

MINUTES  
SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JANUARY 4, 2017 – 2 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – TOWN HALL

Present: Mayor Cin Brochure, Mayor Pro Tempore Loman Scott, Council members Sheila M. Bell, Charlie K. Blalock, Jim Medlin and Jeff Winecoff, Town Manager David Kelly and Assistant Manager/Town Clerk Lisa P. Stites, CMC.

Mayor Cin Brochure called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. The Mayor introduced Johnny Martin with Moffatt & Nichol; he introduced Katie Finnegan and Brandon Grant. A copy of the presentation is hereby attached and made a part of these Minutes.

Ms. Finegan reviewed the monitoring done in 2015, 2016. She also explained how volume calculations were made. The central reach and part of west have been showing accretion. Ms. Finegan also reviewed conditions in the Eastern Channel sand placement area at the west end.

Mr. Grant reviewed the results from the post-storm surveys. He explained that part of the purpose of the post-storm survey was to quantify the volumes lost for potential FEMA reimbursement. Mr. Grant also reviewed storm conditions experienced during Hurricane Matthew in October and the effects on the beach. Mr. Grant also explained what FEMA reimbursement would cover; he said that the firm estimates approximately 99,000 CY of sand that FEMA could reimburse the Town for replacing. He also explained what kind of dunes could look like with the FEMA work.

(Mayor Brochure stepped out from 2:28 p.m. to 2:48 p.m.)

Mr. Martin said that Hurricane Matthew took 600,000 CY of sand away. He reviewed the various options the Town has, including pursuing emergency beach repair with FEMA reimbursement, a one-time nourishment project or a long-term nourishment plan with all permitting and study costs included up front for an engineered beach. The Town could do a truck-haul project to try and get sand on the beach before the season this year, or the Town could wait and try to tie this work into a larger nourishment project in a year or two; that second option is riskier and they recommend not waiting, considering the current condition of the beach. He said they have been talking with contractors to determine costs for a truck-haul project. The FEMA-approved project could cost between \$3.5 and \$4 million.

One of the options presented would be to continue working with the Corps on dredging projects and sand placement at the east and west end of the island; this concept would not really do anything for the area in the middle of the island, however.

The second option projected was for the engineering fees, permitting, etc. for a FEMA-engineered beach, with the permitting, environmental studies, etc. for just the first project.

The third option would cover the engineering costs for the initial project (engineered beach) plus the environmental studies, permitting etc. for multi projects done over several years. The Town could also try to work with the Corps to dredge wider and deeper in the Lockwood Folly Inlet, using that sand on the beach; that would likely involve some conversation with Holden Beach.

Mr. Martin said that beach nourishment would be built seaward; he said he had heard some concerns that it would encroach on property.

Answering a question from Councilor Medlin, Mr. Martin said the Corps was not doing the Wilmington Harbor Project this winter. Ms. Stites added that the Town already stated its position that sand from that dredging should still come to Caswell and possibly Oak Island, and that our “turn” should not be skipped.

Regarding the FEMA project, Mr. Martin said that his previous experience with Carteret County was good as far as a quick turnaround for FEMA reimbursement. Other towns have had to wait longer, he said. The Town might need to put the money out upfront and not get it back for several months.

Answering a question regarding the Sea Turtle Habitat Restoration project from 2001, Mr. Kelly said that staff had already been talking with the Corps and with FEMA. We anticipate getting a letter from the Corps that the agency will not be participating financially in renewing that habitat; there is a possibility that restoring the project could be considered by FEMA as a wildlife habitat restoration. Councilor Medlin said that there have been a lot of inquiries from citizens. He said that we are exploring every possibility and that it was just going to take time. Mr. Martin agreed, and said that even a truck-haul project would take time to put together. Mr. Kelly said staff was stockpiling sand in three locations. We will have to get that sand sifted and get a permit before we can put that out on the beach. Councilor Medlin asked about sand pushing. Mr. Martin said that he was hopeful that the Town could do the emergency work through FEMA instead, as sand pushing was sometimes like “robbing Peter to pay Paul.”

Consensus was to place this item on the regular Council meeting agenda for consideration.

**Councilor Blalock made a motion to adjourn at 3:08 p.m. Councilor Bell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

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Cin Brochure, Mayor

ATTESTED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa P. Stites, CMC  
Assistant Manager/Town Clerk

*Clerk's Statement: Minutes are in compliance with the open meetings laws. The purpose of minutes per the open meetings laws is to provide a record of the actions taken by a Council or a Board and evidence that the actions were taken according to proper procedures. All actions of the Council are recorded in the official minutes. Not all portions of Town of Oak Island meetings are recorded verbatim in the official minutes, with general discussion items, reports, presentations, and public comments being paraphrased or summarized in many instances. Public comments in writing should be submitted to the clerk via hard copy, electronic mail, or other means so as to ensure an exact verbatim account. The Town of Oak Island provides full coverage of meetings on Government Channel 8 so that the Citizens and the Public may view and listen to the meetings in their entirety.*