

Shore Protection Manager

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CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

June 26, 2006, 2 pm

Acronyms:

None

Attendance.

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Vice-Chair William Donnelly, Commission Members Eddie Dawkins, Jack Goldstein, Jerry Huml, Ted Lindblad, Pat McElraft, Stewart Pickett, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Joan Lamson, Jim Stephenson, and Jim Willis III were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – May 22, 2006).** - Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the minutes presented in the agenda packet. Member Lindblad noted a grammatical error and a context change, and subsequently motioned that the minutes be approved with the noted corrections. The motion was seconded by member Donnelly and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph noted that the occupancy tax figures provided in the agenda packet for May 2006 were up by almost 3% compared to the May 2005 collection. While this is a relatively low increase compared to all other months in the current fiscal year, there could be a corollary with the dates of collection and to which months they are credited towards. For instance, the May Memorial Day weekend receipts may actually be reported for the June report, and therefore not reflected in the May report. Regardless, it appears that the total occupancy tax collection for FY 2005-06 will eclipse the \$4 million dollar mark for the first time ever in the tax's history, which corresponds to a \$2 million infusion to the “Beach Fund”. Member Goldstein added that when the audit for the occupancy tax was conducted, it was discovered that many of the tax collectors for condominiums and rentals were not collecting taxes for linens, administrative fees, etc. Consequently, these back taxes have been collected over the past several months and when these back taxes are fully collected, the Commission could see a slight decrease in revenue because the collections will not contain any back tax receipts. Member Goldstein mentioned that it would be beneficial to extrapolate the true occupancy rate out of the tax collected, minus the signature from the increases associated with escalating lodging prices, back taxes, etc. Secretary Rudolph underscored that occupancy tax collection reports are essentially used as a proxy for the occupancy rate, and not as an absolute signal. Member Huml asked if private homes that are advertised for rent for the week of Tall Ships are liable for occupancy tax collection. Member Goldstein responded that they are not according to sales tax codes, and hence attempting to obtain an occupancy tax from these individuals would be difficult.

- (4) **Appointments – Internet Mapping Services and Logo Design Qualification Review Committees.** – Secretary Rudolph reviewed the agenda topic by noting that in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year (FY 2006-07), the Commission agreed to fund the design of a new logo and the incorporation of this logo into stationary, shirts, and other accessories. The Commission also agreed to budget for the development of an internet mapping website that allows users to view all the coastal data the Commission has received via contracted services. This latter initiative should result in a very easy to use website where visitors can zoom and pan to specific locations and import layers of graphics such as historical shorelines, turtle nesting data, borrow sites, etc. Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for both of these initiatives have been announced and are due on June 30th. A RFQ approach was utilized in a manner to establish a cost for both projects with a short but essential list of deliverables. This should permit prospective firms to develop creative proposals while providing the Beach Commission the best possible set of deliverables for the given cost. If a Request for Proposal approach was taken, then the costs for the both initiatives would be a reflection of what each firm submitted. Again, the RFQ approach established the cost from the onset.

The secretary continued that it would be beneficial if the Commission had a committee to help narrow the field of candidates, select the most desirable firm for each initiative for the full Commission's consideration, and develop a contract for services for the County Board of Commissioner's approval. This approach has been utilized in the past and committees are appointed by the chairman. Member Lindblad asked if the numbers presented in the RFQs were absolute or should be utilized as a guide. Secretary Rudolph responded that although the numbers are presented as absolutes, it is probably not out of the question to provide a couple hundred or thousand dollar wiggle room if a selected firm provides solid justification. Also, the internet mapping RFQ asks for a year 2 and 3 maintenance cost that is not specified, and firms could utilize this to enhance the total dollar amount for the effort. Also, there have been at least 20 phone/e-mail inquiries related to the internet mapping RFQ from all over the world – India, Canada, Colorado, etc. Chairman Fugate mentioned that it would be convenient to establish a single committee to review both the logo design and internet mapping initiatives rather than developing two separate committees. The Commission agreed and members Goldstein, Huml, and Lindblad likewise agreed to serve on the Committee.

Secretary Rudolph continued by providing a quick update regarding the solicitation for legal services that that Commission approved last month. A request for a letter of interest was sent to three attorneys related to sand management issues at the Morehead City Harbor Navigation Project. These letters are due on June 30th, however the attorney who represents the Village at Bald Head Island (George House) was asked by the town government last week not to submit a letter of interest to Carteret County. However, Mr. House did provide a recommendation for another attorney (Steven Levitas) and it appears that Mr. Levitas with the firm of Kilpatrick & Stockton will reply.

Member Lindblad asked if the Joint Ocean Commission Initiative report that was recently published had any bearing or use in Carteret County. The secretary replied that a couple of years ago, the Pew Oceans Commission (private foundation) and the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy (Congressionally-mandated group) both issued reports regarding the health of the world's oceans. Both reports had very similar results and the Joint Ocean Commission is a metamorphosed group

with members of both the Pew and U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The Joint Commission just issued a policy document with recommendations for improving the health of the ocean. The secretary added that funding for the initiatives described in this most recent report will be a contentious issue, however the report can and has been utilized as a resource document to substantiate lines of thoughts or resolve arguments.

- (5) **Public Comment.** – None.
- (6) **Other Business.** – None.
- (7) **July 2006 Meeting Date (July 24, 2006 – proposed).** – It was agreed upon that the July Commission meeting would be held on July 24th at 2:00 pm.

*Meeting was subsequently postponed until August 28th.
- (8) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.