural Planning Organization-The Mayor introduced Don Eggret with the Rural Planning Organization. He presented an Updated Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Council Meeting, January 25, 2008

Page 3 of 7

Mr. Eggret thanked the Mayor for having him here. RPO represents Pender, Brunswick, and Columbus counties which have been going through a two year update to the DOT plan. He wants the approval of all the Municipalities. He stated he was here to answer any questions. He did state that DOT will be widening US NC 211 from Southport to Midway Rd. There will be a public meeting on February 26th from 4-7 pm at South Brunswick High School. The Long Beach Road Extension project will have a public meeting on February 4th from 4-7 pm at the High School.

Mayor asked if Mr. Eggret could discuss Hwy 87 from 133 to 17. Mr. Eggret said that at first this was to be an express way from Hwy 17 to Sunny Point. This is still being studied in connection with the new international port.

The Mayor asked about the Doshier cut off road project. Mr. Eggret stated that DOT will be doing Long Beach Rd and changing the entrance. This will connect to Hwy 87, Hwy 133 and Sunny Point intersection. This process will take a few years to be completed.

Mayor asked about Midway Road from 211 to Hwy 17. Mr. Eggret stated that this was in the planning stages and would be discussing further at the February meeting. Mr. Eggret stated it is probably ten year away from being completed.

The Mayor had concerns with having a four lane bridge going from Oak Island to Midway Rd and connecting into two lane roads. There were concerns with how the area could be evacuation in a hurricane. The Mayor stated that the areas Mayors are trying to speed things up. Diane Mesaris asked if Long Beach Rd. going to Hwy. 87 is going to stay a two lane road. Mr. Eggret stated that yes that it would stay two lanes, due to the environmental issues.

Suzanne Dorsey asked is the Hwy 76 extension past the Green Swamp would be a toll road. Mr. Eggret answered that this road is not funded yet.

Richard Mesaris had concerns with the development between Hwy 17 and Midway Rd on Hwy 211 and wondering why that section could not be a four lane. Mr. Eggret replied that this is a separate project and has not been funded.

Mayor Lammert stated that the Mayors of the county are concerned with getting Midway and Hwy 87 four lanes first to relieve the high traffic on Hwy. 211. The Mayor stated he is working with the other Mayors trying to get DOT to fix roads that flood currently in heavy rains in order to improve traffic when a storm hits the area.

Richard Mesaris asked if they could get the monies elsewhere. Mayors answered by saying that this question has been asked a lot and that he suggested taking the funding for the State Police out of the DOT budget and place it in the Public Safety budget. The other area that would improve funding is to stop taking monies out of the DOT budget and putting it in the General Fund. With no other question, the Mayor thanked Mr. Eggret for coming and speaking with everyone.

4.3- Administrative Policy-

Calvin stated that the Village Personal Policy which went into effect January 1, 2008 needs to be changed. He needs the authority to do updates to the policy for everyday change without coming to the council each time. A resolution was made to give the manager this authority with the understanding if there are any changes made that the council would be notified at the next council meeting.

The Mayor asked for a vote. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(5-0)**

4.4- Discussion and Approval of a contract with Conservancy for Environmental Research Services-

The Mayor asked for a motion to hire the Conservancy to do Environmental Research Service for the Village. At this time, Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre stated that this organization is a great resource for the island yet he feels like there is a problem with giving monies to a non-profit committee. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre asked that the contract be explained to the public. Calvin stated that the proposal is that the Village hires the Conservancy for a one year time to provide the following services:

- Environmental leadership for the Village on a day to day basis.
- Develop a specific transport model for sand movement
- Water quality and quantity reports
- Bald Head and Cape Creek management strategy
- Climate change

Calvin stated that cost to the Village would be \$85,311.00 during the physical year beginning July 1, 2008 and runs through June 30, 2009. There is also an offset to some of the cost with a grant from C. Smith Reynolds in the amount of \$35,000.00 of which \$23,500.00 is available for this project.

Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre stated that the Conservancy is a great asset to the Village, but his preference is to deal with this on a case by case basis.

Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre also feels like this is not a proper use of the tax payers' money and he has concerns with the non-profit agencies receiving tax monies would reduce contributions made to the Conservancy. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre also stated that his negative vote was not a rebuke of the Conservancy in anyway and this was his concerns.

Calvin stated that if approved the \$85,311.00 would come out of the General Fund operating budget. Mayor stated that if we did this on a project by project basis the cost would be much higher.

Council Meeting, January 25, 2008
Page 5 of 7

He also stated that this would be better for the tax payer because this person would be working for the Island full time instead of one of many projects. Councilmember Douglas asked Suzanne to share the plan for hiring the new person.

Suzanne answered by saying in hiring someone with expert in the field at a PHD level, will be able to deal with all the issues such as the economic issues, environment issues, social issues, and policy issues with the federal regulation. This will be on efficient way to solve problems for the Island. Councilmember Douglas stated that this ties in with UNCW and the Conservancy. Suzanne stated that hiring a graduate would benefit and give us the ability to apply for NSF grant, NOAA grants and get funding and adds value. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre asked what the average age of this person would be. Suzanne replied by saying with a PHD would be in there 30's.

Mayor Lammert asked for a motion. In a voice vote, approval with a 4 to 1 vote.
(Motion 4-1)

In the process of going to the next item on the agenda, Calvin asked the Councilmembers if they could go back to the item on the mandatory water conservation change to the Water Source Response Plan and he stated that we had not voted on the change. He asked the Council to approve the change on Item #7, page 2 Mandatory Conservation that will read- The use of water for washing or cleaning of equipment including carts, trucks, boats, and fleet vehicles is prohibited unless water use is being essential to maintain the safe operational use or equipment integrity. Mayor Lammert asked for a motion. Councilmember Douglas made a motion to approve the change. It was approved
(Motion 5-0)

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

5.1- Beach- Councilmember Douglas made reference to the planting of sea oats in certain areas of the Beach at a 45 degree angle. This was an experimental project to trap sand. It is doing well and the sand has increased 3 ft. in the test spot. This project was started in late spring of 2007. Councilmember Douglas also stated that anything to trap sand is good and if there is a storm that the more sand on the beach, the better. This project was done east of Muscadine and there will probably be more test areas started.

5.2- Finance- Mayor Lammert stated that there was a meeting in January and that the committee is working on the five year plan. This is important at this time with the budget being worked on for 2008-2009.

Council Meeting, January 25, 2008
Page 6 of 7

5.3- Public Safety- Councilmember Morris stated that the Public Safety committee did not meet in January. They are fully staffed and plan on having their meeting in February.

5.4- Public Works- Richard Mesaris stated that there was not a meeting in January and that there will be a meeting in February.

5.5- Transportation- Councilmember Pitera stated that there is a meeting scheduled for next week and that they are fully staffed.

6. MONTHLY REPORTS

6.1- Manager's Report- Calvin stated that: (1) the Village has signed a lease with the Association for Timbercreek. The Village entered into a contract with Island contracting to operate the site. This will keep vegetation on the island and mulch is available to resident at no charge. (2) The outfall from hole #6 to the creek is completed. (3) There has been a contract issued for storm water work on Laughing Gull. (4) The Utility/Public Works building are ready for the steel to be installed starting in February. (5) The inspection of Middle Island is taking place today and the project is completed. The assessment role will be given to Council at the March 14 council meeting. The Village is working with Progress Energy to install new transformer. Calvin stated that Progress Energy will begin Monday with the installation. (6) The ICE permit process is working well.

6.2 Police Department- Lt. Freeman stated the new ICE permit process has freed up an extra officer and this has improved our house checks, business checks, and more enforcement on the Island with an extra man out on the road. The Hybrid Patrol car is almost done and should be on the road by next week.

6.3- Fire/EMS Department- Chip stated that in the year of 2007 Fire Department has tracked the call man hours and as well as training hours throughout the year. There were 1429 call man hours and 3800 training hours. This is letting you know that the volunteers that participate are saving tax dollars in training.

7. Comments, Reports and Questions

7.1 – Citizens- Richard Mesaris asked “What are you trying to promote with the GEO Thermal Heating ordinance change?” Chris answered that with the September-October Council meeting the Village Council adopted an amendment to go with the existing Utility ordinance that would provide a permit process for property owners installing GEO Thermal Heating or air conditioning system. This is for the Village ongoing efforts in promoting green buildings, and the Cool cities initiative as well.

Council Meeting, January 25, 2008
Page 7 of 7

Calvin stated that there were three issues that we are concerned with (1) water only and that nothing else that could harm the aquifer, (2) would be a completely closed looped system, (3) it would be fully graveled so there would be no infiltration through any holes. This is what our hydrologist recommended to be the minimum standards that we adhere to.

7.2 BHI Association- No Comment

7.3 BHI LTD- No Comment

7.4- BHI Conservancy- Suzanne wanted to thank the Council and the community for everything that has been done and wanted to let everyone know that they will start interviewing for summer intern positions.

7.5- BHI Club- No Comment

7.6- Mayor and Council- No Comment.

8. ADJOURN- With no additional items for discussion the Mayor called for a motion to adjournment. In a voice vote, all voted in favor.

(Motion 5-0)

The January 25, 2008 Village Council Meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Approved:

Larry Lammert, Mayor

Attest:

Debbie Talbert, Interim Village Clerk