



Dear Residents, Property Owners and Friends:

If you were unable to attend Friday's Council meeting, I have provided an update on several agenda items that were discussed to include my presentation of the 2018-2019 draft budget. I have provided a copy of the presentation I delivered to Council and the public who were in attendance. [Click here](#) to view the presentation.

The 2nd presentation to the public will occur at the June Council meeting which will be held on Wednesday June 27th at 2:30 p.m. (note: this is not the typical 3rd Friday of the month Council meeting, but had to be rescheduled due to scheduling conflicts). At this meeting, Council will vote to adopt the budget as presented or approve with modifications, if so desired, based on public input. The annual budget must be adopted by July 1st of each year.

PROPOSED FY18-19 DRAFT BUDGET: Below are highlights of the proposed budget following yesterday's meeting:

- Increase of .02 to the Debt portion of the Base Rate, .01 increase to the MSD Zone A, and increase of .005 to the MSD Zone B (increase to fund the proposed winter beach nourishment project); the presentation includes a slide showing how this will affect various assessed values of properties depending on where your property is located, if in one of the MSD Zones – if you are not sure you can look at your last tax bill which will show it within the breakdown summary of the total amount due.
- Balanced budget w/ revenues equaling expenses of \$11,242,773 – overall 2% increase from the current FY17-18 budget
- Bulk of Revenues generated from property & accommodations tax revenues at 86%
- Bulk of General Fund Expenditures in Public Safety at 37% - overall decrease of -1% under the FY17-18 budget
- Total Debt Service at \$4,255,294 (includes: Installment Loan(s) on the Public Safety land and Marina Park (both sites) and new Public Safety Complex, in addition to the 2014 GO Bond for shoreline protection related projects including the Terminal Groin, Jetty wall extensions, and Row Boat Row breakwaters projects..., and the recently approved 2018 GO Bond for the proposed winter beach nourishment project)
- Minimal Capital Outlay related to Road Construction for the paving of Lighthouse Wynd and Edward Teach Wynd Extension, and possibly the access gravel driveway behind IPC..., this work effort to be scheduled following completion of the Bald Head Creek/By-Pass Lagoon Outlet Ditch Stabilization Project currently underway
- Overall decrease in employer health insurance premium costs of 5.8% with change in health care provider, zero costs H.S.A. fees, and change in vision & dental carriers
- Continued savings with decrease in employee ferry travel and in-house training within Public Safety utilizing current certified PSO staff

- IPC is projected to receive an estimated 29,500 inbound packages throughout next fiscal year, a continued 16.6% projected increase through FY15-16 to present, this includes UPS, FedEx, and USPS packages. This proposed budget includes a P/T IPC Shipping Clerk to assist during the midday throughout the summer season
- Includes the addition of 4 new PSO's with one PSO per shift resulting in reduced costs attributed to elimination of 1 Captain position and the "seasonal" employee salary & wages..., this with the intent of providing more PSO presence in peak times at various locations (i.e. Marina/Harbor & BH Creek for No-Wake enforcement)
- Utilities Enterprise Fund with a 2% increase to water & sewer rates based on the Rate Study prepared in 2012

DEER HERD MANAGEMENT...

While a good portion of the budget presentation and subsequent public hearing included public comment on the BHI Conservancy Environmental Services Contracts proposed for the upcoming fiscal year, to include Deer Management and numerous requests for the continued funding of the immuno-contraception program, Village Council approved a motion to include within a fund balance appropriation funds sufficient to apply for a WRC permit, and if successful, to continue with the deer immuno-contraception program with a possible cull, if necessary.

Note, the current immuno-contraception "research" permit issued to the Village through WRC is set to expire at the end of the year at which point a decision will need to be made by WRC if the program can continue with a new "operational" permit issued to the Village. This decision will likely come after their review of the final report and assessment of all relevant data submitted throughout the duration of the 5-Year program to include the Summer deer census population estimates.

OTHER COUNCIL ITEMS DISCUSSED:

INCREASE OF FINES FOR THOSE CITED WITH DRIVING WHILE LICENSE REVOKED & UNDERAGE DRIVING: A 1st reading and setting of public hearing for a text amendment recommended by the Transportation Committee was included on the agenda. The text amendment to the current ordinances related to Section 28-36, *Driving while license revoked*, and 28-91, *Operation of electrically-powered vehicles by unlicensed drivers* (i.e. golf carts) would increase the fine from \$50.00 to \$500.00. This would include those under age driving an electric vehicle (i.e. golf cart).

REPEAL OF ORDINANCE ON THE CURRENT ISLAND-WIDE BAN ON MULCH: A 1st reading and setting of public hearing to repeal Section 10-32 of the Village Code of Ordinances having to do with the current ban on mulch and prohibiting its importing from an off-island source due to the Redbay Ambrosia Beetle and Laurel Wilt Disease. Despite the restrictions that were set in place with the adoption of the current ordinance in 2014, and other efforts of the Village, residents, and BHI Conservancy, to the extent that Laurel Wilt is present on island and has been identified with best management practices to mitigate through National Forestry Service, Village, and BHI Conservancy efforts, that it is no longer necessary to prohibit mulch from an off-island source.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TEXT AMENDMENT TO REGULATE THE USE OF FIRES FOR COOKING, HEATING, AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES:

A public hearing was held on the text amendment to the open burning ordinance..., this a continuation of discussion amongst staff & Council since the January Council meeting and subsequent update in the February 24th Village Voice message. At this point, given public input received on this item Council has directed staff to revisit the recommended changes and bring back forth at the next Council meeting a revised draft.

ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE RESOLUTION PASSED: A resolution at the recommendation of the Environmental Task Force was passed by Council in support for sustainable initiatives as set forth; the Village of Bald Head Island encourages and supports initiatives to promote sustainability by recycling, reduction of the use of non-biodegradable materials such as plastic, composting of biodegradable organic and vegetative waste, tree preservation and re-planting, and other efforts to preserve the natural beauty of Bald Head Island.

SPECIAL MESSAGE - TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE OF THE EAST END OF

LIGHTHOUSE WYND: The Village, as of Friday afternoon, started construction on the “Ditch Outfall Stabilization Project”. The by-pass lagoon & BH Creek outfall is a key component to the Village’s emergency storm water management system and is the only point on the island that allows water to exit the lagoon system via gravity, the most effective means of removal of floodwater, over the use of pump systems. Over the years, “The Ditch” has been negatively impacted by erosion due to excessive periods of rain (accumulations prior to Matthew 2016) as well as extra-ordinary named storm events (Joaquin 2015) that wreaked havoc with severe island-wide flooding that required pumping flood water off island out through the emergency ocean outfalls and the BH Creek outfall ditch. Impacts included erosion along the sides and severe degradation of the ditch bottom. In 2012, the Village attempted “soft” mitigation at the requirement of state & federal regulatory agencies; however, this has proven to be ineffective.

2013



2018



In 2016, the Village began the permitting process to allow a more substantial permanent solution. With the assistance of Coastal Land Design, the Village was successful in obtaining the required permits that allows the placement of rip-rap stone over a geotextile fabric. Since that time, staff has had multiple pre-construction meetings and sought out bids from prospective contractors and finalized the contract for construction.

The Village anticipates the project will take approximately sixty (60) days, which during the construction process will require the Village to close the east end of Lighthouse Wynd to its intersection with North Bald Head Wynd. This will allow the contractor to utilize the space as a staging area for equipment and materials (rock).

Those needing to access the Village Chapel, BHA Association building, Village Hall, Post Office & Island Package Center, and the Old Baldy Lighthouse & Museum will need to enter from Ballast Stone Alley (off North Bald Head Wynd to Lighthouse Wynd next to the Island Package Center & Post Office) or the west end of Lighthouse Wynd (at the intersection of Keelson Row and Timber Bridge).

The Village will work to maintain temporary access to the Fort Holmes Battery Trail for all visitors via a temporary path way. We thank you all for your patience as we work through to the completion of this project, yet another vitally important piece to the Village’s system for mitigating extreme flooding on island.

BHI POTABLE WATER UPDATE “GenX & EMERGING CONTAMINANTS”:

Many islanders and guests have read about “emerging contaminants” found in the Cape Fear River. Informal discussions have occurred to reassure Islanders about the safety of Bald Head Island’s potable water. The Island’s treated water was tested in late June 2017, immediately after learning about the river’s contaminants, and was found to have extremely low thresholds, a mere one percent of the newly established lifetime standard. Bald Head Island’s water is safe to drink.

A North Carolina State researcher studied the river's water beginning in 2012. He uncovered high percentages of six different chemicals, collectively called emerging contaminants. Tests were performed on the water at the intake and output of one of Wilmington's water treatment plants. The treatment modality used did not remove any of them. Reports of these studies became public in June of 2017. Communities up and down river who use the Cape Fear as the primary source of drinking water involved the NC Department of Environmental Quality, the NC Department of Health and Human Services and the EPA to address both the sources of the chemicals and the solutions to ridding river water of the chemicals, both at the source and through treatment.

Bald Head Island is fortunate to have a reverse osmosis (RO) system to treat its water. This method successfully removes the emerging contaminants. The primary source of the island's drinking water comes from island wells. This water is treated through RO as well as other methods to remove impurities and kill bacteria.

The island's water is supplemented with treated water from Brunswick County. The County has two water treatment facilities. The NC 211 plant draws and treats water from wells. Its water is supplemented with treated water from the Northwest Plant. The Northwest Plant's water source is the Cape Fear River. This blended, treated water supplements Bald Head Island's treated water during high-use periods, and is blended with the Island's treated water. Through this process, a very dilute quantity of treated Cape Fear River water is combined with the island's drinking water. When tested for emerging contaminants, the concentration in the island's potable water was slightly more than 2 parts per trillion (ppt). The recently revised human consumption threshold is 140 ppt. With reductions in source contamination, the concentrations throughout the river and in the treatment systems are well below the 140 ppt threshold.

Both Brunswick County and New Hanover County have been aggressive in working to resolve water safety issues. The river is tested frequently, and the concentrations of contaminants have been reduced dramatically at the source. Brunswick County has accelerated its plans to expand the Northwest Treatment Plant and will add a reverse osmosis system. Designs and costs for the expanded and improved plant were presented at the March 2018 Commissioners meeting. Final approval is expected in the next few months so that construction can begin as soon as possible. It will take several years to bring the new treatment capacity online.

The most frequently talked about emerging contaminant, GenX, was designed to replace TEFLON and has a similar chemical structure. GenX was produced and is a byproduct of other chemicals made at the Fayetteville Works plants. It was released into the Cape Fear River and has been found in the air as well. These chemicals are used as coatings in food packaging, in many fire extinguishers, and as fire retardants in clothing and furniture. As with most chemicals produced in the United States, no FDA approval is required, nor standards established unless or until problems arise.

Please rest assured that the Village's Utilities Department and your Village Council and staff are actively following this critical water safety issue.

ACCOMMODATIONS TAX REMINDER – As a general reminder, Accommodations taxes that are required to be filed with the Village are due monthly and are based on the percentage of rental sales for a given month for those that rent their homes. Accommodation tax payment booklets with instructions are available at Village Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Kelli Carbone at 910-457-9700 ext. 1005 or kcarbone@villagebhi.org.

TIMBER BRIDGE SAFETY – SLOW IT DOWN PLEASE!

At the request and over concerns of many within the community, particularly those within the Marina & Harbor area, speed limit signs have recently been installed on the Timber Bridge to get folks to recognize as they are either coming or going to & from these locations that you need to slow it down. While not always recognized by people as they make their way off the bridge in either direction that there are also crosswalks for pedestrians to cross over on their way to or from the ferry. Please be mindful in the future and slow it down!



PSO BRANDY NANCE GRADUATES FROM BLET: I, along with PS Director Carl Pearson, Lt. Scott Anderson, and Gloria Agnew with the Village's Public Safety Department had the opportunity to



Pictured (PSO Nance, PS Director Pearson, Lt. Anderson, and Village Manager Chris McCall)

attend the Basic Law Enforcement Training graduation of PSO Brandy Nance last week at Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, NC. PSO Nance, as Class President, represented herself, family, and the Village Public Safety Department with class & distinction in giving the Class President's graduation speech to close out the commencement ceremony. While attending this event I had the pleasure of meeting PSO Nance's family, of which most if not all, have made the call of public service in the Emergency Services field in some capacity their profession. Please congratulate PSO Nance on a job well done!

VILLAGE MANAGER'S COMMENTS ON PUBLIC HEARINGS:

I've been involved throughout the last 17 years in many government public hearings, most at the Local level, many at the County level, and a few at the State level and have always been amazed at how effective at times the voices of citizens expressing their concerns at public hearings can be in government processes. I've often heard, but disagree with folks that say well it doesn't matter, they are going to do what they want to do anyway..., or they've already made up their minds and there is nothing we can do about it.

In my opinion, to say that staff or Village Council does NOT listen, or take into consideration the public's comments is wrong! It may not ALWAYS happen or to the degree with which the public would like, but as evidenced during Friday's Council meeting, in the case of Open Burning, Deer Management, and Mulch, I think it's fair to say that Village Council has listened. In providing a process and an opportunity for public input to the extent that staff, as directed by Council, will be going back to the drawing board in looking to make additional changes on these items to be included in the draft budget and the various text amendments. So, when you do attend a future Village Council meeting please keep that in mind, your voice and what you say does matter and can have some influence in the future.

As always, if you have any questions or comments feel free to e-mail, call, or stop by Village Hall and as a reminder, if you know of anyone who may find the Village Voice message of particular interest, but are unsure if they are a current subscriber, please forward this message to them and let them know getting on the e-mail distribution list is as simple as sending me a follow up request by e-mail at cmccall@villagebhi.org

Thanks,

Chris McCall
Village Manager