

From: Laura Aldrich <townclerk@irshores.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 4:24 PM
To: Laura Aldrich
Subject: Town Meeting 1-25-18 Recap & News Alert
Attachments: 1-11-18 Injured Manatee.jpg; Manatee Rescue Van 1-11-18.jpg; 1-11-18 Manatee rescued Ft Pierce Inlet.jpg; FPL News 1-17-18 No rate increase.jpg; 1-26-18 TCouncil to Residents Home Rule.docx

Importance: High

Dear Residents and Interested Parties,

At the Town Council meeting on January 25th the following items of interest were discussed:

- An **access & underground electric easement at Bee Gum Point** was approved.
- The sale of Vero Beach Electric Utility to FPL was briefly discussed as having 14 of 19 approvals from FMPA members, with the last vote to take place on February 19.
- **Nancy Auwaerter** was appointed to represent the Town at the **MPO – Citizen’ Advisory Committee**.
- A brief discussion on **beach and dune erosion from John’s Island to the Tracking Station** resulted in direction for the Town to send a letter to the County to request assistance in having the **state reconsider Sector 4 designation as critically eroded**, as it threatens infrastructure and turtle nesting.
- The **Building Department designated funds** were discussed, with a recommendation to **have the Finance Committee come next month** to discuss some ideas. The Building Official also had presented a memo with some ideas to stabilize and utilize the department’s reserves.
- A very tight timeline for the **Old Winter Beach Road Dept. of Emergency Management grant** was explained and the budget presented, and the budget recommendation **to allow the Town Manger to sign off on completed items** and then present them to the Council each month was approved. The bid process commenced January 15 and closes February 5. A **recommendation for contractor will be on the February Council agenda**.
- Florida State legislators are **attacking home rule** in ways such as trying to eliminate municipal laws on tree cutting and regulating commerce/trade/labor within municipal boundaries. In other proposed legislation, an attempt to have local officials file an expanded financial disclosure prior to and during terms of office is underway. **Residents** are encouraged to read and consider the **attached letter from the Town Council about home rule attacks, and sign a petition at <http://www.tcrlc.com/petition-1.html>** .
- The **February Council meeting** was unanimously moved to **Tuesday, February 20 at 3 p.m.**
- The Municipal Solutions consultant hired by the Town to perform a **Public Safety Department salary-benefit study** is narrowing down 130 responses to the 30 most comparable municipalities, and then will review it with the Finance Committee before finalizing it for presentation to the Council at the March council meeting.
- The **cell tower** is scheduled to be delivered on **Tuesday, February 6th**. There is still no word on the second carrier, and it should be operational 6-8 weeks from the time it is totally set up (roughly late March).
- Plans for the rebuild on the **Community Center** are progressing, with an RFP anticipated to be released in February with a contractor award anticipated to be approved by Council. It is scheduled for initial removal of reusable interior components beginning March 1.
- Plans were received from our Engineering contractor on 1-25 for the **dune crossover at Beachcomber Lane**. This will soon be ready to advertise for bids, as the Town will be reimbursed with FEMA funds. Your continued patience is appreciated!
- Chief Rosell reported that the Town’s **Public Safety Department (PSD) successfully completed its 3rd reaccreditation, 4th accreditation** of 3-year cycles. This is a lot of work to prove that we do what we say in our policies that we will do, and are one of just over 200 accredited public safety departments in Florida.

Other tidbits of information that you may find to be of interest:

- **The Victoria** will be hosting a meeting on **Monday, February 5 at 10 a.m. in their Pool House located at 5680 N. A1A** with the Indian River County Coastal Engineer, James Gray, **to discuss the critically eroded dunes** in Sector 4. All

communities in this sector from roughly **Old Winter Beach Road south to Surf Lane** are invited to and encouraged to attend.

- **Sand Trucks & Beach Renourishment** – The beach renourishment has been in process at John’s Island, and the sand trucks coming from the south on A1A will continue for about a month depending on the weather. The John’s Island beaches and the County’s public access at **Turtle Trail will be closed** during this activity. Please be aware that the trucks could have an impact on traffic.
- Please be aware that there may be issues with **home health aide care** individuals. There are warning signs of which to be aware. If you have any concerns, please **contact PSD at 772-231-2451 M-F, 8-4:15**. An investigation on three individuals, employed by a reputable company, that have stolen \$200,000 from residents accounts, is in the concluding stage.
- Another facet of the Public Safety Department’s job: attached are some pictures of a **manatee that was saved** on 1-11-18. It was injured by a boat and surely would have perished if not for human intervention. One of our Officers, Barb Grass, was involved in the rescue of this creature. Barb is an animal rescue expert and is in charge of all animal-related (turtle, otter, manatee, dolphin, bird, etc.) rescues in Town. Chief Rosell thought you might like to know this unique facet of the job your PSD Officers have.
- **Birding at Bee Gum Point:** Indian River Land Trust leads guided birding events through their property at Bee Gum Point only a few times a year, and have alerted us of the following dates that you are welcome to join them: **February 10, March 10, and April 14**. These Saturday morning gatherings take place at **7 a.m.** at the curve where Fred Tuerk Drive ends and Colonel Jack Mitchell Way begins. The January birders saw roseate spoonbills, hooded merganser ducks, and many familiar wetland birds. Visit www.irlt.org for information.
- **The flu season** is vicious this year! The Indian River Dept. of Health issues these tips to keep your family safe and healthy:
 - Everyone over 6 months of age should **get a flu shot**, it’s not too late
 - **wash your hands** frequently and **cover your cough**
 - Stay home **at least 24 hours after fever is gone** if you’ve been sick; and
 - **see a healthcare provider ASAP** & follow their guidance on treatment.
- Please see the attached good-to-know **rate information** sent by our **FPL** Advisor on January 17.
- Town Hall offices are **closed on Monday, February 19** for President’s Day.
- **Streetlight outages** in 4 locations have been reported to the City of Vero Beach. They have informed us that due to the hurricane, there is a backlog waiting for parts, and appreciate your patience!

Laura

Laura Aldrich, MMC

Town Clerk, Indian River Shores

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