

## MINUTES

The Town of Manteo Board of Commissioners held their March 4, 2009 Recessed Session March 18, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the Manteo Town Hall meeting room.

The following members were present:

- Mayor Jamie Daniels
- Commissioner H.A. Creef, Jr.
- Commissioner Darrell Collins
- Commissioner Christine Walker
- Commissioner Hannon Fry
- Commissioner David Farrow
- Commissioner Richie Burke

The following member(s) were absent:

Also present at the meeting were: Town Manager Kermit Skinner; Finance Officer Shannon Twiddy; Town Clerk-Becky Breiholz; Department Heads

Mayor Daniels called the recessed meeting to order at 4:05 pm would like to amend the agenda add a report from Bobby Outten regarding insurance.

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

Employee Recognition-Chief Vance Haskett was given a plaque in recognition of his 10 years serve to the Town of Manteo.

Department Head Reports- were given to the Board at their regular meeting for review and will be on file for one year. Chief Haskett went over his report and went over Project Lifesaver for people with Alzheimer's who have a transmitter and the transmitters have been replaced at no cost to the Town. Steve Jozik-IT went over his report and reported to the Board about the new microphone system. Erin Trebisacci went over her report and she is still working with Playworld System about the playground equipment cost; working with the affordable housing group; hosted a workshop on Know your Bay. Nathan Pharr-Water and Sewer went over his report and they have put together a grant for radio read meters and working with USDA Rural Water on leaks and doing a lot of maintenance. James McCleave-Public Works went over his report. Finance Officer Shannon Twiddy went over her report and handed out a letter that was written to the Tourist Bureau on behalf of the Collins Park Committee asking them to change the scope of the grant fund for the Cookhouse Committee for signage, displays and paying for the heat and air system for climate control for the displays.

Bobby Outten with Dare County reported that back in November the Insurance Commissioner raised the wind and hail premiums or surcharged them by an additional 10% and we are already paying 5% surcharge on the Beach Plan wind and hail and a 15% surcharge on homeowners. He raised one from 5% to 15% and the other one from 15% to 25%; he did that on the idea that he would run people out of the Beach plan and run you to other places to get your insurance, so that

the exposure and their liability would not be so great. What was not taken into account is that we have no where to go there is very little insurance you can get that isn't in the Beach plan. The deductibles were changed from 1% to 2% of the value of your house. Every time there is a wind event that damages your house you pay the first 2% of the value of your house before the insurance kicks in. They say we have a higher risk of wind related events on the coast and therefore we should pay more; what it didn't take into account that it was not tied to a main storm, not tied to a wind speed, it is any storm. Mr. Outten gave an example if a storm went through Raleigh it would go under the regular homeowner's insurance deductible; whereas if the same storm came through Dare County it would be the 2% deductible value of your home. They have also increased the regular homeowners' rates by 22%. He went over some statistics on damage throughout the state and the coastal counties only represent 31% and if you take out the property damage it would be less than that and it is a difficult argument that we have a greater risk out here that would justify those rates. Dare County have filed several lawsuits to challenge the insurance rate increases and are pending in the courts. We have several counties and towns that have gotten on board with this. The Town of Manteo has already passed a resolution of support contesting the increase and Mr. Outten is asking the Board to join them in the legal proceedings; and hopes the Town can contribute something to the case. Most Towns have contributed from \$1,000 to \$10,000. A group has been formed called NC20 of the 20 coastal counties; anyone can join and it is a non profit organization whose purpose is to advocate on coastal issues. They are working with the legislature and would like the Town to join the suit which would require a motion and give financial assistance. The Board by consensus allows the Town Manager Kermit Skinner to sign any documents that need to be executed to join the suit and a budget amendment will be prepared for them for their consideration at the April regular meeting.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Fry seconded by Commissioner Creef to become a part of the lawsuit with Dare County and to discuss at the regular meeting the amount they will give was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Collins, Fry, Burke, Farrow, Walker, and Creef Noes: None. Absent: none

**SUBJECT:** Magnolia Market Renovations-John Boniface went over the renovations and commented that these are to the existing bathrooms and would cost \$47,250.00; the restrooms would be done like those at the boathouse and the building would be pressure washing, painted and handicap ramps installed to be overseen by Town Staff. This also includes separate water and sewer lines for the bathrooms. The Board discussed power washing and painting it and would like a price without having that done. Bathrooms for the restaurant were discussed and the Board would like a price for restrooms to be placed in the restaurant for them to review at their April regular meeting. Finance Officer Shannon Twiddy will prepare a budget amendment based on the cost of both restrooms.

**SUBJECT:** Stormwater treatment plan-Planner Erin Trebisacci gave the Board a report on the Know Your Bay workshop. One option to clean the bay would be to treat the storm water run off. Mrs. Trebisacci presented the Board a map showing the outfalls and they discussed each outfall; some are being filtered by the marsh; the outfall for the Chesley Mall area is not filtered by the marsh. Mayor Daniels would like a commitment from the Board to finance some type of

storm water treatment plan during the next budget cycle before the Planner starts researching the project. The idea is to get some type of treatment before the storm water goes in to the bay and we will need some type of engineering work so that we are not compromising the flow. Mrs. Twiddy commented that the Board does not have the financial stability to take on this type of project and suggested that the Board considering raising taxes by 2 cent and the money be earmarked for storm water.

#### COMMISSIONERS/STAFF CONCERNS

Commissioner Fry asked about the sidewalks in front of Mr. Fearing's property that he asked about at the regular meeting. They discussed looking at the impervious pavers put in downtown; Commissioner Fry asked about moving the Farmers Market for better exposure to the Bucks Seafood property was discussed. The Board discussed if we could do that; since one half of the property was purchased with a grant from the Tourist Bureau and there are restrictions as to it being green space. Commissioner Farrow commented that he has to ask the Tourist Bureau to allow them to place playground equipment there. This brought up what types of restrictions are in place and what can and cannot be done with the property. The Board also discussed the purchase of the other half of the Davis lot at the waterfront; the conservation easement and since we are receiving funding from the Tourist Bureau we need to find out what restrictions are in place for that open space and whether or not we will be allowed to use that as we have in the past for Dare Days, Fourth of July and other special events. The Board would like the Town Attorney to give them a report at their April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting as to what restrictions are in place; what can and can't be done on those properties.

**MOTION:** Commissioner Walker seconded by Commissioner Collins to recess at 5:35 pm until March 19 at 9 am was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners Collins, Fry, Burke, Farrow, Walker, and Creef Noes: None. Absent: none.

This the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009

ATTEST:

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Mayor Jamie Daniels

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Town Clerk Becky Breiholz