

TOWN OF PINE KNOLL SHORES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
April 13, 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 April 13, 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, Bill Knecht 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 (online); Fire Chief Jason Baker; Police Chief Ryan Thompson; and Town Clerk Charles Rocci.

*Members marked present (online) participated online via GoToWebinar

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Durham made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Commissioner Cox. The motion passed unanimously.

Disclosures and Conflicts of Interest

Commissioner Cox disclosed that he is a member of the Carteret County Historical Society.

Announcements

Mayor Brodman gave announcements.

Public Comment

Matthew Leerberg: Dear Board of Commissioners: I am a resident of the Bogue Shore Club, and a proud champion of what our Town has to offer. I am also the owner of an electric vehicle. I'm writing to ask the Board to consider installing an electric vehicle charging station on Town property for public use. Electric vehicles made up 8.6% of new car sales in 2021—double the market-share from 2020. With gas prices soaring, electric vehicles will likely make up an ever-increasing share of the vehicles we see driving around Town. These quiet, zero-emission vehicles help keep our community clean. In my view, we should facilitate the ability of owners and guests to bring their electric cars to the beach. The charging infrastructure hasn't kept up with the explosion of EVs on the roads, though. There are zero public chargers in Pine Knoll Shores. In fact, the closest public chargers to the west are near the Emerald Isle Bridge—about 20 minutes from PKS. To the east, the closest public charger is across the bridge at the Morehead City Smithfield's Chicken—again, about 20 minutes away. Those so-called stations are too far away to be of practical use to PKS residents and guests. (For a map of area charging stations, you can visit www.plugshare.com.) I would encourage the Board to consider installing

a “Level II” charging station. By way of background, a “Level I” station is equivalent to a 120-volt wall outlet and requires several days to charge a car. A “Level II” station is equivalent to a 240-volt dryer outlet and can fully charge a car in about 8-10 hours—less time, of course, if the car still has some battery power left. The cost of installing a “Level II” EV charging station has stabilized around \$5,000 to \$7,500 per charging port. Typically, a local government will install a two-port charging station, which allows for two vehicles to charge at the same time. I’m familiar with towns that cover the installation costs but require users to pay the cost of the electricity, as well as towns that cover both. I think either would be a solution for PKS, as electricity costs are only about 11 cents per kWh—about a dollar per hour of charging.

In addition, there may be government subsidies available, including through the “NC Volkswagen Mitigation Settlement Program.” Government applicants may have most or all of the cost of installation reimbursed if their application is accepted. My understanding is that the deadline to apply is May 31, 2022. Program information can be found here: tinyurl.com/4myr58k2. Several private vendors may be able to facilitate the application process, or otherwise provide the Town with information about costs and upkeep. I have no interest in any vendor, but I will note that ChargePoint is ubiquitous: tinyurl.com/4tbxhndk. If cost ends up being an issue, I would be happy to donate up to \$2,000 to the Town to help defray the costs of the project. If I can be of service to the Board as you consider this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Christine Voss: Christine Voss

13 Apr 2022

106 Locust Ct.

Thank you, mayor, and commissioners, for providing this time in advance of BoC meetings for public input. I would like to suggest has potential to benefit all aspects of town function and living in PKS: improve, facilitate, and foster 2-way communication between town entities and town citizens.

Please do not receive this as a complaint – it is not; improving communication with others is something with which all human beings persistently struggle -and we never fully succeed;) I’ll bet everyone participating in this meeting has experienced times when they wish they could better communicate with their teenager, a friend, or their spouse. We spend our lives practicing communication- the sharing and exchanging of information – it’s the ‘*stuff*’ that relationships and our lives are made of – it is important. We communicate because we care: about others – about issues – about ourselves – about our communities. Good communication requires effort, but this effort is worthwhile.

My suggestion to improve (make better), facilitate (make easier), and foster (encourage/promote the development of) 2-way communication (exchange of information, thoughts, & ideas) among town entities and town citizens, has potential to lower the thresholds of our governmental and social challenges.

How might we achieve improving, facilitating, and fostering communication? Improve the PKS town website: this could be achieved by using more intuitive organization; ongoing maintenance of links and new information; adding a search function for queries; including a diagram of the town’s organizational structure, so folks know who to contact; adding links to alternate forms of communication outlets (e.g., Facebook, YouTube, etc.); and linking to helpful state, federal, and other resources. Announce meetings far in advance of meeting dates. We all have busy

calendars, planning fosters participation. Hold some meetings and work sessions on alternate weeknight evenings and on weekends. [Wed eve church functions]. I've been talking to some of the younger families in town to learn their perspectives on the sidewalk issue. A point that was often repeated is that many meetings are scheduled during the daytime when working family members cannot attend. Although PKS has many active retirees, it appears that our community demographics are becoming more age diverse, which is a good thing. To facilitate town involvement by the younger cohorts, we might ask when they could participate in town meetings and be sure to accommodate diverse schedules. Similarly, including weekends into meeting scheduling should facilitate participation by second homeowners. Update and refine email listservs to improve communications coming from town hall. Not everyone uses Facebook, social media, or even email; however, if the channels of town communications are known, residents know where to seek such information. Enable sign up for listservs. Recognize that greater public participation can slow the process of decision-making; however, more-inclusive discussion/planning will result in superior outcomes and better buy-in from citizens. Seek new opportunities to facilitate 2-way communication, such as this half hour before the BoC meetings. Other ideas? Consider holding workshops with citizen involvement for resolving challenging issues. For example: where are sidewalks or pathways really needed? how can I reduce stormwater runoff from my property? how can I make my home more resilient to storms? how can PKS become more resilient? etc. These are just a few suggestions. Improving communications is not something that can be done (box checked) and forgotten- it's ongoing. Our town benefits from having a wealth of expertise among our citizens. As we implement the Strategic Plan, it would be foolish not to incorporate at least some of this expertise. Please foster the input of citizens who have much to offer our town. Yes, working to improve communication will likely require extra effort initially; however, we should recognize a high rate of return for these efforts. I hope that you agree that our town, our community is worth this effort. Thank you.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included minutes from the March 9, 2022, March 14, and March 23 Board of Commissioners meetings, History and Community Appearance Commission appointments for Walter Steele, Community Appearance Commission appointment for Eddie Stallings, and Community Appearance Commission appointment for Penny Holland, and March 2022 tax discoveries and releases, and a resolution to approve the sale of surplus goods. Commissioner Cox was concerned with the presentation of the March 9 public forum discussion as well as some grammar corrections to the March 14 minutes. Commissioner Cox made a motion to approve the consent agenda excluding the March 9 minutes for revision with a second from Commissioner Edwards. The motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

a. Discussion on General Fund Budget

Town Manager Brian Kramer discussed some recommendations from the board following the March 23 budget meeting. Some items further discussed were the town's use of American Rescue Plan funds which expire in 2024, the town's beach tax, the expansion of sidewalks, and to what level taxes should be increased this year. These items will be discussed again at the April 27 second regular monthly meeting.

b. Resolution authorizing NCDEQ Grant Application

This resolution requires board approval regarding the town's application for the NCDEQ Grant discussed at the March 9 Board of Commissioners meeting. Town Manager Kramer reviewed each of the "Whereas" statements with the board and noted the town requirements in applying for this grant. Commissioner Edwards made a motion to approve the NCDEQ Grant Application Resolution with a second from Commissioner Durham. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

a. 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan Water Enterprise Fund

Town Manager Kramer presented the proposed ten-year capital improvement plan. This plan was built on the town's current five-year capital improvement plan with the addition of items from the town's asset management plan. Items over five years out do not require a dollar amount. This Ten-Year CIP is required as part of the NCDEQ Water Infrastructure grant. Commissioner Durham made a motion to approve the Ten-Year Capital Improvement Plan for the Water Enterprise Fund with a second from Commissioner Goetzinger. The motion passed unanimously.

b. EV Charging Station Grant

Town Clerk, Charles Rocci presented a grant opportunity through NCDEQ for the town to receive funds to install an electric vehicle charging station. The proposed area for this station is lot-c near the public safety building. The commissioner's had many questions about the feasibility of this project. This item will be reintroduced at the May 11 board meeting.

c. Carteret County History Museum Donation

Mayor Brodman presented a \$1,000 donation request from the Carteret County History Museum. This donation will support the future projects of the Museum and promote the exploration of Pine Knoll Shores History in their future programs. Commissioner Knecht made a motion to approve the donation with a second from Commissioner Durham. The motion passed with Commissioners Goetzinger, Knecht, and Durham voting aye, and Commissioners Cox and Edwards abstaining.

Town Manager Report & Staff Reports

Town Manager. Town Manager Brian Kramer briefed:

**NCDEQ Grant – Water Improvements*

The application materials will be put together on April 22 for review. This project will affect our water enterprise fund through rates.

**NCEM Grant – Storm Drain Lines*

This grant was submitted on March 29. We will find out the results of this application on May 16. Brian is going to try to get all the easements this summer.

**East Coast Greenway – Sidewalk Funding*

East Coast Greenway asked if we would be interested in installing a bike path through town. NCGS allocated \$4.7 million to NC Greenways. They will present a statewide plan this July with several projects throughout the state. We need to decide if we would like to be part of this program. Bogue Banks is already on the route for this project. This grant will not be used for concrete or asphalt. It will be packed stone dust trail which we are not sure if is pervious. The trail is 12 feet wide and would cost \$500,000 a mile. Maintenance for this project is a concern.

**Letter to NCDEQ – Brown Yard Waste Bags*

Brian has a letter for the mayor to sign requested relief on the brown paper bags for yard waste.

**Donation to Carteret County Schools*

Morehead City Manager Ryan Eggleston requested the board to donate \$3,500 to Carteret County Schools for a resource officer. This would be a recurring donation should the board choose to accept. Brian does not have a recommendation currently.

Finance and Admin Report. Assistant Town Manager Anderson briefed:

Julie Anderson gave an update on current Ad Valorem and Beach Tax collections up to this point in the fiscal year. She also gave an update on the American Rescue Plan fund balance.

Fire Department Report. Fire Chief Baker briefed:

Chief Baker reminded residents to begin prepping for the upcoming hurricane season. The County is holding a hurricane expo on May 10 from 9am to 1pm at the Crystal Coast Civic Center. The Pine Knoll Shores fire department will hold its annual hurricane prep class soon, the date will be finalized once we get available dates from NOAA.

Police Department Report. Police Chief Thompson briefed:

The Police Department made three arrests in March. Officer II Dakota Weathers has been promoted to Sergeant following 4.5 years with the town along with earning a bachelor's in criminal justice, NC Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate, EMT-B certification and only one of seventy-five drug recognition experts in North Carolina. Chief Thompson also reported positive findings from the speed signs on Oakleaf Drive and Mimosa Boulevard. The first responder's cookout will be on Saturday, April 30 from 11am to 2pm.

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

The town's yard waste truck is not repaired and functional. The 2021 Local Water Supply Plan has been completed with assistance from North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA). Sonny and his crew are helping the Aquarium with a leak recently detected by NCRWA. The town's water system sold an additional 9.498 million gallons of water from the previous year.

Planning and Inspections. Town Planner Kevin Reed briefed:

Kevin has received the survey of town hall required for the new public services building. Planning Board reviewed 9 articles with Rick Flow at its March meeting. The new articles will be presented to the members prior to the April meeting. Town staff will now solicit bids for the rebuilding of three entrances to Town Hall. They will be phased to minimize disturbance. Beach access will be following the "busy" season. The North Carolina Resilient Coastal Communities Program Community Action Team met on April 5. The potential projects were ranked with #1 being "Nature Based or Hybrid Stormwater Solutions." Dewberry is preparing a final report to DCM and Phase III of NC RCCP application process has been opened with an application deadline of June 3. Staff will continue coming to the Board of Commissioners with a request to submit a Phase III application that will fund the engineering and design of a single project. Phase IV may provide for an application process for construction. So far in April, staff has issued one single family landscape permit. Staff will conduct an inspection of seawalls and bulkheads via a boat tour of the waterway. Information from this will be used to identify seawalls/bulkheads that are not in compliance with town regulations. Property Owners will be notified that they must repair those not in compliance with Town Code.

In March, Jim Taylor issued 14 building permits with a total value of \$1,336,362. He issued 10 mechanical, 7 electrical, and 4 plumbing permits. The total value of all permits issued was \$1,414,529. Staff issued 21 tree removal permits and Jim Taylor performed 178 inspections.

Town Clerk Report, Town Clerk Charles Rocci briefed:

The two police Chevy Impalas sold for \$4,700 and \$5,100. The Age friendly community survey will be available on May 1. The Clerk along with the History Committee have made several small renovations to the board room. Bulk item pickup is scheduled for April 26. Acorn Court Construction is underway with minimal issues up to this point.

Public Comment

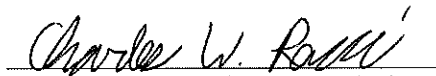
Larry Corsello: On the budget the issue of the beach tax, I will suggest you consider the possibility of if we remove or reduce it, we may not get it back. We cannot rely on the state or county for this funding. Going forward, the towns are getting bigger and more competitive for state funds. On the EV charger situation, I do not see the benefit of having these in town. Anybody with a house and EV would have their own charger. Down the road, gas stations or restaurants will provide these. The stairs should be composites as opposed to wood.

Mayor and Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Cox reported that the SPC is looking at recommending a change to the mission statement.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Edwards with a second by Commissioner Durham which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:31pm.


Charles W. Rocci, Town Clerk