

MINUTES

The Town of Manteo Board of Commissioners held their June 4th , 2008 Recessed Session June 18th 2008 at 4:00 pm at the Manteo Town Hall meeting room at 4:00 pm

The following members were present: Mayor Jamie Daniels
Commissioner H.A. Creef, Jr. (late)
Commissioner Hannon Fry
Commissioner Richie Burke
Commissioner David Farrow
Commissioner Edward Etheridge (late)

The following member(s) were absent: Commissioner Darrell Collins

Also present at the meeting were: Town Manager Kermit Skinner
Assistant Town Manager/Planner- Shannon Twiddy
Town Clerk-Becky Breiholz;

Mayor Daniels called the recessed meeting to order at 4:15 pm and would like to amend the agenda to add budget amendment #8a attorney fees and additional water and sewer funding needs for the end of year.

MOTION: Commissioner Burke seconded by Commissioner Farrow to amend the agenda was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Farrow, Etheridge, Creef, Collins, Fry, Burke Noes: None. Absent:

SUBJECT: Resolution to Oppose House Bill 2751 Powell Bill Repeal-Town Manager Kermit Skinner commented that the Powell Bill is the funding source for the municipal street repairs and been in existence for 50 years. There is a bill in the General Assembly to eliminate the Powell Bill and to return the funds to NC General Fund. Mr. Skinner commented that it would be devastating to the Town if we lost that funding source. He is asking the Board to consider a resolution to oppose House Bill 2751.

MOTION: Commissioner Fry seconded by Commissioner Farrow to approve Resolution opposing Powell Bill Repeal was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Farrow, Etheridge, Creef, Collins, Fry, Burke Noes: None. Absent:

PUBLIC COMMENTS-on the Operation of the Maritime Museum

Dave Penosky-Wescott Park Road, also part owner of business in Town. Mr. Penosky went over the history of the establishing of the North Carolina Maritime Museum in June of 1998 with the tri party agreement with the Town, Maritime Museum in Beaufort and Roanoke Island Festival Park. He commented that a sailing program was started and 8 of the sailboats they have today were built by the volunteers who continue to support the maritime museum. They also built a shad boat and volunteers continued to help operate and staff the museum; the sailing program improved over the years and programming continued even after a hurricane had destroyed the

building and it need to be rebuilt. Even though staff changed over the years there was continuity in the connection with the maritime museum in Beaufort.

Lisa Fry Agona Street-here to talk about the maritime museum sailing program. She has two children in the program and it is great to have a program teaching the children how to sail; this year started out they may or may not have the program and knows that there has been a lot of other issues involved. In speaking for some of the other mothers, "our big concern is safety." We don't feel it is staffed appropriately, there are not enough boats to go around, her daughter has only sailed once by herself and she feels that \$200 is a lot of money to be charging and "I don't feel like they are getting what the program was designed to do." "It should have been limited to 8 children instead of 9, there are only 8 boats, not enough staff and the price is not confluent with the program.

David Riley-moved to Manteo in 1995 and "I am very concerned as to what is happening to the maritime museum, I have been a volunteer there for three years, long enough to see how it was run and how successful it was." "So far this year it has been something of a disaster." "Once we got over the fact that Barry left, he left with limited notice, but I know personally that he tried to pass on the information that he had to make a smooth transition and for whatever reason that was not well received." "We are only three weeks into the program and there are no brochures left." "It is not working well and should be working well because it is a very important part of the Town of Manteo." "I would like to see the management change and see it done before this season is ruined."

Commissioner Etheridge and Creef arrived at 4:25 pm.

SUBJECT: Discussion of the Operation of the Maritime Museum- Mayor Daniels commented that one of the problems we have had is lack of communication and that is why Scott Stroh with Roanoke Island Festival Park is here today to go over some of these things. Mayor Daniels asked how long has Robbie been on site. Mr. Scott Stroh commented that Robbie Putnam who is a staff member of Roanoke Island Festival Park and our ship captain has been on site within about a week when Barry left in early May, we relocated him to provide assistance and expertise; his official promotion into the vacancy created by Barry was not official until the beginning of June when it was approved by the State. Mayor Daniels asked if he was the one in charge there now and Mr. Stroh commented "Robbie's role is to coordinate and to administer on water programming which is a goal of both Roanoke Island Commission and the Town from what previous discussions and dialogue have made clear, and he will also provide on going leadership at that facility." Mayor Daniels brought up the fact that they had received complaints as to the bathrooms not being cleaned and asked who is responsible for that. Mr. Stroh commented that they have staffing the facility besides Robbie with other staff from Festival Park. The staff from Festival Park who are called guest hosts have been trained in providing a welcoming positive engaging experience, they have been trained in the general operating procedures for that facility which includes cleaning the bathrooms. In addition we have had over there on a rotating basis trained educators and interpreters from Roanoke Island Festival Park and on average they have had 2-3 staff members at any given time. We have added 17 new staff members since the first of May all of who have been trained; we have purposely operated that facility with a rotating number of people as opposed to one person being there the whole time. Robbie is the one who is

the go to person on a day to day basis for that facility. Commissioner Creef commented in the beginning both museum and George Washington Creef Park was not intended to be associated connected or affiliated in anyway with Festival Park and in the last couple of years “I have seen logos similar to but bureaucracy does that and I want it stopped personally.” Commissioner Creef stated Festival Park is one operation take care of it, “George Washington Creef Park is another park and they have the volunteers for long years and all of a sudden it gets muddled over, what has happened, has someone asked someone to leave or get out of the way, we are going to run this, that’s what I see happening.” Mr. Stroh commented: “I can only speak for the time period which I have been at Festival Park which is 5 years, and since I have been at Festival Park there has been a tri party agreement in place where the facility has jointly operated or managed by the Town, by the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort and by the Roanoke Island Commission.” “Our role at Festival Park on behalf of the Commission up until the end of 2007 was to provide staff support and an operating budget to support operations over there.” Mr. Stroh added “decisions and marketing of things like the sailing program were all done through Beaufort, so I can’t specifically comment on what they have done and the reasons for that, I will tell you that the decision to amend that agreement and to make it into a two party agreement, the Town and the Commission was initiated by the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources,” also, “they have administered that transition which officially took effect in early March upon approval of both the Commission and the Town and since that time we have all been working to make that transition as smooth as possible.” “As far as an affiliation with Festival Park to an extent there has always been that affiliation since the history when it was a tri party agreement,” “those decisions have always been made jointly, the Town Manager serves on the Maritime Heritage Committee of the Commission which is the committee of our organization charged with working with and administering that facility and partnership with the Town,” “as the general structure of that partnership we have always played a role and happy to do so because we value what that facility offers to our community and to our guests.” Mayor Daniels commented that next Wednesday at 9 am, they are scheduled to meet with Mr. Stroh and write up a new Memorandum of Agreement with all the details and he would like the Commissioners to tell him what direction they want to go. Commissioner H. A. Creef gave the audience a brief history of the property that the maritime museum sits on was a gift to the Town from his family. During WWII it was used to build patrol boats, before that it was used to make shad boats; then it was used to build motor boats and yachts until we gave it to the Town to be operated as a park and a Maritime Museum according to the deed of gift which lays out the conditions and it wasn’t to be attached to other businesses or other functions. Mayor Daniels commented they will revisit the conditions of the deed of gift when they discuss the Memorandum of Agreement. The Board discussed the name being in the paper as the Roanoke Island Maritime Center; Commissioner Farrow would like to see it stay the same as NC Maritime Museum and commented we did not approve it to be changed and they cannot change the name without them coming to the Board of Commissioners. Mr. Skinner commented that would be handled when the Memorandum of Understanding is approved. Mr. Stroh commented that they have tremendous respect for Mr. Creef and what his family has done to provide the park and museum and if we have done anything to call into question that level of respect “I personally apologize.” As part of the transition it was explained to him that the NC Dept. of Cultural Resources and the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort be changed since it was not longer going to be affiliated in the context of the tri-party agreement with the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Commissioner Creef asked what caused them to no longer being a part of the agreement and Mr. Stroh commented he can not speak for them and it

was explained to him that when they approached us about assuming a larger role in the operation with the number of projects they have under the umbrella of the Maritime Museum, in addition to the fact that they are very far removed from Manteo and Festival Park was located here they decided they had other priorities and the logical partner to continue to performing that function was Roanoke Island Commission. Once it became clear from the folks in Raleigh that we had to change the name, we embarked upon an effort both internally with staff at Festival Park and the committee mentioned earlier, Maritime Heritage Committee, to try to identify what would be an appropriate name for it. Commissioner Farrow we have always received good accommodations from Beaufort, they have helped us out tremendously with things we needed for the lighthouse and the museum and he personally wish they were still in it and in his opinion the NC Department of Cultural Resources is located and Raleigh and they do not know anything about a maritime museum or maritime history, it is just politicians and they are dictating what they are supposed to do. Commissioner Farrow suggested it should be named Roanoke Island Maritime Museum. Mr. Stroh commented that the point he wants to make the RI Commission agreed and supported the name Roanoke Island Maritime Center, that name was not intended to be the official name until the Town approves the agreement and he apologizes for that name getting out before it has been officially adopted. The Board discussed names Roanoke Island Maritime Museum or Washington Davis Creef Museum; Commissioner Fry commented that Larry Belli represents our Board at the Roanoke Island Committee and he suggested that someone from this Board needs to attend the meetings that have anything to do with Washington Creef boathouse. Commissioner Creef wants to know where the wrinkle. Mr. Stroh agrees that they need a level of better and ongoing communication and probably should meet on a quarterly basis to focus on the maritime museum and would like to include that in the agreement. Commission Farrow wondered why Beaufort wanted to pull out and he thought we always got along good with Beaufort and he would rather be partnered with the Beaufort because they are in the same business. Kermit Skinner commented his understanding that Beaufort had gone through a number of challenges with the Pepsi Sail America and there was quite a bit of debt incurred by the Friends of the Maritime Museum in Beaufort and his understanding that the Secretary of Cultural Resources was not comfortable with Beaufort having so many entanglements outside of Beaufort and they were advised that they needed to pull back in their activities and it was suggested they leave the tri party agreement with Manteo. Commissioner Etheridge commented that changing the name is like changing the name of the Wright Brothers and changing it to a maritime center is not right it is a museum. Mr. Stroh commented the reason center was used was generated based on research there are many other active sailing maritime museum's that go by the name center. Consensus of the Board is they like the name Roanoke Island Maritime Museum. Exhibits were discussed and Mr. Stroh commented a series of signs will arrive at the end of the month that are interpretive and educational of the maritime history, there are also a few duplicate signs that they can take with them when they are out doing shows or an outreach program in the schools, but at this point they are focusing on the summertime activities and with the Town's help they can focus on exhibits at anytime. Mr. Stroh stated that since 1998 when the tri party agreement was established Festival Park has assisted in the marketing of the museum. Mayor Daniels would like a link on their web page to the maritime museum page. Mayor Daniels also commented he would like to see some dedicated staffing at the museum. Mr. Stroh commented that the guest hosts have a schedule a month in advance; we certainly want continuity with the sailing program and have another certified instructor starting Monday. This week we have had 4 people working with the sailing program, 2 volunteers. Commissioner Creef

asked why they need more staff “when the volunteers have been doing well without them and can run the operation what is wrong with them.” Mr. Stroh commented nothing is wrong with the volunteers and they have been told on numerous occasions that “I tremendously personally value their effort and dedication,” “I know we all do and they are certainly an indispensable part of that operation.” “They have a number of projects which are on going, they have been building a boat, repairing a shad boat and supporting the sailing program, helping out with First Friday, they do a number of things.” “The reason why we have tried to add additional staff on a daily basis is we have wanted to expand the operations to 7 days a week and not close for lunch, we don’t want the volunteers to have to work a 56 hour week just to keep it open.” Mr. Stroh also commented that the Town and Committee have wanted more activity and more vibrancy and more to do there so we are bolstering the folks that are already over there. Mayor Daniels wanted to address the volunteers and asked if there was a head volunteer. Mr. Stroh commented that there is no formal procedure for the volunteers and they essentially report to each other, schedule themselves successfully and work on projects themselves successfully. Mr. Stroh wanted to comment on the staffing and thinks it is important to note that since the establishment of the tri party agreement in 1998 the RI Commission has provided the paid staff for that facility to operate and are willing to continue to do that. A volunteer Mr. Penosky in the audience showed the Board a volunteer daily work sheet that they use and keep things organized and commented there is no information on that sheet about Festival Park other than a phone number that gives you a voicemail and Festival Park paid one paid employee to open up the facility during the weekend. Mr. Penosky commented the volunteers would get together establish a work list of what they would like to do and get done and “what is happening now with all these changes and all these people coming in from Festival Park we cannot get the same answer on any program on any given time;” last night for the community sailing program “I was out there along with another volunteer,” “Robbie who is supposed to be running the facility was out in the shad boat with one of the volunteer crew.” “Commissioner Burke, Commissioner Fry, myself and another volunteer when the weather turned bad had to get the kids off the water and boats put up while Robbie continued to sail,” “there is no communication there at all.” “I have to disagree with Scott; Robbie was not there Wednesday of last week, Thursday, Friday and did not return until yesterday morning.” Commissioner Burke commented that from what he has heard the first two weeks of the sailing program have been a fiasco and they say it will be fixed in a week; what can be done for those students prior to that and shouldn’t they be compensated for the money they put out. Mr. Stroh commented it is fair to say the first week in particular of the sailing program was not the way they would have wanted it to be, we were not able to locate a certified instructor to lead the class for the first week of the program. Mr. Stroh commented he can’t speak for the organization but is more than happy to recommend that we come up with an equitable arrangement to compensate them what was not entirely as advertised; the program last week the 4 who participated had received the prior certification, therefore they were able to sail because they were certified small boat sailors, we tried to compensate them with some other fun activities taking them out on the Downeast Rover. This week the program has been uninterrupted and followed the curriculum that has always been administered. Mr. Stroh also stated that they have 10 boats so they do have enough boats, he knows there were 8 boats sailing one day and some were paired up but that was a decision of the instructor and he can follow up and find out what the reason was for that decision but there are 10 boats physically over there now. Commissioner Fry commented that he knows his daughter was paired up. Mayor Daniels asked if we could set up a time that they could get some more time and Mr. Stroh responded absolutely

and they are eligible on Tuesday's to come do that but if they want to do a time on the weekend we will be happy to do that. Mr. Stroh commented that the fees our paid to the non-profit Friends of Elizabeth II and this year the instructors are contracted and paid for through the Friends of Elizabeth II where in the past it was the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort. It was asked who has liability insurance for the sailing program and Mr. Stroh commented that it is through the Friends of Elizabeth II and Mr. Skinner commented that physical assets are covered Town insurance and then we have general liability for any injuries that would occur. Mayor Daniels commented that they will try to finalize the agreement with Festival Park next Wednesday. Some of the Commissioners would like staff to explore the option of going with the Maritime Museum in Beaufort.

SUBJECT: Budget Amendment #8A-This is for legal expenses on unanticipated fees from the Town Attorney; the other is for the water and sewer department for fines assessed the Town and for repairs to the plant.

MOTION: Commissioner Etheridge seconded by Commissioner Burke to approve budget amendment #8A was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Farrow, Fry, Burke, Collins, Etheridge and Creef Noes: None. Absent:

Commissioner Farrow wanted to know the status of the water garden park- Mr. Skinner commented we did not receive the grant and that they are seeking other funding and that it was going to be hydro-seeded. Commissioner Farrow commented that we need to dredge that canal and the state needs to do it, "they are the ones that filled it up." Mr. Skinner asked the Board "are you instructing me to seek funding to have that done or seek to have prices to have a local contractor to do it and the Town pay for it?" The Board responded "both."

Commissioner Burke asked how the water-sewer violation appeal was going. Mr. Skinner responded that we are working on that and getting the paper work together.

MOTION: Commissioner Burke seconded by Commissioner Fry to adjourn at 5:50 pm was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Farrow, Collins, Fry, Burke, Creef, and Etheridge. Noes: None. Absent:

This the 18th day of June 2008

ATTEST:

Mayor Jamie Daniels

Town Clerk Becky Breiholz