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Mayor Lammert concurred that a letter was sent to Representative Bonner Stiller asking for his support with the environmental structure issue. A response was returned to the Village stating that the letter has been received and he would help the Village if possible.

3.2 Update on the Deer Management Program

Mr. Middleton advised that before the deer culling began, he as well as the Police Department spent time meeting with concerned citizens and parents of school aged children. He advised that the Police Department was willing to provide pick up service for children arriving at the Ferry Landing after 8:00 p.m. and take them home to ensure their safety. Mr. Middleton reported that the public notices regarding the Deer Management program were printed on bright blue paper versus the normal paper. He further reported that the Public Works Department created a field dressing site on which the deer were cleaned and then stored in a refrigerated truck. Mr. Middleton emphasized that the depredation permit prohibited the use of silencers for the sharp shooters weapons as well as limited them to cull one hundred (100) antler-less deer. That being said, the sharp shooters along with two (2) of the Village Police Officers culled fifty-five (55) deer on Monday night, thirty (30) deer on Tuesday night and fifteen (15) deer before 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday night. Mr. Middleton explained that out of the one hundred (100) deer culled seventy-eight (78) were does all of which were impregnated with twins except for two (2). With regard to the twenty-two (22) antler-less bucks that were culled, two (2) of which were diseased and buried on the Island. The culled deer were then taken off Island to *Hunters for the Hungry* for processing and then donated to local charitable organizations. Mr. Middleton emphasized that the Village plans to maintain yearly deer count studies on the Island in conjunction with the Conservancy and Westervelt Wildlife Services, Inc.

3.3 Update on Purchase of the Utility Company

Mayor Lammert advised that the Village is moving forward with the purchase of the Utility Company. He emphasized that the meeting between the Village Council and representatives from Bald Head Island Utilities proved very successful and the purchase should be complete within the next one hundred fifty (150) days.

**4. New Business**

4.1 Financial Statements—December 2004

Ms. Boyd reported that December is the big revenue month for property taxes. She advised that the Tax Collector, Ms. Hardee collected approximately \$1.5 million in taxes during the month of December. She further reported that the bulk of the expenditures for the month of December consisted of attorney fees, engineering fees, and the bi-annual beach monitoring study. Also included is the bulb planting on South Bald Head and Muscadine Wynds and the fees associated with the installation of the generator at the Police and Fire Departments. Ms. Boyd indicated that at the February Council

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meeting, she plans to have a small presentation on the audit for fiscal year 2003-2004 regarding where the bulk of expenses went and the increase in fund balance.

4.2 Brock, Padgett, and Chandler, PLLC—Village Audit, Fiscal Year 2003-2004

Mr. Berry from Brock, Padgett and Chandler advised that this year major changes took place in the overall presentation of the financial statements. Mr. Berry reported, as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, the end of the fiscal year, the Village had \$4,377,900 in cash on hand. He briefly explained the Village increased the fund balance in the amount of \$762,164 for a total fund balance of \$4,250,860. Mr. Berry explained the fund balance is broken down into the categories of \$133,902 in the reserve by state statute, \$460,000 designated into capital reserve and \$3,656,958 of undesignated funds. He advised the Capital Project Fund for Beach Stabilization total fund balance is \$882,011. Mr. Berry briefly reported the fund balance for the Capital Project Fund for Stormwater Management is \$320,157 and the fund balance for the Capital Project Fund for the Bald Head Creek Improvement Project is \$740,954. He reported the Village's total tax valuation for fiscal year 2004 was \$818,578,890 at \$0.465 for a total tax levy of \$3,806,392. Mr. Berry explained the tax collection rate for the year was 99.75%, which was well above the state average of 97% for towns equal in size. Mr. Berry briefly reviewed the percentage of total revenue and the percentage of total expenditures by Department.

Mr. Berry commented that the only reported finding during the audit process was segregation of duties. He added that for a town the size of Bald Head Island it is not feasible to provide enough employees to appropriately segregate the financial duties within the Administration Department.

Mayor Lammert noted that Brunswick County makes approximately \$5,000,000 from the citizens of Bald Head Island and the Island only receives approximately \$60,000 in revenues.

**5. Committee Reports**

5.1 Beach

Dr. Bill Berne

Councilor Douglas reported that the Village Council appointed Anne Kane to chair the Beach Committee. He further advised that the Committee now has a full membership with staggered terms. Councilor Douglas further reported that the Beach Committee made recommendations to Council to replace and repair public beach accesses in the South Beach area as soon as feasible and add rope fencing to all six (6) miles of the beach to better remind people to stay off the dunes. The advantage of the rope fencing is that it does not interfere with turtle nesting season. Councilor Douglas advised that the Beach Committee is checking with surrounding beach towns to investigate the fines they have installed for walking/crossing over the dunes. He further advised that the Committee will compare the Village fees with the surrounding towns before bringing a recommendation before Council.

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5.2 Finance

John Knott

Mayor Lammert advised that the Village Council appointed Mr. Knott to chair the Finance Committee. He further advised that Bill Johnson was appointed as a member to the Committee. Mayor Lammert concurred that the Committee has a full membership. The Finance Committee did not meet in the month of December, therefore there is nothing new to report.

5.3 Public Safety

Councilor Morris reported that the Council appointed Bob Liesegang, Don Tillman and Colleen Johnson to the Public Safety Committee. The Council agreed to appoint Mr. Liesegang to Chair the Committee. Councilor Morris advised that there was nothing new to report from the Committee.

5.4 Public Works

Joe Ridgeway

Mayor Pro Tempore Sayre advised that the Village Council reappointed Mr. Ridgeway to Chair the Public Works Committee. He further advised that there is nothing new to report from the Committee at this time.

5.5 Transportation

Ben Baker

Councilor Pitera reported that the Council appointed Mike Boozell to a vacant position of the Transportation Committee. He further reported that Council agreed to appoint Jeff Turner to Chair the Committee. He advised that there was nothing new to report at this time.

**6. Monthly Reports**

6.1 Manager's Report

**Manager Middleton**

Mr. Middleton reported that Progress Energy will not begin their repairs to the waterline until May. Mr. Middleton emphasized that the water supply to the Island cannot wait until May, therefore the Village along with Bald Head Island Limited will be engaging in repair of the waterline as soon as possible. He advised that the Village will begin to move forward with locating a contractor to repair the lines.

Mr. Middleton reported that Operation Clean Sweep is almost complete. He advised that the sand placement is estimated to reach Station 137. He further advised that the Corps has turned the portion of the beach where the groinfield is located, over to the Village. The installation of the groinfield has begun. Mr. Middleton reported that the first groin should be completely installed by this afternoon. Mr. Middleton advised that as per the contract the groinfield should be installed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Middleton reported that the Village is continuing to move forward regarding the repairs to South Bald Head Wynd. He advised that the Village is currently working

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on CAMA issues that have come up but hopefully the Village will have the road reopened in the near future.

6.2 Police Department **Chief Herring**

Chief Herring reported that the Police Department issued 789 golf cart registrations during the month of December. He concurred that as to date the Police Department has issued 1389 registrations. Chief Herring reported that the Department has two (2) pending investigation, an embezzlement case and a possible breaking and entering case. Chief Herring reported that funds are being collected for the family of the Police Officer from Boiling Springs Lakes that was killed in active duty last week. He asked that everyone remember the friends and family of Officer Prince in their thoughts and prayers.

6.3 Fire/EMS Department **Chief Munna**

Chief Munna reported that it was a routine month for the Fire Department. He advised that the Department responded to a dumpster fire, of which the cause was uncertain. Chief Munna further reported that Danny Kiser had a follow up visit to the doctor yesterday and the boot that he has been sporting for the past several months was removed. Mr. Kiser is hopeful that the removal of the boot will help speed the healing process of the ankle.

**7. Comments, Reports and Questions**

7.1 Citizens

Marilyn Ridgeway gave Councilor Morris a draft of the goals of the Community Watch Program to distribute to the Council.

7.2 Bald Head Island Association—President Dick Johnston

Dick Johnston reported that the Association's Annual Meeting will be held next Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

7.3 Bald Head Island, Ltd.—Joyce Fulton

Ms. Fulton had nothing to report from Bald Head Island Limited at this time.

7.4 Mayor and Council

There was nothing additional to report for the Mayor and Council at this time.

**8. Adjourn**

With no other items of discussion, Mayor Lammert entertained a motion to adjourn the January 21, 2005 Council meeting. Councilor Morris made the motion to adjourn. In a voice vote all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 5-0)**

The meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

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Approved:

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Larry Lammert, Mayor

Attest:

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Amy R. Candler, Village Clerk