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3 **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING**
4 **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **TUESDAY, April 11, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.**
6 **TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**
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9 **1. Call to Order**

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11 The regular monthly meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to order by
12 Mayor Jason Holland at 6:00 PM in the Town Board Meeting Room.
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14 **2. Roll Call**

15
16 Present for the meeting: Mayor Jason Holland, Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer, Commissioners
17 Steve Finch, Jim Normile, Mark Taylor, and Jamie Vogel.
18

19 Also, present during the regular meeting: Town Manager Matt Zapp, Town Clerk Sarah Diehl,
20 Finance Director Laura Rotchford, Public Information Officer Mark Crews, Planning Director
21 Michelle Eitner, Deputy Fire Chief Billy Matthias, Parks and Recreation Director Candace
22 Dooley, and Greg Hayes, IT.
23

24 After roll call, Mayor Holland held a moment of silence for the Hicks/ Long family.
25

26 **3. Opening Prayer**

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28 Commissioner Mark Taylor offered the Opening Prayer.
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30 **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

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32 Mayor Holland led the Pledge of Allegiance.
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34 **5. Adoption of Agenda**

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36 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Messer to adopt the Agenda. The Board voted***
37 ***unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***
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39 **6. Proclamations**

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41 Mayor Holland read a proclamation honoring Tyron and Devlyne Gilmore. Tyron and Devlyne
42 are brothers who worked at the base of the Emerald Isle bridge during the NC DOT
43 construction. Residents looked forward to seeing them and their smiles. They kept everyone in
44 good spirits while they waited to cross the bridge. Devlyne was able to attend the meeting

1 along with his wife, Veronica. Tyron was out of town for work. The Mayor thanked Devlyne for
2 his service and for helping to keep everyone in good spirits.

3

4 **7. Introduction of New Employees**

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6 Mayor Holland introduced Summer Acfalle, the Police Department's new full-time Permit
7 Technician and welcomed her to the team.

8

9 Mayor Holland introduced Mark Crews, the new Public Information Officer, to the Town. A
10 video where Mr. Crews introduces himself to the town, was played for the meeting.

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12 **8. Public Service Announcements**

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14 Mayor Holland made the following announcements:

- 15 • Story Time and Pre- K play, Mondays, 9 a.m. at the Community Center
- 16 • Paid Parking at Beach Accesses begins on April 15
- 17 • PEP Program- April 18, 10 a.m. Board Meeting Room
- 18 • Blood Drive- April 21- 1:00- 5:30 p.m. Community Center
- 19 • Operation Medicine Drop- April 22- 10 a.m. -2 p.m. Food Lion Parking Lot
- 20 • Planning Board Regular Meeting- April 24- 6 p.m. Town Board Room
- 21 • Coffee with a Cop- April 27, 9 a.m. Town Board Room
- 22 • Golf Cart Advisory Committee Meeting- April 28- 5:30 p.m. Town Board Room
- 23 • Last Day of Beach Driving (for the season)- April 30
- 24 • Neighborhood Watch Board Meeting- May 2, 4 p.m.
- 25 • Bike the Banks- May 6, 7:30 a.m. Community Center
- 26 • Board of Commissioners regular meeting- May 9, 6 p.m. Town Board Room

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28 **8.a. Parks and Recreation Department Video**

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30 Parks and Recreation Director Dooley introduced herself and then showed a video highlighting
31 the work that the Parks and Recreation Department was doing, as well as planned
32 improvements.

33

34 Tennis Court Rehabilitation: resurfacing of courts to include 5 pickleball courts, a new fence has
35 been installed, along with wind fencing, and a new practice board. New nets are planned as
36 well.

37

1 Community Center Repairs: the walls and beams will be repainted. The building was inspected
2 and is in sound condition except for the HVAC which was approved for replacement and is on
3 order.

4
5 Howe St. Walkway: thanks to a generous donation this walkway will be getting replaced.
6 Director Dooley informed the public that she had received quotes and purchase orders to paint
7 the facility and to steam clean and disinfect the gym floors— both planned to take place over
8 the next few months. Mayor Holland extended his thanks to the anonymous donors of the
9 Howe St beach access.

10

11 **8.b. 2023 Beach Safety Update**

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13 Deputy Chief Matthias gave a beach safety update for the upcoming season and reviewed the
14 past year's ocean rescue lifeguard statistics. He, along with other NC Beach towns, attended a
15 seminar by the National Weather Service. The Town will start receiving surf conditions a week
16 earlier than the usual NWS posting, due to the urging of Emerald Isle (and Deputy Chief
17 Matthias). This is a big win as that is typically the week of Spring Break and an important one to
18 visitors.

19

20 Commissioner Normile asked Deputy Chief Matthias about a fundraiser for one of the Town's
21 Fire Fighters (Clair Atchinson) son's, Kaiden Atchinson. Clair's son is battling cancer. Morehead
22 City Fire and Auxiliary's annual Boots vs Badges softball game and benefit ride will be donating
23 their proceeds to the family.

24

25 **8.c. Progressive Goals Update (2023- 2025)**

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27 Town Manager Zapp reviewed the 2023- 2025 and gave updates on projects. The goals list is
28 attached and incorporated herein.

29

30 **8.d. Pack It In/ Pack It Out**

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32 Town Manager Zapp played a video showing the Pack It In/ Pack It Out concept in Emerald Isle.

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34 **9. Public Comment**

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36 **Brief Summary:**

37 The public will have the opportunity to address the Board about any items of concern not on the agenda. The
38 Mayor and Board welcome and appreciate all comments from the public and will take these comments into
39 consideration as they make decisions on Town issues and provide direction to Town staff. Public comment is a time
40 for the Board to listen to the public's concerns and ideas and is not intended for a lengthy dialogue or question and
41 answer session.

42

1 The Mayor, Board, and Town staff are happy to meet with any citizen during normal business hours or at any other
2 mutually agreeable time to discuss Town issues and answer any questions.

3 There were 8 (eight) public comments.

4 *Ronnie Watson, 9102 Coast Guard Rd*, believes that the town spending is out of control. He
5 reviewed other towns budgets and looked at past Emerald Isle budgets (payroll and benefits).

6 *Randy Hanford, 401 Wild Cherry Ln*, said he was not happy with the changes that have
7 happened in Emerald Isle over the past few years. He believes that the Community Center
8 needs funding and that the roads need work, particularly Sound Dr.

9 *Bryan Nicklow, 1502 Salter Path Rd*, a member of J6 nation. He asked that the Town of Emerald
10 Isle (as a local government) rededicate themselves to the constitution (and uphold those
11 values). He supports a group who has instructors who are teaching the constitution. He
12 discussed different options the public had to support those goals (of making sure that elected
13 officials were upholding the constitution).

14 *Paige Taylor- Ward, 326 Live Oak St*, voiced concerns over vegetation and lack of code
15 enforcement. She believes that lots are being clear cut and that ordinances are not being
16 followed.

17 *Jeff Ward, 326 Live Oak St*, is concerned about turnover and retention in Town. He does not
18 think that money is being well spent and that there are code enforcement issues.

19 *Lori Ahuna, 320 Loblolly St*, represents around 2 dozen Community Center members and is
20 concerned with the current state of the Center. She met with Finance Director Rotchford, Town
21 Manager Zapp, Parks and Recreation Director Dooley, and Commissioner Vogel. She thanked
22 P&R Director Dooley for addressing some of the issues. She hopes that the Board will plan for
23 repairs while they look at creating the new budget. She has a list of things that she would like to
24 see done. She feels they are general maintenance items, and that the gym needs attention.

25 *Annette Ruth, 315 Loblolly*, does not agree with the Pack it in/ Pack it out program. She would
26 like to see improved signage at McLean-Spell Park with guidelines as to what's allowed on the
27 bike trail and does not believe that outdoor exercise stations will be used by the public. She
28 encouraged everyone to come to a class at the Community Center.

29 *Patricia Leonard, 325 Cedar St*, does not agree with the Pack it in/ Pack it out program. She
30 would like the town to consider repaving certain streets in town.

31 **10. Consent Agenda**

- 32 1. **March 14, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 33 2. **Authorize Audit Services Contract Extension**
- 34 3. **Approve Amendment to Onslow Grading & Paving, Inc. Contract**
- 35 4. **Budget Amendment- General Fund**

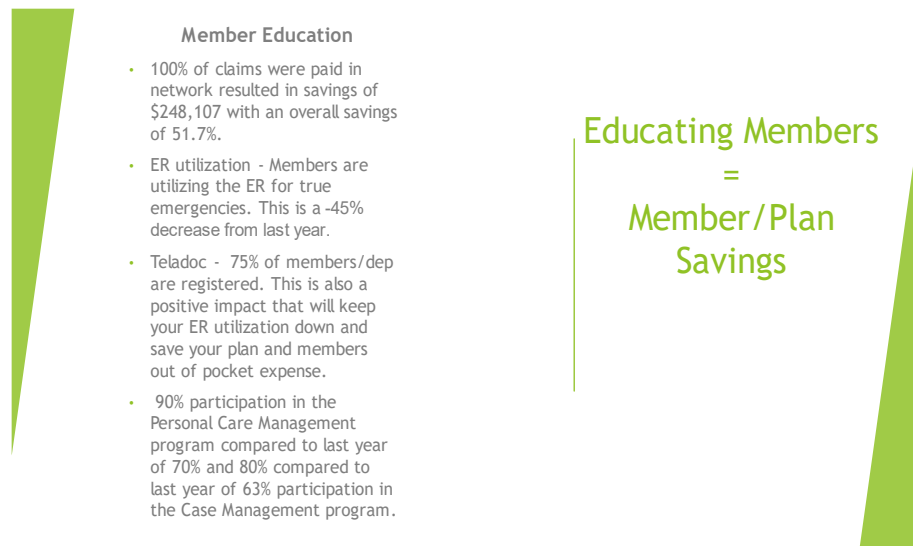
1 **5. Budget and CPO Amendment**

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3 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. The***
4 ***Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

5 **Clerks Note: Consent agenda items as noted above are incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these**
6 **minutes.**

7 **11. Emerald Isle Health Insurance Presentation**

8 Michelle Endicott, Account Manager for Medcost, works with the NCLM and the Town of
9 Emerald Isle. She gave a presentation showing the improvement Emerald Isle employees had
10 made in the past year.



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12 **12. Appointments— Planning Board**

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14 Commissioner Vogel said that the Planning Board had been working hard and done a lot of work.

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16 Motion to appoint Kenny Sullivan, Susan Monette, Ty Cannon, and Jay Wooten to new terms on the
17 Planning Board to expire in March 2025.

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19 **13. FEMA: Preliminary Revised FIRM Panel**

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21 Planning Director Eitner said that the Flood Insurance Rate Maps were coming up for an update. She
22 reviewed the current FIRM panel. She then reviewed the FIRM Panel that was revised after an appeal
23 and the Town is looking at a reduction in the Special Flood Hazard Area. It's a small step towards
24 updated flood maps and generally beneficial for properties. FEMA does provide an appeal that is
25 underway and in effect until June 27, 2023. For those that have questions can contact staff at Town Hall.
26 That presentation is incorporated herein by reference and hereby made a part of these
27 minutes.
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14. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney and Town Manager

Town Manager Zapp reported that the Town has not purchased any electric vehicles and that the Town has seen savings over the past three years with the leased vehicle program. The vehicles are safer, use less fuel and maintenance costs have been reduced. Town Hall had over 10,000 calls to the Administration office in 2022. If the main line is busy, it then goes to an automated answering system. The former Public Information Officer/ Town Clerk went to Morehead City for a substantial raise and for the sole role of Public Information Officer. He said that he would be happy to speak with anyone who had questions and was excited about Mark Crews as the new Public Information Officer.

15. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor

Commissioner Taylor thanked everyone for coming and for speaking and said it was an honor to serve the Town.

Commissioner Finch had no comment.

Commissioner Messer asked that if someone had a question or concern that they call a Board member or Town Manager Zapp.

Commissioner Vogel thanked Town Manager Zapp for his comments. She said that we live in a multi-generational community and the role of a Public Information Officer is very important to make sure that we are addressing all avenues of getting the message across and being transparent. She was excited to see Mark Crews join the organization. She expressed her condolences to Mayor Holland.

Commissioner Normile explained that the Pack It In/ Pack It Out was implemented because there was 130 tons of trash being disposed of by two Public Works employees and there simply wasn't room in the Town for another dumpster. There will be 22 cans on the beach that will still be serviced. There will also be containers (roll-out carts) at the end of beach accesses that Simmons and Simmons (our trash collector) will be able to pick up.

Mayor Holland thanked Commissioner Normile for explaining the rationale behind Pack It In/ Pack It Out. He encouraged the public to go to the original source when they had questions and said that the Board, himself, and Town Manager Zapp were happy to meet with the public and answer questions. He appreciates the job that Town Manager Zapp and his staff do and appreciates Town Manager Zapp for being a conduit for the Board, visitors, and residents of the Town. Town Manager Zapp serves at the pleasure of the Board and is tasked with carrying out their initiatives. He encouraged everyone to work together.

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16. Adjourn

Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sarah Diehl
Town Clerk