

1
2
3 **MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2022 REGULAR MEETING**
4 **OF THE EMERALD ISLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**
6 **TOWN BOARD MEETING ROOM**
7
8

9 **1. Call to Order**

10
11 The regular meeting of the Emerald Isle Board of Commissioners was called to order by Mayor
12 Jason Holland at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Board Meeting Room.
13

14 **2. Roll Call**

15
16 Present for the meeting: Mayor Jason Holland, Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer, Commissioners
17 Mark Taylor, Steve Finch and Jamie Vogel. One commissioner seat is vacant, due to the
18 resignation of Candace Dooley in April.
19

20 Also, present during the meeting: Town Manager Matt Zapp, Town Clerk/Public Information
21 Officer Anna Smith, Attorney Richard Stanley, Finance Director Laura Rotchford, Planning
22 Director Josh Edmondson, Assistant Town Planner Jeff Hall, Chief of Police Michael Panzarella,
23 Fire Chief Bill Walker, Fire Marshal/Ocean Rescue Coordinator William Matthias and numerous
24 fire department, police and lifeguard employees.
25

26 **3. Opening Prayer**

27
28 Pastor Clay Olsen with Chapel by the Sea offered the opening prayer.
29

30 **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

31
32 Mayor Holland led the Pledge of Allegiance.
33

34 **5. Adoption of Agenda**

35
36 *Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Messer to adopt the agenda. The Board voted*
37 *unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.*
38

39 **6. Proclamations / Public Announcements**

40
41 Mayor Holland reviewed the list of upcoming Town events.
42

43 He read a proclamation on National Safe Boating Week, May 21 – 27, 2022, and presented it
44 Carl Rauschenberg with the Coast Guard Auxiliary.
45

1 Mayor Holland then read a proclamation on National Police Week, May 15- 21, 2022 and
2 presented it to Chief Michael Panzarella and members of the Police Department.
3 Next, he read a National Public Works Week proclamation, May 15- 21, 2022.

4
5 Then, he read a proclamation for National Emergency Medical Services Week, also May 15- 21,
6 2022.

7
8 **7. Consider the appointment of a commission to fill a vacated seat until the November 2023**
9 **election**

10
11 Mayor Holland opened up the topic of conversation, while Mayor Pro-Tem Floyd Messer asked
12 to speak for a few minutes. He discussed his disappointment with the County Board of
13 Commissioners for releasing former commissioner Jim Normile from the County Beach
14 Commission back in the fall, where he was the chairman, among other related topics.

15
16 Commissioner Vogel said she was happy that several people in the community showed interest
17 in filling the vacant board seat, and she hopes this energy continues to the new election.

18
19 Mayor Pro-Tem Messer encouraged people who showed interest to file and run during the next
20 election cycle.

21
22 Commissioner Finch agreed with Commissioner Vogel and thanked members of the public for
23 stepping up. Commission Taylor agreed with the rest of the board.

24
25 ***Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Messer to appoint Jim Normile to finish the unexpired***
26 ***term until the November 2023 election. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion***
27 ***carried.***

28
29 Mayor Holland thanked everyone who reached out and expressed their desire to serve the town
30 in this capacity.

31
32 **8. Consent Agenda**

33
34 The Consent Agenda included:

- 35 a. March 14 Special Meeting Minutes
- 36 b. April 12 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 37 c. April 20 Special Meeting Minutes
- 38 d. Authorize Information Technology Services and VOIP Telephone Services Contract
39 Extension

40
41 ***Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board voted***
42 ***unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.***

43

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

9. Public Comment

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

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

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

Ronnie Watson spoke about the history of Emerald Isle and how he thinks it has changed.

Jill Pitko, of Hickory Street, proposed Emerald Isle adopt a 35 m.p.h. speed limit along Highway 58/Emerald Drive. She noted she understands it is a state road and the Town may not be able to do anything about it, but said she would like to see it changed for safety reasons while crossing with her daughter.

20 **10. EIFD Ocean Rescue Overview and Lifeguard Introductions**

21

Ocean Rescue Coordinator William Matthias introduced several returning lifeguards and one new one, and noted he could not do his job without them. He named them individually, with a brief bio of each.

22

23 Mayor Holland read a proclamation for National Beach Safety week, May 23-30, 2022, and
24 presented it to Ocean Rescue Coordinator Matthias, alongside the lifeguards.

25

26 Ocean Rescue Coordinator Matthias gave a presentation on the ocean rescue overview for the
27 summer season 2022. This included additional beach safety flags, a second shift of lifeguards
28 from noon-8 p.m. and enhanced transient population education. He also highlighted several
29 Town employees who have cross-trained to become lifeguards.

30

31 **11. Employee Recognition: Chief Bill Walker – 35 Years of Service**

32

33 Town Manager Matt Zapp recognized Fire Chief Bill Walker for his 35 years of service.
34 He received a commemorative plaque and a gift card.

35

36 **12. Introduction of new Town employees**

37

38 The Board was introduced to several new full time employees via photos and a brief introduction
39 by their department heads. These employees were:

40

a. Jeff Hall – Planning and Inspections, who had the opportunity to speak in person.

41

b. Mark Vesely – Police Department

- 1 c. Brian Vadell – Police Department
- 2 d. Derrick Suggs – Police Department
- 3 e. Stephen Ferguson – Public Works
- 4 f. Ryan Graham – EMS
- 5 g. Greg Hayes – Administrative/FEMA 428 Liaison

6 **13. Watson Family Assets LLC Seasonal Paid Parking Site Plan**

7 Planning Director Josh Edmondson reviewed a proposal by Watson Family Assets for paid
8 parking along Islander and Reed Drive. He noted the Planning Board saw this request at their
9 April meeting and had some recommended changes.

10

11 After a brief discussion outlining the location and requirements, Commissioner Finch said he
12 believed this could be a big asset to the town.

13 Commissioner Vogel said she believes anything Mr. Taylor does is an asset to the town, and this
14 could help with more parking space.

15 *Motion was made by Commissioner Finch to approve the Watson Family Assets Seasonal*
16 *Paid Parking Plan. The Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.*

17

18 **14. Recognition of Josh Edmondson, Planning Director**

19

20 Town Manager Matt Zapp said he had received the difficult news that Josh Edmondson had
21 accepted a position elsewhere, and his final day working for the Town is the end of May, after
22 more than seven years of working for Emerald Isle. He thanked Edmondson for his hard work
23 and noted his important roles he has played in the community.

24

25 Mayor Jason Holland then read a proclamation honoring Edmondson's years of service.

26

27 **15. FY 22-23 Recommended Budget Presentation**

28

29 Town Manager Zapp led the budget presentation, and asked the board to consider a local tax rate
30 of 16.5 cents – a one cent tax increase from the current rates.

31

32 One cent of this would go toward future beach nourishment, for \$628,159 in this fund. Emerald
33 Isle is now the second lowest NC oceanfront municipality tax rate.

34

35 He added a proposed \$10 solid waste service fee increase, to bring it to \$275 for the year. This
36 includes trash pickup twice a week, recycling one a week and yard debris collection.

37

1 The recommended budget is \$17,712,457 across all funds, with \$12,233,640 being in the General
2 Fund.

3

4 Total General Fund Property Tax Revenues is \$5.17 Million.

5

6 Various board members expressed their gratitude to Finance Director Laura Rotchford and other
7 staff members for their hard work on this budget.

8

9 Zapp said a public hearing on the proposed budget will be held at the June 14 meeting.

10

11 No action was taken on the draft budget proposal.

12

13 **16. FEMA 428 Update**

14

15 Town Manager Zapp gave a brief update on the projects that were previously presented to the
16 board, and where they currently stand.

17

18 Following the presentation, Mayor Holland thanked him for his hard work.

19

20 **17. Comments from Town Clerk, Town Attorney and Town Manager**

21

22 Town Clerk/Public Information Officer Anna Smith had no comments.

23

24 Town Attorney Richard Stanley had no comments.

25

26 Town Manager Zapp reminded the public of the upcoming pancake breakfast and open house on
27 May 20th. The community was invited at no cost.

28

29 He also noted the dredging project at the NC Wildlife Ramp is underway and it should be 8-10
30 days to dredging the existing ramp. This ramp services Emerald Isle, but is not owned by the
31 Town and the \$90,000 did not come from local tax dollars.

32

33 **18. Comments from Board of Commissioners and Mayor**

34

35 Commissioner Taylor said it was nice to see a large group of people express interest in the
36 vacant commissioner seat, and thank you to re-activated Commissioner Jim Normile for stepping
37 up to the plate again. He also extended a congratulations to Chief Walker on 35 years of service.

38

39 Commissioner Finch thanked all the new employees who have joined the Town staff. He also
40 thanked Josh Edmondson for his hard work and wished him luck in his new adventures. To Jim
41 Normile, he said welcome back. He also thanked everyone who worked on the budget proposal.

42

1 Mayor Pro-Tem Messer said he does not believe the County Beach Commission needs any new
2 direction, and thanked Tom Rule for his role on the board. He also welcomed back Jim Normile
3 to the Board of Commissioners.

4
5 Commissioner Vogel thanked Chief Walker for his 35 years of service. She also thanked
6 Edmondson for his hard work and wished he and his family well. She welcomed back Jim
7 Normile, and welcomed on the new employees.

8
9 Mayor Holland gave a welcome to the new employees and thanked Edmondson. He also said
10 congratulations to Chief Walker and thanked the staff for all they do.

11
12
13 **Closed Session Pursuant to § NCGS 143-318.11(5) to discuss terms of**
14 **acquisition of real property.**

15
16 *Motion was made by Commissioner Vogel at 7:42 p.m. to go into closed session. The Board*
17 *voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.*

18
19 The board discussed the terms of acquisition of of real property.

20
21 *Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Messer at 7:51 p.m. to come out of closed session. The*
22 *Board voted unanimously 4-0 in favor. Motion carried.*

23
24 No action was taken.

25
26 **17. Adjourn**

27
28 *Motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Messer to adjourn the meeting. The Board voted*
29 *unanimously 5-0 in favor. Motion carried.*

30
31 The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

32
33 Respectfully Submitted:

34
35 Anna Smith
36 Town Clerk

37