

VILLAGE OF BALD HEAD ISLAND
Work Session Meeting
January 20, 2006

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

Staff Present: Village Manager Jon Middleton, Assistant Village Manager/Planning Director Chris McCall, Police Chief Richard Herring, Chief of Emergency Services Chip Munna, Public Works Director Ben Liddle, Finance Director Shelia Boyd, Building Inspector Stephen Boyett, Village Attorney Charles Baldwin, Tax Collector Dawn Reno and Village Clerk Amy Candler recording the meeting.

Others Present: Bald Head Island Limited Director of Communications Joyce Fulton, Bald Head Island Limited Director of Planning Jim Henry and Bald Head Association Manager Joey Hill.

Citizens Present: Dr. Bill Berne, Dr. Bill Waddell, Anita Schnog and Dick Johnson

Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Mayor Lammert called the January 20, 2006 Work Session meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Mayor Lammert advised that the work session agenda needed to be amended to allow for discussion of the Timber Bridge. He further advised that he would like to add the Timber Bridge as the first item of discussion. He explained that the Council will need to enter into closed session at 10:30 a.m. due to a previously scheduled conference call with the Village legal council. The Village Council will then return to open session to discuss any unfinished business. Councilor Douglas made a motion to approve the agenda as stated by Mayor Lammert. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

Discussion of the Proposed Timber Bridge

Mayor Lammert explained that it was brought to his attention at the Island Leadership Meeting, that the Developer, Mr. Mitchell wants the trams to cross the proposed timber bridge. Mr. McCall commented that it has been the Village Staff's understanding as well as the Planning Board's that the bridge will be a golf cart only bridge. Mr. Henry explained that while talking with Mr. Mitchell the night before, it was determined that due to a Staff misunderstanding, it was realized that trams are considered Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles and would not be allowed on the bridge if the Village Council follows the recommendation made by the Planning Board. Councilor Morris stated that he has attended several meetings, Planning Board and others, where the Timber Bridge was discussed and allowing trams on the bridge was never mentioned. Ms. Fulton apologized for the miscommunication between the Village and the Developer. She added that this issue came up after the Council Retreat when she reported to Mr. Mitchell that the Village Council was in agreement with the Timber Bridge as a non-ICE bridge. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre questioned the width of the trams as compared to a golf cart. Mr. Henry was uncertain at this time of the comparison of the two vehicles. Councilor Pitera commented that it would be best to keep all tourists out of the barge/Eb and Flo area but is not sure that allowing trams on the bridge is a good idea. Mayor Lammert expressed concern regarding pollution in the marsh if ICE vehicles are allowed

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on the bridge. Mayor Lammert also added that the Village could make an argument that the tram, truck and baggage could weigh over the allotted 10,000 lbs. At this time, Mayor Lammert suggested that Ms. Fulton and Mr. Henry discuss this issue further with Mr. Mitchell and decide if the item should be left on the afternoon agenda or postponed to a future meeting date. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre added that the ICE vehicles on the bridge are not the only issue to be dealt with regarding the bridge. He added that while meeting with Mr. Mitchell a few weeks ago, he informed Mr. Mitchell that all stainless steel hardware should be used during the construction as well as wear decking as an extra layer of protection for the bridge. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre advised that he and Mr. Mitchell discussed these provisions. Ms. Fulton commented that these added provisions have not been brought up as an issue at any of the previous meeting of which the bridge has been discussed and the bridge contractor has not mentioned the need of all stainless steel hardware. Mayor Lammert asked for an explanation of the wear decking. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre explained that wear decking is a second layer of decking that is placed perpendicular to the decking. The wear decking would offer an additional layer of protection to the bridge and therefore provide for less expensive replacement costs in the future.

At this time Mr. Waddell requested to speak on behalf of the Harbor Association. Mr. Waddell explained that the Harbor Association has been very excited about the spirit of agreement amongst the Village Council and the Developer in regard to the construction of the Timber Bridge. He advised that he would like to speak again after the closed session but asked the Council to please work out these issues and move forward with the construction of the Timber Bridge.

At this time, Mayor Lammert announced that the Council needs to enter into closed session. He advised that the Council will reconvene in open session at 11:00 a.m. Councilor Pitera made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a) (3) and (5). In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

Closed Session (pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 143-318.11(a) (3) and (5))

- **Village of Bald Head Island, vs. US Army Corps of Engineers**
- **Village of Bald Head Island, vs. Bald Head Island Utilities**
- **Howard Biggers III, vs. Village of Bald Head Island, et al**

The closed session began at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre made a motion to return to open session. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)** Mayor Lammert advised that no action was taken during closed session.

The open meeting reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

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Mayor Lammert called for a recess until 11:00 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:58 a.m.

The discussion continued regarding the Timber Bridge. Mr. Henry advised that during the recess, he talked with York Bridge Concepts (YBC), the contractor for the proposed bridge, regarding the wear-decking and the stainless steel hardware. He advised that YBC reported that all stainless steel hardware is not necessary and significantly increases the cost to construct the bridge. He further advised that YBC reported that the only time they have used wear decking on a bridge is when heavy equipment has been transported over the bridge. Mr. Henry continued stating that he also checked on the weight of the trams. He advised that fully loaded, the trucks would weigh approximately 3,333 pounds and the tram approximately 3,800 pounds. Mr. Henry further advised that the widest part of the tram is 5'7" and is approximately 30' in length. Therefore, the weight of the tram fully loaded does not exceed the 10,000 pound weight limit. Mayor Lammert emphasized that Village Council is ready to approve the Timber Bridge at the afternoon meeting with the stipulations that there will be no ICE vehicles allowed on the bridge, wear decking be placed on the bridge and all stainless steel hardware be used during the construction. Mayor Lammert added that the Council feels the stainless steel hardware is necessary due to the salt water and the area. Councilor Pitera suggested tabling the issue and sending it back to Village Staff, the Planning Board and the Conservancy before a final decision is made by the Village Council. Councilor Morris added that he would also like to have Chief Herring's opinion regarding the trams before a final decision is made.

Mr. Waddell emphasized that the bridge issue has been in the plans for years. He added that it would solve the public safety issue in the barge area. He asked the Village Council to approve the bridge without nit-picking the issue to death. Mayor Lammert clarified that the Village Council is not trying to stop the construction of the bridge. It has been the Council's understanding from the beginning that this will be a non-ICE bridge. He advised that the Council is only taking additional precaution by requesting the stainless steel hardware and the wear decking. Mr. Henry commented that today's meeting is the first time that all stainless steel hardware and wear decking has been mentioned. Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre reported that this is the first time the Timber Bridge proposal has come before him for consideration. He advised that at an earlier meeting with Mr. Mitchell the two (2) of them discussed the stainless steel hardware and the wear decking.

Ms. Schnog commented that she would like to echo the statements made by Mr. Waddell. She further commented that the barge area is very dangerous for bikes as well as golf carts. She asked the Council to please compromise and allow approval for the bridge.

After further discussion regarding traffic patterns and the cost comparisons of using all stainless steel hardware, Mr. Johnson advised that he spoke with Ms. Dorsey

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from the Conservancy and she advised that there will not be a negative factor if wear decking is used on the bridge.

Mayor Lammert emphasized that the Council is ready to approve the bridge at the afternoon meeting with the stipulations that ICE vehicles will not be allowed on the bridge, all stainless steel hardware must be used and wear decking will have to be placed on the bridge as added protection. He advised that if Bald Head Island Limited would like for this to be taken off of the afternoon meeting agenda they should let the Village Clerk know before the 3:30 p.m. meeting.

Review of Agenda for the Regular Meeting of January 20, 2006

Mayor Lammert suggested that due to the time, the Council briefly discuss the agenda for the afternoon meeting. He asked if there were any questions or comments. Dr. Douglas advised that the Beach Committee has three recommendations. The first being, the rope fencing be increased to six (6) foot posts versus the four (4) foot posts that are currently used. This will allow for additional room for the nesting sea turtles. The second, the Beach Committee would like the Council to consider installing doggie bags at each of the public accesses. The design of the storage bin has been modified to hold a roll of plastic bags. The third recommendation consists of the Village to ensure that all private beach accesses are maintained and are in compliance with the Village ordinance.

Councilor Morris reported that the Community Watch Program requested \$200 from the Public Safety Committee to pay for postage for mailing out flyers relating to safety within the community

Mayor Lammert advised that the Finance Committee is working on the Five Year Plan.

Discussion of Health Care Providers for the Village Employees

Ms. Boyd advised that due to an increase of 23% of the Village's current healthcare provider, the Village is in search of a comparable policy for less money. She advised that Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina has the exact same coverage for a much less premium. Ms. Boyd further advised that she has also talked to representatives with the North Carolina League of Municipalities and their premium is comparable to the Village's current provider. Councilor Pitera asked why the premium per person seems to be so expensive. Ms. Boyd replied that the Village carries an HMO policy, which provides for over 1,000 doctors in this area.

Village Committees

- **Committee Appointments/Reappointments**
- **Appointment of Committee Chairs**
- **Formation of Utility Committee**

Mayor Lammert advised that at the Council Retreat the Council agreed to the following committee appointments and chairpersons:

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Beach

Anne Kane
Anne Boozell

Finance

David Jessen

Public Safety

Pat Lammert
Helen Rozar

Public Works

Sky Conklin
Tony Lott
Richard Mesaris

Transportation

John Prendergast

Planning Board

Anne Schick—Alternate Member

Formation of Utility Advisory Committee

Joe Ridgeway
Dana Quanstrom
Jon Middleton
Ken Bowling

Committee Chairs

Beach—Anne Kane
Finance—John Knott
Public Safety—Don Tillman
Public Works—Joe Ridgeway
Transportation—Wayne Lambert
Utility Committee—Jon Middleton

Manager's Update on Village Projects and Other Matters for Consideration

Mr. Middleton advised that due to the Council Retreat held earlier in the week and the items that were discussed at length at the Retreat; he has no additional updates for the Council at this time.

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Adjourn

Mayor Lammert asked for any additional items for discussion. With no additional items for discussion, Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre made a motion to adjourn the January 20, 2006 Council Work Session meeting. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Approved:

Larry Lammert, Mayor

Attest:

Amy R. Candler, Village Clerk