

**TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
May 11, 2022— 6:00 p.m.

**Public Forum Discussion**

At 5:30pm prior to the beginning of the regularly scheduled meeting, the commissioners held a public forum for residents to voice their concerns. A quorum of the Commissioners was present, but no board action was taken.

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor John Brodman called the May 11, 2022 regular monthly Meeting of the Pine Knoll Shores Board of Commissioners to order at 6 PM in the Town Hall Board Room and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Also present for the meeting were Commissioners, Clark Edwards, Robert Cox, Alicia Durham and Ted Goetzinger; Town Attorney Neil Whitford, Town Manager Brian Kramer; Assistant Town Manager Julie Anderson; Public Services Director Sonny Cunningham; Town Planner Kevin Reed; Fire Chief Jason Baker; Police Chief Ryan Thompson; and Town Clerk Charles Rocci. Commissioner Bill Knecht was absent.

\*Members marked present (online) participated online via GoToWebinar

**Approval of the Agenda**

Mayor Brodman requested two switch items VII and VIII on the agenda as well as the addition of item "C" in new business for a discussion of the town mission statement and the introduction of Lois O'Leary as the new tax collector. Commissioner Goetzinger made a motion to approve the agenda as amended with a second from Commissioner Edwards.

**Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest**

There were no disclosures or conflicts of interest.

**Announcements**

Mayor Brodman gave announcements. Following announcements, Town Manager Kramer introduced Lois O'Leary as the new Pine Knoll Shores Tax Collector.

**Public Comment**

Wendy Boss 120 Dogwood Circle: My name is Wendy Boss. I live at 120 Dogwood Circle. I noticed in the Shoreline that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) has been asked by the Morehead City Schools to partially support School Resource Officers (SROs) for elementary and middle schools. First let me state clearly, that I am very much in favor of supporting our schools. My concerns are twofold: 1) That the State has money to support our public schools. 2) Past evidence indicates that psychologists, counselors, and nurses would be more effective in preventing violence at schools than SROs. My questions to the BOC are: 1) Have you asked Representative Pat McElraft whether the State Legislature should be supporting these SROs? 2) Have you asked the schools for accountability and an assessment of the support they currently

provide the students? As a citizen of PKS, I ask you to do due diligence before authorizing the funding requested.

Suzanne Wheatcraft 2 West Court: "I came from a school district much more violent than ours, and they did away with elementary school resource officers, but that is not why I am speaking tonight. My comment is related to the budget. As a relatively new retiree, my financial planner told me in 2017 that I am all set. He did not anticipate so many things like COVID, Russia invading Ukraine, supply chain issues and inflation. Right now, we are experiencing a surge of homes being built. The data can show us that the houses being built and rebuilt are much bigger than the current existing houses. Regardless of that, we can say that there will be more taxpayers in Pine Knoll Shores next year. I believe it would be sound fiscal policy in our town to restrict spending on anything and anywhere that we can during this time of inflation when our dollar is not going the way it should be. We can't see into the future any better than my financial planner can. I ask that we restrain any extraneous spending that we can. Another reason we should do this is that many of us fit into that category of no longer making money. I think we must proceed with that in mind."

Bill Hotham 121 Oakleaf Drive: "We have owned a home here for seven years. I am concerned with the golf course spraying stuff around our property. I worked in chemicals my whole career and could tell that the spray did not smell right. I asked them what they are doing, and they said they were killing all the weeds. I and my neighbors agreed that the spray smelled terrible. I've looked for Andy to raise my concerns and I still have not been able to contact him. A day later, my tomato plants and flowers were all dead. There are kids out there working with their parents on pine straw."

### **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included minutes from the April 13, 2022, Commissioners meetings Strategic Planning Committee appointments for Suzanne Wheatcraft, George Greene, and John Ferguson, and March 2022 tax discoveries and releases. Commissioner Edwards edited the April 13 minutes to include that he recused himself from the Carteret County History donation and Commissioner Cox asked that the full name of "NCRWA" be written out. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended with a second from Commissioner Goetzinger. The motion passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

#### **a. Mission Statement**

Town Clerk Charles Rocci presented the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendation to amend the town's mission statement. Commissioner Goetzinger made a motion to approve the revision with a second from Commissioner Edwards. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **b. NCRCC Grant**

Town Planner Kevin Reed presented a grant opportunity for the town to apply for the design of a nature-based stormwater solution as presented by the NCRCC Community Action Team. This would move the town into Phase 3 of the Resilient Coastal Communities Program.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to authorize the town planner to apply for this grant with a second from Commissioner Goetzinger. The motion passed unanimously.

c. FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment

Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director Julie Anderson presented the proposed budget amendment to the board of Commissioners. The largest adjustments in this amendment are sales and use tax, gasoline budget and the April 1 pay increases which have not yet been adjusted with American Rescue Plan funds. Commissioner Goetzinger made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment with a second from Commissioner Durham. The motion passed unanimously.

**Unfinished Business**

a. FY 2022-23 General Fund Budget Discussion

Town Manager Kramer presented the latest revisions to the proposed General Fund Budget. He included four general fund options as presented below:

	1	2	3	4
Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax Increase</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax increase</li> <li>• 100k ARP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax Increase</li> <li>• 100k ARP</li> <li>• 100k from Fire Vehicle Reserve</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax Increase</li> <li>• 100k ARP</li> <li>• 100k from Fire Vehicle Reserve</li> <li>• Beach Tax Reduction</li> </ul>
Tax Impact	+6.3¢	+5.3¢	+4.3¢	+4.3¢
Ad Valorem	No Change	No Change	No Change	-1.0¢
Beach Tax				
Impact on a Property valued at \$400K	+\$252	+\$212	+\$172	+\$132

The Commissioners had mixed opinions on which option to choose. Commissioner Goetzinger believes we should not alter the beach tax and that the fire vehicle reserve should be left as it is, so his preferred choice is option two. Commissioners Edwards and Durham are okay with pulling from the fire vehicle reserve and support option three. Commissioner Cox would like to review other options to reduce the tax burden on residents. More recommendations will be provided to the commissioners at the May 25 meeting.

**Town Manager Report & Staff Reports**

*Town Manager. Town Manager Brian Kramer briefed:*

\*NCDEQ/NCDPS Grant

Application materials have been submitted for these grants.

\*Salter Path Road Water Main Project

John Wade's design for the Salter Path Water Main project is almost complete. We will target completing this project around winter, and have contractors lined up during the fall.

*\*Dune Management Meeting*

A dune management consultation was scheduled to be held the week after the meeting. Ken Richardson was working to establish an annual record of height, width, and vegetation of the dunes to use in growth comparisons.

*\*Implementing Actions from Strategic Plan*

Actions are being implemented from the Strategic Plan such as establishing attributes for the ideal Public Safety Department, including education and experience, and outreach to second homeowners.

*\*NCDOT Drain Lines*

Brian has sent a letter to Representative Pat McElraft asking for support on the Arborvitae and Cedar drain line issues.

*\*Brown Yard Waste Bags*

Brian has a meeting with a representative from NCDEQ to try to sort out the brown paper bag issue.

*Finance and Admin Report. Assistant Town Manager Anderson briefed:*

Ad Valorem collections were down from 99.6% to 99.3% from FY 22 to FY 21. Beach tax collections were down from 99.7% to 99.2% from FY 22 to FY 21. Annual Audit Interim Fieldwork was to begin on May 31.

*Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Baker briefed:*

EMS billings collections for January 1-December 31, 2021: Collected 58% of EMS billing after adjustments, and 48% of all bills were adjusted. Chief Baker also gave safety reminder for residents to know their location on the beach so that they can give that to dispatch if an emergency arises and for residents to be aware of surroundings when doing yard work because we have copperheads in the area.

*Police Department Report. Police Chief Thompson briefed:*

The Burgers, Boots & Badges cookout was a big success, and another similar event is planned for the fall. Two new officers were welcomed to the force: Sgt. Kenny Castro, a bi-lingual former Marine who has 13 years of law enforcement experience and numerous certifications, including crisis intervention and leadership trainings, and Dillon Haymore, certified Firefighter II and EMT-B who has worked part time for the Pine Knoll Shores Fire Department for the past four years and graduated first in his class in Basic Law Enforcement training.

*Public Services Department and Water Report. PSD Director Sonny Cunningham briefed:*

Beach grass was to be fertilized the week after the meeting. He noted that the cost of fertilizer has gone from \$17/bag to \$33/bag. The town has begun to spray for mosquitoes and is using larvicide. Beach Access K stairs and a water leak at Holly Road were repaired, and the septic field at Veteran's Park has been rehabilitated.

*Planning and Inspections. Town Planner Kevin Reed briefed:*

Twenty-three Single Family Landscape Permits (SFLP) have been issued so far in FY-2021-22 and eight SFLP are currently under review. The Planning Board Redevelopment Subcommittee recommended to the Planning Board to require natural preservation on lots. The Community Appearance Commission (CAC) supports that concept, and the Planning Board will consider the proposed changes. Changes would not replace the tree density requirements. Those not in compliance with Town Code.

In April, Jim Taylor issued 25 building permits with a total value of \$4,067,223. He issued 6 mechanical, 7 electrical, and 2 plumbing permits. The total value of all permits issued was \$4,067,318. Staff issued 19 tree removal permits and Jim Taylor performed 152 inspections.

*Town Clerk Report, Town Clerk Charles Rocci briefed:*

The town web site will be updated with new staff editions, and additions of links to Facebook, YouTube, and the town email list. Electric Vehicle (EV) was a difficult process for the Unitarian Church in Morehead City. With current inflation, lack of support from Carteret Craven Electric Co-Op, and staff hours needed for this project, it was tabled for a later date. A downspout disconnect program will be discussed, and more information will be forthcoming. On Acorn Court, pervious pavers were installed at the center of the street. Landscape repair was to be completed shortly after the meeting, with grading to begin the following week.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Mayor and Commissioner Reports**

There were no mayor or commissioner reports.

**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Edwards with a second by Commissioner Durham which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

  
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Charles W. Rocci, Town Clerk