

Shore Protection Manager

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## CARTERET COUNTY BEACH COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes

Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall

September 24, 2007, 2 pm

### Attendance.

Commission Chair Buck Fugate, Vice-Chair William Donnelly, Commission Members Eddie Dawkins, Tom Hoover, Joan Lamson, Ted Lindblad, Stewart Pickett, Jim Willis, secretary Greg Rudolph, and the general public. Members Pete Allen, Jack Goldstein, and Jim Stephenson and were absent.

- (1) **Call to Order.** – Chairman Fugate called the meeting to order.
- (2) **Approval of Minutes (Regular Beach Commission Meeting – August 27, 2007; Closed Session – August 27, 2007).** – Chairman Fugate asked the Commission if there were any corrections, additions, or comments regarding the two sets of minutes presented in the agenda packet. With no comments forthcoming from the Commission, Member Stewart motioned the minutes be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by member Hoover and unanimously approved.
- (3) **Occupancy Tax and “Beach Fund” Update.** – Secretary Rudolph presented the August 2007 occupancy tax collection report and noted the collection was up by 10% compared to the August 2006 collection. The August report did include two July collections, which is an important caveat but still places the overall year-to-date collection at a +3% mark at this point in the this very young fiscal year. Interestingly since 2004, July has been the only month that the collection eclipses the \$1.0 million mark. The August 2007 collection was ~\$950,000 and the August 2008 collection could very well eclipse the \$1.0 million mark for the first time, constituting the second month of the year where this benchmark is reached. The secretary continued there are likely several reasons for the up-tick reported in August, but probably the most significant factor is the expansion of summer recess for the North Carolina schools. Also and similar to the trend experienced in FY 2006-07, the hotel/motel input declined in August 2007 compared to the previous year, while the condo/cottage sector continues to climb at a rate that offsets the downturn in hotels/motels and then some. Overall, the “Beach Fund” reserve is currently estimated to be at ~\$5 million and represents the balance available at the beginning of the fiscal year plus the occupancy tax revenue gained this year minus the expenditures incurred to date.

Member Lamson asked if visitation numbers were being accurately recorded in Carteret County. Chairman Fugate replied that there have been previous efforts to calculate these figures but they are difficult to ascertain plus much of the information is proprietary according to the real estate companies and hotels. Member Donnelly added that in Ocean City, Md., wastewater has been successfully used as a proxy for visitation.

- (4) **Public Comment.** – None.

- (5) **Other Business.** – Member Willis provided a Powerpoint slide presentation to the beach Commission regarding Bogue Inlet. Member Willis mentioned the impacts of hydraulic flow associated with the Coast Guard Channel and its bearing on the nodal point/sand lump located along the Emerald Isle oceanfront. To maintain a balance of sand along the oceanfront, a short or porous jetty would ideally stabilize the inlet while permitting sand to accrete along the oceanfront. However, current State law prevents the installation of these types of hard structures. Secretary Rudolph mentioned that State legislation was introduced in the General Assembly's long session earlier this year that would allow for terminal groin pilot studies.
- (6) **Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the permitted Purpose of Discussing Confidential Information.**
- (7) **November 2007 Meeting Date (November 26, 2007 – proposed).** – Chairman Fugate disclosed that he will be out of Town the fourth Monday of the month in October and the secretary will be in Texas attending a meeting. Accordingly it is recommended to postpone the October meeting until November 26<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm, PKS Town Hall. The Commission agreed by consensus.
- (8) **Adjourn.** – Chairman Fugate asked for any additional comments and with no additional comments forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned.