

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
September 13, 2023— 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor John Brodman called the September 13, 2023, regular monthly Meeting of the Pine Knoll Shores Board of Commissioners to order at 6 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, present for the meeting were Commissioners Bill Knecht, Ted Goetzinger, Clark Edwards, Alicia Durham (online), and Robert Cox (online); Town Manager Brian Kramer; Assistant Town Manager/Finance Officer Julie Anderson; Public Works Director Sonny Cunningham; Police Chief Ryan Thompson; Fire Chief Jason Baker; Planning Administrator Charles Rocci and Town Clerk Missy Shine.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Knecht made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with a second from Commissioner Goetzinger and passed unanimously.

Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest

There were no disclosures and/or conflicts of interest.

Announcements

Mayor Brodman gave announcements.

Presentation of Check to Hope for the Warriors

***Public Comment**

Those who emailed the Town Clerk have their emails included herein by reference and are attached to these minutes.

Mike Stroup 125 Mimosa Boulevard – My whole pitch refers to the sidewalk issue and the widening of the road. I would like to mention a town hall meeting we had, I don't remember the date, but a vote was taken of everybody that was present and only two people opposed the sidewalks. And I don't have the count, Kramer could. If there were 40 people 95 % of the people opposed it. No data has been gathered as to how many pedestrians use the road. I have lived here for seven years, and I have walked the streets two to three times a day with my dog, and that doesn't count other excursions on the road. With Kramer's quotes if the road is widened to a uniform 20 feet, it is a 46% increase over the original budgeted price. If sidewalks are included that is 114% cost over the original budget and if you saw the agenda the budget that was proposed last year was \$67,500, if he makes a uniform 20 feet for the whole length that is \$98,975.00 and if they put in sidewalks plus 20 feet that is \$144, 475. I would like to know how many people complained. When I brought this up before only 2 people were mentioned, Mrs. Durham and Cory Bishop. And the people that have a maritime forest concern, here if a five-foot sidewalk is installed roughly approximately, from my measurements, is 6,275 square feet of impervious service. In places, drainage of water is a problem even with a consistent crown on the

road. Especially where I live, there is not a flat area, so water is going to come back on the road. I am all for this two percent grade on the crown that is great, even the sidewalk tilting at one percent, The sidewalk would be over the water main. In many places on the east/west side, wherever they propose, wherever they put it. Nobody has mentioned this, sidewalks would be on the inside of a blind curve, a further safety concern putting cyclists and pedestrians on the same path. On roadways, and I can talk to the chief, on roadways where there is no sidewalk pedestrians should always walk facing traffic. You have mentioned that before. I have the NC DOT rules. Pedestrians have a statutory duty to yield the right of way to all vehicles and where sidewalks are provided. It should be unlawful, let me say that again, where sidewalks are provided, it should be unlawful for any pedestrian to walk along and upon an adjacent roadway, that is code 20-174(d) and it seemed kind of funny, the Chief talks about Pine Knoll Boulevard. I have gone up and down there and I would say 30-40% of the people who use Pine Knoll Boulevard don't use the sidewalks. When originally budgeted, no sidewalks were not mentioned and when it came time to vote or discuss two people Alicia Durham and Cory Bishop brought up a safety issue. 50 years and no one has been hurt, I have not been hurt, and I would rather use these excess funds to buy a tractor for public works. I am a fiscal conservative, spend money where it benefits most people.

Jan Corsello 139 Loblolly Drive - We moved here 23 years ago. Mostly for the rural atmosphere, the beach town in a forest was something we really liked. When we moved here there weren't sidewalks. People have moved here since then and want sidewalks all over the place, I suggest you moved to the wrong town. This is not the character of Pine Knoll Shores, that I thought it should be when we moved here. Now, I know some of the sidewalks that we have put in, I agree with because it was for safety issues. Like sidewalks along 58, where we have had to put sidewalks in, where crosswalks are going over and DOT said we had to have a sidewalk on each side, those make sense. Putting sidewalks on Mimosa is absolutely ludicrous. It puts more impervious surface; we have heard what that is all about. On Mimosa now, you have a clear line of sight going both ways, it's not that there are trees hanging over and you can't see. I don't see any reason for it other than to spend money. The road is perfectly fine the way it is. I don't know if we have totally decided to widen the road or is that still up in the air? There are a number of areas where we do need to repair, going into Ocean Park and a few other areas where it is crumbling all over the place. I am for repairing whatever we need to repair. Doing things that we need to do. Putting the money in a kitty for future disasters. But I think putting sidewalks along Mimosa is about the last thing we need to spend money on. I don't think it would save anybody and talking about people walking in the right of way, the only people I see walking abreast are actually the people going over the canal, where you have four or five people and kids and so forth, and they all across the middle of the road. I don't think it is an issue. If you are patient and you say it politely, there is a car behind you, everyone moves politely out of the way, there is no issue. I don't think it is a safety issue unless the driver is making it a safety issue. Other than that, I don't see trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist.

Bill Osmolski 126 Mimosa Boulevard – I am just gonna try and hit on 4 points. Who wants the sidewalks? Do we need the sidewalks? Safety and the cost issue. So, as already been mentioned at the last big meeting, most of the people did not want the sidewalks. And I doubt that people who live in Beacon's Reach, Pine Knoll Townes, Reefstone, and Bermuda Greens want them. They will use them, but it will be their money that pays for them. Do we really need them? No

solid supporting data has ever been produced. The people who actually walk don't support the sidewalks on Mimosa. I respect the opinions of the people who actually do walk. It is disturbing to me that people who don't actually walk on Mimosa and never will push for the sidewalks, so I wonder where this is even coming from, this interesting paving over our town. There are not a lot of walkers in general. We did our own informal holiday survey on Labor Day and did a three-hour watch of the road using a GoPro camera. What we counted was 120 cars, 20 bicycles, 13 golf carts, all with multiple people so probably 50 people on golf carts, and only 13 walkers. From my point of view, we are not seeing a big increase in walkers. It seems like people want to drive around in golf carts, I noticed we have created more parking for golf carts at Ocean Park. As far as safety, as for the proponents of the sidewalks, they always site safety. No one is against safety, but at what cost do we want to try and improve safety? I am on board with the people that have brought up the idea that there is a low-cost thing we could be doing, lower the speed limit, do more monitoring, and maybe don't put the monitor where you can see it from 150 yards away and more police presence during the busiest times of the day.

Consent Agenda

- a. August 9, 2023, Special Meeting Minutes
- b. August 23, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. Volunteer/Board Reappointments and New Applicants

Commissioner Goetzinger made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented with a second from Commissioner Knecht and passed unanimously.

Mr. Kramer stated that unfortunately Commissioner Durham and Commissioner Cox cannot vote. They can comment but they cannot vote. Electronic attendance at meetings changed a little bit during Covid but the Town Attorney, Neil Whitford referenced material from the School of Government. Alicia and Robert, I am sorry you can comment but you cannot vote on any action tonight.

Unfinished Business

- a. Mimosa Boulevard Quotes

Mr. Kramer stated that the quotes we received are in the agenda packet. We had a very hard time getting quotes. Onslow Paving with the widening is at \$98,975, and Onslow Paving with the widening and the sidewalk is either \$193,00 or \$160,000, the reason for the differentials is that we have an option of a subbase of 57 stone for draining. Onslow Paving with just repaving is \$72,312. Just a point on the sidewalks and 57 stone. The second quote is from 3 stars landscaping, they are the same outfit that put the sidewalk on Pine Knoll Boulevard. We have not had any issues with that sidewalk. My view is that we discuss sidewalks, I recommend that we put 57 stone, the expressed purpose of that is draining improvement. For repaving, I recommend option A with Onslow Paving. I detected general support even for those not wanting sidewalks on the widening issue mainly for consistency. The funding source, we have \$67,500 funded right now, anything above that would come from our general fund reserves which at the end of the last fiscal

year were at 3.1 million. We will have a funding balance for the fiscal year ending this past June at the October meeting. I would like to add that when sidewalks are in the discussion, last year there was some concern about a cedar/pinewood crosswalk. Additionally, we talked about a sidewalk to get the folks from Laurel and Myrtle Court over to Juniper. The May 2022 estimate was \$155,000, I just mention that as an aside to the Mimosa issue.

Mayor Brodman – Before we open it up for discussion, I would like to make a suggestion. I don't have a vote on any of this and it's up to the Commissioners. That we simply focus on repaving the road on Mimosa. If we are going to have a discussion on sidewalks that we take up pedestrian safety on the East End, Laurel to Myrtle Court to Juniper, and the issue of the sidewalk on Mimosa at a separate meeting. I am saying that primarily because we don't have the funding for sidewalks in the budget that we just passed last June, but that would be my position at this point, and I will open it up for comment.

Commissioner Cox - Were I there, I would support the motion. The only thing I would add as a part of the discussion is I recognize I think Mike Stroupe's comments related to the additional money beyond just the original estimate just for paving. In this instance, I think that is one of the reasons that we have the general fund. If we find a need, we would use that money. So, I don't have an issue with what would probably be suggested as "busting the budget," in the last meeting or the last time I commented on it, for the use in this case. I think though, and we don't need to go into this now, I think what would have been perhaps a little bit better option for us in the whole discussion of the budget, and again, I have to apologize if I was not at one of the meetings it was discussed, if we had included the widening in the budget as the budget came forward we would have less of an issue going above what was in the budget. I am not sure why that option was not discussed, or if it was, I apologize for not being there. I would certainly if I were there, support option A.

Commissioner Edwards made a motion to support option A which would be hiring Onslow Paving to repave the road while making it a consistent width.

Commissioner Goetzinger seconded with 2 via webinar (that could not vote) and 3 ayes and passed.

b. UDO

Planning Administrator, Charles Rocci, discussed Article 12 of the UDO regarding parking. He met with Chief Thompson prior to the meeting to discuss several topics where his input was needed. Street and right-of-way parking were discussed. Chief Thompson requested an ordinance that is not black and white so there is some discretion. The recommendation is to add language to say that temporary parking is permitted as long as there is not a public safety issue. Temporary was defined as an hour. Currently, the ordinance does now allow for the parking of unlicensed vehicles, and after 30 days of it being parked on the property, there are grounds to come up with a solution to have it moved. The change in the ordinance would be to allow one unlicensed vehicle to be on

the property. Chief Thompson recommended adding that no more than one motor vehicle could be on the property unlicensed and hidden in public view. It was decided that no unlicensed vehicle would be able to be visible on the property. Chief Thompson agreed that the bicycle parking was not relevant so that language will be stricken.

New Business

a. Property Tax Foreclosure

Finance Director, Julie Anderson, is requesting the Board's approval, per the Town's cash management plan to foreclose on a property. The homeowner has been contacted by phone, mail, advertised tax liens, subsequent statements, a letter from the Town Manager, and a letter from the Town Attorney. Historically, this taxpayer will not respond to the Town unless they receive a letter from the attorney. Unfortunately, this time that has not been the case and the homeowner has had no contact with the Town.

Commissioner Knecht made a motion to foreclose with a second from Commissioner Goetzinger and passed unanimously.


b. Speed Increase Resolution

Police Chief, Ryan Thompson discussed the original speed limit reduction request from 2021. The options in 2021 given by DOT were to leave everything 45 or to change everything to 35. The Board of Commissioners chose to change everything to 35. Chief Thompson is not against the speed limit change on the west end, he just wants everyone to be aware of the consequences that could arise from changing the speed limit again. Currently, 3 out of the 4 beach towns are at 35 and Emerald Isle is having discussions about trying to change an area to 35. Also, if we ever want to put crosswalks in on that side of town, in the Beacon's Reach area the speed limit would need to be changed back to 35 and then we start the process of lowering and raising the speed limit again. Issues could potentially arise in Indian Beach with people continuing to go 45 through that area. There may also be confusion with our seasonal visitors.

Commissioner Knecht made a motion to send the resolution to DOT as amended with a second from Commissioner Edwards with 2 ayes and 1 nay and passed.


Charles Rocci stated that since there is not a quorum the vote needs to be unanimous.

Charles Rocci – Before I give my report, I would like to make a correction. This is the “Suggested Rules of Procedure for City Council” from the UNC School of Government. It reads a motion is adopted if supported by a simple majority of the votes cast a quorum being present except when a larger majority is required by these rules or state law. Those rules are for budget ordinances, amendments to the town code of ordinances, and contracts, so the motion to send the resolution did pass.




Town Mgr Report

- Water Main project
 - *2 road bores complete
 - *Work on south side to start next week
- Idalia stormwater pumping
 - *3.6M gallons removed from CCCC ponds
 - *Large mobile generator used for the first time
- Emergency Storm drain lines
 - *All easements in hand
 - *CAMA permit, then bids



Town Mgr Report


- Dead Red Bays
 - *41 removed by Styrone
 - *More coming
- NCDOT Hwy trimming this winter
- FEMA Excess Funds
 - *\$82K reimbursement rec'd (\$327K in the last 5 weeks)
 - *Plans/Bid packages---PSB roof and PSD Equipment Bldg
 - *Backhoe



Finance & Administration

FEMA Excess Funds Projects

FY2018 EXCESS FUNDS PROJECTS	ORIGINAL ESTIMATES	NEW ESTIMATES	EXPENDED TO DATE	REBURSED TO DATE
Ladder Truck	\$ 1,482,000	\$ 1,285,000	\$ 1,284,155	\$ 1,281,948
Boat Equipment	228,480	85,447	158,651	113,071
Boat Bait Station	230,626	328,747	292,029	82,187
Equipment Repair Work	103,520	105,051	83,596	28,664
Storm Debris Clearing Equip	118,471	136,000		
Auxiliary Power Supply	167,780	178,148		
Stormwater Pumps	127,567	153,322	169,146	
Grass Sprink	156,369	85,173		
Storm Shutters	24,752	77,782		
TOTAL	\$ 2,808,845	\$ 2,005,281	\$ 2,383,311	\$ 2,078,669
FY2018 GRANT	\$ 1,208,060	\$ 1,208,060		
TOTAL	\$ 4,016,890	\$ 3,213,561		




Finance & Administration

- Fiscal Year End
 - Dashboard in Agenda Packet of FYE June 30, 2023
 - Auditor was here during the week of August 14
 - No Issues


	General Fund	Beach Expense	Beach Reserve
Total FY	\$3,239,227	\$315,128	\$4,766,753
+/- from last FY	+ 99,599	+103,832	+202,261
Unrestricted	\$2,309,873	\$277,079	N/A
+/- from last FY	-215,013	+95,787	N/A


	Water Fund
Total Net Position	\$2,286,723
+/- from last FY	+ 361,687




Finance & Administration

- Tax Bills went out September 1st
 - New Look
 - Personal Property Info
 - Researching 2022 COs for Structure Value
- Building Permit Revenue
 - Dashboard vs Permit Software





Pine Knoll Shores Police Department




- Part-Time Usage Down Significantly
 - *Staffing shortages in neighboring agencies where our part-timers work has contributed to this significantly
 - *Part-timers were our primary beach patrol presence, that has shifted to full-time officers
 - *This is part of the reason our beach patrols and traffic stops are down compared with last year
 - *Will recruit/hire new part-time officers in the off-season
- Training Completed in August
 - *SCT Basic School, 80 hours, Officer 11 Ryan Benway
 - *Credible Leadership II, 100 hours, Officer 11 Shawn Bogert
 - *Local Government Finance, 48 hours, Chief Thompson
 - *Child Death Investigation, 24 hours, Sgt. Brian Rogers




FIRE/EMS

- EVENTS BEING PLANNED
 - *FISHING TOURNAMENT SEPT 2nd
 - *FIRE PREVENTION EVENT COORDINATING WITH MHCFO @ LOWES HOME IMPROVEMENT OCTOBER 2nd
 - *FALL FESTIVAL WE WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN COORDINATION WITH THE SPOONDRIFT NEXT DOOR OCTOBER 2nd
 - *CITIZENS ACADEMY @ PKSPS NOVEMBER 16th
 - *SANTA BY THE SEA WITH NC AQUARIUM DECEMBER 9th
 - *PANCakes and PAJAMAS WITH SANTA DECEMBER 13th
 - *SANTA ON THE FIRE TRUCK DECEMBER 22ND
 - *TIMES AND DETAILS WILL BE COMING OUT SOON IN ADVERTISING




FIRE/EMS

- HURRICANES !
 - *THEY ARE STACKING UP IN THE ATLANTIC LIKE CHORD WOOD!
 - *PAY ATTENTION AND HAVE PLANS IN PLACE TO EVAC SHOULD THE NEED COME
 - *KEEP YOUR CARS TANK FULL
 - *MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS WHERE YOU CAN TAKE THEM WITH YOU
 - *SUGGEST KEEPING COUPLE HUNDRED \$8 IN CASH WITH YOU
 - *IF YOU DO PLAN ON STAYING BE SURE YOU HAVE THE ESSENTIALS FOOD WATER
 - *AND ALSO IF YOU PLAN ON STAYING HAVE A COUPLE POWER BANKS HANDY TO KEEP CELL PHONES CHARGED DURING THE OUTAGE




PSD / Water

*Well#1 generator had to be repaired. I discovered this running the generator under load. Powerhouse Electrical came out the same day and made the repairs. The well is now fully functional.



PSD / Water


*The new 10” water main installation is going great so far. The restraint fittings are going to make the transition from the existing main to the new water main head-ache-free. ELJ is doing great as well.



PSD / Water

*Installed 2 new water connections for the Pine Knoll Shores Water System.

*James River Equipment loaned the Town of PKS a 310 John Deere Back Hoe at no charge. It is exactly the size we need to do our jobs.




Planning Administrator

*Utilizing UNC SOG Modules for Board of Adjustment training in October.

*Working with Jim Taylor on updating a few elevation certificates for CRS Annual Review.

*Staff approved three single family landscape permits in August 2023 and one is under review.

*Carteret County Transportation Steering Committee update.



Building Inspector

Month August 2023


*Issued 15 building permits with total value of \$2,828,700.

*Issued 15 mechanical permits, 8 electrical permits and 1 plumbing permits.

*Total value of all permits issued was \$ 2,986,791.

*Issued 15 tree removal permits.

*Jim Taylor and Donna Turner performed a total of 179 inspections.



Town Clerk

*September 19-21 and October 10-12 I will be attending the SOG taking an "Introduction to Public Employment Law" class

*I will miss the October (UNC School of Government) and November (Vacation) Board Meetings

*Kayla Leonard – UNC SOG Records Analysis Unit will be visiting on October 19th

***Public Comment**

No Public Comment

Mayor and Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Edwards – I just have one question. I haven't heard anything, at one point, I was the representative for the Eastern Carolina Council, but I have not heard anything in a year and a half. Is anything going on?

Mr. Kramer – Yeah, I think, a couple of you are signed up to get emails from Executive Director, David Bone. We are engaged with them right now to consider working with them on AFG Grants if he thinks it is worth doing.

Commissioner Edwards - It is a lot of information coming from the state down. With everything with NCDOT, the environmental situation. and the services they provide, it is free from the standpoint that there are a lot of federal and state things that come down that way.

Commissioner Cox - I am the ECC representative, and I have not had anything that would benefit us much. They are still in the throgs of trying to put their team together. The meetings I have attended have had very little that seemed would be of value to us.

Closed Session

Commissioner Knecht made a motion to go into closed session with a second from Commissioner Goetzinger and passed unanimously. The closed session is permissible under G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.

Commissioner Knecht made a motion to leave closed session with a second from Commissioner Durham and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned on a motion by Commissioner with a second from Commissioner Knecht and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Missy B. Shine, Town Clerk