

**TOWN OF CAPE CARTERET  
WORK SESSION MINUTES**

7:00 PM      November 11, 2013

**Call to Order**

The Cape Carteret Board of Commissioners meeting came to order at 7:03 PM in the Debbie E. Stanley Board of Commissioners Room.

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Commissioner Seegers

**Moment of Silence**

Lisa Clague of Old Cape Carteret  
All veterans on this Veterans Day

**Roll Call**

Present: Mayor Dave Fowler  
Commissioner King, Saunders, Seegers, Hunt and Patterson  
Attorney Curtis, CNT and 6 citizens

The mayor recognized the Marines 238th birthday.

The mayor welcomed Commissioner-Elect George Phillips, Commissioner-Elect Minnie Truax and our new assistant clerk, Betsy Brothers.

**Any changes to the agenda?** No, Commissioner Hunt motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Saunders. ***Vote approved 5-0***

**Planning Board Report & Building Inspector's Report:** Brandon Hawks

- **Fees collected for the month of October:** \$9367.60
- **Update on the multi-path:** There was a final walkthrough on October 15, 2013. There are some contested items from the contractor. The driveway change order (#7) is still being contested between DOT and the contractor. The contractor has agreed to do all the punch list items, except number seven. The board discussed the second payout of \$109,035 and decided to hold some of the funds. A check will be cut in the amount of \$85,023, until the punch list is completed. There will be one more final bill that will include the difference and the change orders. The supplemental agreement funding with DOT is good until December 31, 2013. The attorney asked if a pedestrian crosswalk was still in the works, and Brandon said yes.  
The mayor said this meeting is to tie up the loose ends with this board. He would like to hold a public informational meeting about the sidewalks. The mayor said it is time to let the public know what is going on before we lose funding. We are five months behind the contractor's completion date that he set. The board agreed that there will be an informational meeting held next week about the multi-path problems. **(Agenda item)**
- **Ordinance Conflicts:** The planning board would like to hold a public hearing on three ordinance amendments ASAP; subdivision on public/private streets; for sale and lease signs; and 25 gallon trash containers, because they will impact some issues coming up. The trash containers are in conflict with the contract that we have with Waste Industries. (A public hearing is to be scheduled for the December work session)

- **Sign Ordinance-Flags and banners:** The planning board tabled this item for next month because the meeting ran late. Commissioner Saunders said she would like Brandon to be directed to not fine businesses for using their flags until the issues are resolved. She has had four businesses ask that the sign ordinance be reviewed. The board agreed that Brandon will not enforce the banner regulations. Commissioner King said the sign section of the ordinance has always been an issue, but the board needs to give the planning board specific direction on the changes that they want.
- **Stop signs in Bayshore:** Brandon was instructed to place this item on the planning board agenda.

**Board of Adjustment:** None

**Police Chief's Report:** Donald Miller

- All officers have completed their annual in-service training.
- Three radar units have been ordered and should be here in the spring of next year. The Chief updated the commissioners-elect about the radar changing-out program.
- The Mayor thanked the Chief for driving him in the Veteran's Day parade.

**Clerk's Report:** Karen Zornes

Tax report: As of today 30% of the 2013 taxes have been collected.

### **Committee Reports**

**Interlocal Agency: Mayor:** The mayor attended his first ILA meeting as chairman. A power point presentation on the budget was given. The budget looks good for the coming year. It is down by sixteen percent. The operational budget is slightly up. The next ILA meeting is January 8, 2014.

### **Commissioner's Report**

**Commissioner Seegers:** The maintenance men set the fence further back, down by the boat ramp, so now there will be more boat ramp parking. They are cutting tree limbs on the rights-of-way. The men did some street patching, but some areas with alligator cracks were not addressed. The weather has to be in the seventy's for the material to adhere. The two men are handling everything and will let the board know when they need part-time help. The next leaf and limb pick up will be the first week of December. Commissioner Hunt said there are piles starting early. Brandon is responsible for the enforcement. Buddy is not touching the piles.

**Commissioner Saunders:** She has ordered the wreath with sailboats after getting a consensus from the board. She has received great reviews from the few people that have seen a picture of the design.

**Commissioner King:** The Yaupon street drainage pipe is almost complete. A little sodding still needs to be done. The project on Park Court/Star Hill is still in the works. He should have more information by next week.

### **Mayor's Report**

**Medical Insurance for Buddy Dew:** The mayor said the board is aware of Buddy Dew's concerns about medical insurance when he retires. Past boards made promises to Buddy and the mayor promised him if he ever became mayor he would follow up on those promises. The current

board is not obligated to do anything, just because past boards made promises. We do need to clear this up. The mayor has been speaking with Lisa Musto of AFLAC about putting together some kind of bridge between retirement and social security. The mayor is not saying that Buddy is requesting retirement, but Buddy is looking at his options. The mayor wants to conclude, is this feasible or not? Are we obligated or not? Is it financially feasible or not? Citizens have approached the mayor and Commissioner Seegers about the town not living up to past promises. It is imperative that we follow up on this because he has been a loyal employee for 32 years. The Mayor, Commissioner Seegers and the clerk will meet with Lisa Musto on Thursday, November 14, 2013 at 3 PM.

**Chalk and Gibbs** will have their grand opening on November 14, 2013, between 4 and 7 PM.

**Municipal Initiative** meeting will be at 5:30 PM on November 12, 2013. The results of the survey will be presented.

**Accomplishments for 2013-14:** The Red Folder contains the 13 projects that the board was going to do. The mayor went over the thirteen items and explained if the items were completed or not and where they stood. The board has been very active and he thanked the board for getting things done.

**Police Mutual Aid:** The mayor read a letter from John P. Ritchie about the police mutual aid. Mr. Ritchie is not pleased with the taxpayers of Cape Carteret having to fund the cost of police protection for our neighboring towns. Cape Carteret receives no compensation for first responders to the residents and businesses of the other towns. If the other towns want to have a first responder and the benefit of mutual aid then let them fund a full police force and live up to the definition of the word mutual. The taxpayers of Cape Carteret cannot afford to carry the whole cost for their convenience and a low tax rate. The most importantly is our citizen's safety. We as residents pay for police protection 24/7-365 days. When we only have one officer on duty and he is responding to another town, then our citizens are unprotected and not getting what they paid for. Mr. Ritchie would like Cape Carteret to stop the mutual aid service. Commissioner King said mutual-aid is a double-edge sword in that the concept is great for communities to share resources to save money on capital equipment, but when it comes down to grading those services from the state agency, mutual aid does not count. The mayor said he has had citizens come to him about this. When the new Chief comes on board he will have to sign new mutual aid agreements and that is the time that we should revisit this issue.

Commissioner Seegers asked the attorney if it is mandated that we have mutual aid. The attorney said it is at the discretion of the board but if they are signed then yes, they must respond.

### **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

October Minutes (**Agenda items**)

### **OLD/PENDING ITEMS**

**Star Hill & Park Ct Project:** Item tabled until next week. (**Agenda item**)

**Boat ramp stickers:** Commissioner Patterson suggested that all boat ramp pass holders receive two stickers and be charged \$5 for each additional sticker. The clerks will verify that the trailers belong to the resident. The board was given a copy of what the sticker looks like. The new application was presented with the removal of the truck information, which is no longer

needed. All out-of-town applicants would receive one sticker and be charged \$5 for each additional sticker. The clerk said that we have many pass holders with two boats. There was a good discussion about the boat ramp and the application fee. The board agreed to have Mrs. Patterson, Mr. King, the new police chief, the clerks, and the new commissioner of Parks to meet after the New Year to go over any additional issues. Commissioner-elect Truax asked about allowing Kayaks to use the boat ramp. Commissioner King said that was brought up before and voted down. **(Agenda item)**

#### **NEW ITEMS**

**Purple Heart Proclamation:** The Mayor stated he was approached by The Military Order of the Purple Heart organization and asked to draw up a proclamation. We will present the proclamation next week. **(Agenda item)**

**Christmas party:** Commissioner Seegers asked everyone to please RSVP for the Christmas party.

**CITIZENS TO SPEAK:** none

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** none

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, on a motion by Commissioner Patterson, seconded by Commissioner Saunders the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. **Vote approved 5-0**

These are the minutes of November 11, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Zornes, CMC, NCCMC  
Town Clerk