

**MINUTES
PAWLEYS ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION**

DATE/PLACE: April 25, 2016, Pawleys Island Chapel

PRESENT: Mayor Bill Otis, Mike Adams, Ashley Carter, Rocky Holliday
& Sarah Zimmerman

ABSENT: None

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PAWLEYS ISLAND BEACH COMMITTEE

Rocky Holliday stated that he provided a preliminary work plan to council members.

1. Review the history of Pawleys beach work. Mayor Otis reviewed the history of the Pawleys beach work and provided a revised printed copy for council members to review. (See attached)
2. What is the problem that we face and what council feels the Beach Committee is trying to accomplish?
3. The Beach Committee needs to understand the impact of the damage to the beach including economic, personal, trauma, etc.
4. Understand the beach repair permitting process which is complicated on both State and Federal levels.
5. Understand the potential State and Federal sources of beach repair funding.
6. Define the options for repairing the beach and for funding the work.
7. Bring recommendations to council for the scope and timing of beach repairs, the preferred approach for funding of those repairs and other recommended options they may have.

Ryan Fabbri stated that in order for our beaches to be eligible for future FEMA funding after a disaster event they must meet the agency's definition of an "engineered beach". An engineered beach is one that's been renourished to a determined engineered profile and a program is in place to monitor erosion on a yearly basis. After the beaches erode to a predetermined point the town will need to take on another renourishment project to bring them back in line with the original engineered profile. Rocky Holliday stated that if we are going to have a vision for our beach we will need to have a beach profile as to what the ideal beach looks like. He felt that the profile should look like a main dune with a dry stretch of beach to the ocean side of that dune so it doesn't get washed out by high tides on a regular basis. Then periodically when you do your surveys you figure out what erosion we have then restore the beach back to that profile. Ryan stated that the assessments are usually done every 10 years but it needs to be monitored annually. This committee will take into account the erosion rates that we experience annually. Rocky Holliday suggested that before the Beach Committee is formed that council may want to authorize an engineering group to establish our ideal beach profile. There is an option to use the Corps of Engineers to do a profile but we have worked with Coastal Science Engineers in the past and they have enough information to put together a profile for us. Mayor Otis stated that we will get 3 proposals by the end of the week. We also need to get bids for annual maintenance and monitoring and pricing for available sand.

Once we renourish our beach we then need to develop a maintenance plan. Mayor Otis stated that we need to permit through OCRM, State Government, and through the Corps of Engineers, Federal Government. Mike Adams questioned why we don't use the beach profile that the Corps of Engineers had already developed in 2004 for us that covers 40 years? It was discussed that the Coastal Science Engineers don't give a lot of credence to the old Corps profile. All of the processes that had been used then have been reevaluated and there is now new methodology. The end result of the Corps new methodology is less sand to be brought in through developing a new profile. It was discussed that the Corps of Engineers will be the more expensive process, and Congressional funding is not assured. Ryan Fabbri stated that the permitting process will take 1 to 2 years and we won't do that until we have a plan as to what we are going to do, and how we are going to fund, it so this is going to be a long process.

Mayor Otis stated that we should move forward on the 1 to 5 year plan and hope that we will get some of the State money that is in the Governor's budget. The process would be to establish a a profile of a beach front with a dune system and a high tide beach sloped out to the low tide line. The engineers establish a profile for a 50 foot dry high tide beach, then establish a profile to overfill it with sand so that the earlier erosion doesn't start from the base profile. The erosion rate will also be different at different sections of the island.

Rocky Holliday stated that this meeting has made it clear that the establishment of the ideal profile is the starting point and goal for the Beach Committee. Nearly 70% of our property owners on the island rely on rentals to own their houses, and if the beach goes away the rental demand will go away. If rentals go away then the accommodations tax revenues go away and accommodation taxes have helped the Town to deliver services without charging property taxes, so far. He also noted that property values would be negatively impacted if the beach is not healthy. Rocky Holliday will start the process of getting the Beach Committee members together.

Mayor Otis stated that Coastal Science gave us a recommendation regarding sand fencing that where we did not have a dry average high tide beach, we should not install sand fencing. They estimate that only a third of the north beach might meet this criteria. Where sand fence is installed, it should be installed high up on the dune.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS

None

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED

DATE

ATTEST

DATE