

MAYOR  
THOMAS F. SLATER

VICE MAYOR  
ROBERT F. AUWAERTER

COUNCIL:  
JESSE L. "SAM" CARROLL, JR.  
BRIAN T. FOLEY  
DEBORAH H. PENISTON



TOWN MANAGER  
JOE GRIFFIN

TOWN CLERK  
LAURA ALDRICH

TOWN ATTORNEY  
CHESTER CLEM

## MINUTES REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 23, 2020

9:00 a.m.

6001 N. State Road A1A, Indian River Shores, FL 32963

### 1. Call to Order

- a. Invocation
- b. Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Slater, with the Invocation given by Councilman Carroll followed by the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all. The Town Clerk called the roll for elected officials as follows: Mayor **Slater**, Vice Mayor **Auwaerter**, Councilman **Carroll**, Councilman **Foley**, and Councilmember **Peniston**. Others present included STAFF: Town Manager **Griffin**, Town Clerk **Aldrich**, Town Attorney **Clem**, Town Treasurer **Christmas**, Building Official **Perry**, Public Safety Chief Rich **Rosell** and Assistant to Town Clerk Chelley **Pallo**; RESIDENTS: Nancy **Auwaerter** (Ocean Colony - CCAC), Joanne **Sardella** (Finance Committee), Lee **Darrow** (Park Shores) and April **Minton** (The Shores); **GUESTS**: Mike **Korpar** (John's Island), Tim **Velde** (TPM Landscaping, and Jessica **Hawkins** & Rebecca **Grohall** (MBV Engineering).

### 2. Agenda Reordering, Deletions, or Emergency Additions

Mayor Slater asked to remove his request to change the date of the February Council Meeting, agenda item (6a). Vice Mayor Auwaerter made a **motion to approve the amended agenda**, which was seconded by Councilman Carroll and **passed unanimously**.

### 3. Presentations/Proclamations

- a. NPDES/MS4 Presentation (MBV Engineering) 9:02 AM

A slide presentation explaining the elements involved with NPDES (Nationwide Pollution Discharge Elimination System) and the MS 4 (Municipal Separate Stormwater Systems) requirements was given by Rebecca Grohall and Jessica Hawkins of MBV Engineering. The NPDES program was initiated in 1972 as part of The Clean Water Act, and is meant to prohibit discharging pollutants through a point source into a body of water by using a variety of rules and regulations that are designed to minimize and prevent pollutants in the stormwater system, which ultimately discharges into the Indian River Lagoon and ocean.

The next system is the MS4. In the hierarchy of things, this is how the NPDES plays out on a local level. Many know that stormwater is what is generated from rain events. This water flows over the land and hits the structures, driveways, roads; everything known as impervious surfaces, and from there flows into the storm sewer, which is usually your underground conveyance system to the outflow and then ultimately to a water body.

The stormwater plan of action uses a coordinated approach to solving stormwater issues involving several techniques such as stormwater management, public awareness, pollution prevention and land development codes. There are a few different ways that Indian River Shores works to achieve this. There are a couple of inlet skimmer baskets installed on *Old Winter Beach Road*. The only visible part of the structure is the top grate, everything else happens underground. It is a system of filtration baskets designed to filter out sediments and debris from the road. The sediment sinks to the bottom while some of the larger trash floats on top.

There is a three-chamber baffle box system installed on *Indian Lane*. What is visible are the three manhole covers on the ground; everything else occurs in an underground chamber. These boxes are designed to flow water through a system of three (3) different chambers. Sediments are filtered toward the bottom, larger debris is caught towards the middle, and fine particles are caught in the screen right before the water flows out.

This is a Public Meeting. The Town of Indian River Shores does not transcribe verbatim minutes. Should any interested party seek to appeal any decision made by the Council with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose he or she may need to ensure that a record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Stormwater ponds filter nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphate to the bottom, while the cleaner water naturally rises to the top and then flows out through a weir structure in the upper right and back into the conveyance.

In 2003 the Town, the County and the City of Vero Beach jointly purchased the Lost Tree Island Conservation Area. This 500- acre natural wetlands and uplands really helps to filter out the stormwater in the Lagoon. Public education can also be helpful. Other steps such as implementing written standards and operating procedures for the inspection and operation of the stormwater system are already in place and being utilized. We meet once per year with the Town Manager to refresh everyone on these procedures. A second step is the regular scheduling of maintenance activity for catch basin cleaning and the proper disposal of those accumulated sediments. MBV is currently working with the Town to help develop that maintenance schedule. The third step is to have staff trained in the DEP Stormwater Erosion & Sedimentation Control Training, and three (3) Town employees have already completed this training. Fourth it to report flooding issues, especially if there are clogged storm drains. The last is to stay up-to-date with the Local Mitigation Strategy.

In addition to reporting clogged storm drains, employees and residents are encouraged to keep an eye out for any illicit discharges. An illicit discharge is anything going into the stormwater system that is not actually rainwater. Examples would include a pool cleaner discharging their vacuum onto the road, or landscapers blowing grass clippings onto the roadway.

The Town is currently looking into some improvements on Indian Lane known as Low Impact Development, which is seen as the future of stormwater management. It consists of a variety of practices that help mimic natural drainage processes.

The Town is part of the Indian River County Unified Local Mitigation Strategy. While this was written in 2015, there is an update coming in 2020. This is a coordinated County-wide effort to help reduce the impacts of natural disasters, especially focused on flooding. The next scheduled meeting of the LMS Working Group is January 31, 2020 at 10 AM. Ms. Grohall concluded her presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Councilmember Peniston asked whether the basins are cleaned periodically, and Ms. Grohall answered that is the portion that is still being put into place. It will most likely be scheduled on an annual basis and involves a vacuum truck clearing the storm drains, inlet skimmers and baffle boxes of the accumulated sediment. Some of those contain a filtration boom which should be replaced approximately every two (2) years, so there are several ways to help extend the life of these systems.

Town Manager Griffin stated that since he has been here, there have been two instances where we have had suspected clogs in drain systems, and vacuum trucks were called. Additionally, the filter baskets on Old Winter Beach Road are to be put on a schedule for annual inspection. Mrs. Hawkins stated the good thing is that Town employees are already inspecting the structures after rain events to make sure there aren't any blocks. One of the requirements of the Town's MS4 system is inspection after any ½" rainfall event, so they are checking quite regularly.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked if every discharge structure in Town was inspected after every ½" of rain, and Mrs. Hawkins answered only those included in the Town's MS4, which does not include private neighborhoods. He also asked whether there is a fine associated with illicit discharge, such as a pool cleaners dumping chemicals onto the street. Mr. Griffin responded the fine starts at \$250 and goes up to \$500. Ms. Grohall stated she believes the easiest thing to do is work with the Town to put together an early-morning breakfast training for contractors in Town to discuss the importance of keeping our stormwater clean and reiterate the punishments involved for those in violation.

Mr. Griffin stated the baffle box on Indian & Seminole Lanes was designed 45 years ago and is underserving the area. He has asked Ms. Grohall to apply for a stormwater grant for this area in the early Spring.

Councilman Foley asked how Ms. Grohall envisions the proposed breakfast to educate service providers. She said there are a couple of different aspects for public education. There is an annual mailing produced by the Town Clerk which counts towards activities, as well as information on the Town's website. They will host training meetings around different work schedules, targeting the employees of service providers about two (2) months out with a flyer that Gary Doyle can distribute while in the field, and use the database for business tax licenses to contact potential attendees.

Councilman Carroll suggested that attend the HOA annual meetings as a good way of reaching their contractors, to which Mrs. Hawkins replied that MBV Engineering prefers presenting to everyone as a whole, because homeowners need to feel empowered to correct their service providers if they are doing the wrong thing.

Mayor Slater said Town residents are very conscious of the Lagoon and what is happening, and are very interested in doing what they can to try get the Lagoon to revive and improve.

Councilmember Peniston echoed Councilman Carroll's suggestion of reaching out to HOAs. Councilman Foley suggested reaching out to their property management companies might be more efficient. Mrs. Hawkins stated they have those lists as they work with them already on stormwater/flooding information. Mayor Slater suggested they work through the Town. If they know the Town cares and that there are rules to be followed with consequences for not doing so, the service providers might be more inclined to cooperate.

Mayor Slater's last question was regarding the LMS Working Group Meetings and joining their mailing list. Mr. Griffin responded that he receives emails from them regarding upcoming meetings. They occasionally ask for submissions to the LMS list, mostly regarding stormwater management, and if there are areas in Town that might need grants in the future. We have given them notice about the Indian/Seminole Lane area. The Council thanked Ms. Grohall & Mrs. Hawkins for their very informative presentation.

4. **Consent Agenda** 9:23 AM

- a. Acceptance of Planning, Zoning & Variance Board Minutes dated November 18, 2019
- b. Acceptance of Planning, Zoning & Variance Board Minutes dated December 10, 2019
- c. Approval of Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes dated December 19, 2019
- d. Approval of PSD Patrol Vehicles Purchase

A motion was made by Councilmember Peniston with support from Councilman Carroll **to approve the consent agenda as presented, which passed 5-0.**

5. **Town Attorney**

6. **Mayor or Council Items** 9:24 AM

- a. Council Meeting Date Change in February from 27<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> (Mayor Slater)  
(This was pulled from the agenda)

Mayor Slater said he would like to have a brief discussion as a follow-up to the comments made at the last Town Council Meeting regarding the **pension**. The next Pension Board Meeting is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup> and he asked whether members of Town Council have the right to speak at these meetings. Councilman Carroll stated that he and Vice Mayor Auwaerter have been allowed to speak at these meetings. Mayor Slater said this is about the future of our Public Safety Officer's pension and ensuring it is fully funded long into the future, and the steps that have been taken put that at risk. He asked whether it makes sense for at least one Town Council member to attend the upcoming meeting to follow up regarding this issue. We have contacted them in writing multiple times requesting they appear before Council to discuss the issue with no response.

Town Attorney Clem advised that only one representative from Council attend so there is no question about Sunshine Law violations. Vice Mayor Auwaerter stated it is a publicly noticed meeting and there is no communication outside of Council Chambers, so he does not believe the Sunshine Law would be violated. Mr. Clem stated if you look at the report from the City of Sebastian, within the last two (2) weeks, two (2) of their members started a dialogue at a meeting, and the allegation was that the issue could come before the City Council for a decision and the Sunshine Law was therefore violated. He said it is a similar situation here.

Mayor Slater said he recognized Mr. Clem's caution but thinks that if the Council members are careful and sit on opposite sides of the room all will be well; he thinks it is extremely important to have representatives from Council present at the meeting. Vice Mayor Auwaerter suggested that Council reach out to one or both of the Council-appointed members of the Committee and request they add the future Rate of Return to the agenda for their next meeting, as well as asking them to request that the consultant attend the meeting and explain their position on the future Rate of Return. Mayor Slater **asked the Town Manager to make this contact**. Councilman Carroll added that they were already taking a pretty aggressive assumed rate of return on equities, and in order for the Pension Committee to justify increasing the rate of return from 6.25% to 6.75%, they would either have to make an egregious assumption on return from equities or a completely unfounded expected return from fixed-income. Councilman Carroll wants them to explain this.

Mr. Griffin said that he reached out to the Town's labor attorney, who gave an opinion on options that Council could pursue. Having spoken with a few Council members, Mr. Griffin decided to reach out to an attorney with an ERISA background who has experience with public pension and pension benefits in Florida. He originally requested the attorney to focus on the Council's options regarding membership on the Pension Board and their perceived overreach.

Mayor Slater stated they do not want to be adversarial to the Pension Board, they just want to ensure its members are fulfilling their fiduciary responsibilities. He asked whether the Town's appointment of individuals to the Pension Board is for a fixed period of time and, if so, whether they can relieve the individuals of their duties before that time has expired if they are uncomfortable with their choices. Town Attorney Clem responded that he does not believe they could do so without cause. Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked if they have

the right to remove a member due to lack of attendance. Mr. Clem stated he does not believe Statute speaks to that but he will take a look. Town Clerk Aldrich added she believes the Town Ordinance on this issue only covers unexcused absences. Mayor Slater asked Mr. Griffin to follow up on this issue.

Councilman Foley summarized for clarity and stated they are going to ask their representatives on the Pension Board to add this as an agenda item, have a council or council members attend to voice the serious concerns of the Council, and to have the consultant that the Town indirectly or directly pays for opine on this. He also believes they should know that Council is looking into this and is prepared to dig deeper if they do not receive satisfactory answers. Vice Mayor Auwaerter said that was a great summary.

## 7. Discussion with Possible or Probable Action

### a. Cell Tower Access Road/Pathway (Town Manager) 9:39 AM

Mr. Griffin explained that the agreement for VerticalBridge's 55-year leasehold interest of the land that houses the cell phone tower included verbiage requiring the Town to provide access to that area for maintenance. Additionally, Mr. Griffin and Chief Rosell have had many discussions regarding the security (or lack thereof) of the Public Safety area. Part of making this area more secure will include encapsulating it, which will necessitate a separate road for cell tower access. Mr. Griffin is proposing that a millings road be constructed by Tim Rose Contracting. An ancillary problem is that during periods of medium to heavy rain the driveway to the entrance of Public Safety floods, as well as the area between Public Safety and Town Hall. Mr. Griffin requests that Town Council approve this construction at the cost of \$75,916.

Councilmember Peniston said it sounded reasonable to her. Regarding the cell phone tower, she still received complaints from many residents stating that their reception has not improved and questioned how they could solve the problem. Mr. Griffin said to his knowledge, the majority of those complaints are from the northern portion of John's Island. Vice Mayor Auwaerter said he also has reception issues at his home in South Indian River Shores. Mr. Griffin stated this was discussed several months ago at a meeting with DataPath. They suggested that a booster tower, which would not be as tall, be installed at the John's Island maintenance area just south of Old Winter Beach Road. He believes they were going to discuss the possibility with JIPOA and is unsure what the outcome was, adding the idea should be revisited. Councilmember Peniston agreed, but said the issue is not only in the North end of John's Island. Mr. Griffin stated he would reach out regarding this possibility.

Mayor Slater stated that no one even sees the cell tower anymore, and wondered if the camouflage on the tower could be reducing the signal. Vice Mayor Auwaerter said DataPath claims it does not. Mayor Slater said we should do some research, and he receives more complaints from Verizon customers than he used to from AT&T customers, even though Verizon is at the top of the tower.

Councilman Foley made **a motion to approve the cell tower access road**, which was seconded by Vice Mayor Auwaerter and **passed unanimously**.

### b. John's Island Cemetery – Continued (Town Manager) 9:46 AM

Mr. Griffin stated at the December Council meeting he was asked to continue to look into improvements at the John's Island Cemetery. He presented a letter for distribution to residents asking for contributions to the diminishing Cemetery Trust Fund, which pays for cemetery operations. A few months ago he met with Councilman Carroll, resident Wheatie Gibb, and Town landscape contractor Tim Velde of Tropical Property Management (TPM) at the cemetery to determine what additional improvements could be made. In the summer, TPM completed the first round of improvements including repairing the irrigation system. At a later meeting, additional improvements were requested, and Mr. Griffin was asked to present those improvements at today's meeting. Mr. Velde has provided an estimate for the further improvements and is here today to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Slater asked whether the proposed fill would fix the current issues. Mr. Velde said that it would and is the best way to maintain the integrity of the headstones. There is approximately a 4" gap from the top of the stone to the grade which needs to be reduced. A 2" *overlay of fill plus sod to cover the area* should make it a lot smoother.

Councilman Carroll stated that an ordinance regarding the cemetery suggests the grave markers should be flush with the ground and asked whether the proposed overlay and sod would accomplish this. Mr. Velde said yes, they have proposed 2" of fill and the sod is 2". It should be a bit under the stones, as sod experiences thatch buildup, which would end up burying some of the stones as they were before the improvements. Councilman Carroll asked what Mr. Velde estimates the gap to be from Day 1, and Mr. Velde said around 1". Councilman Carroll asked Town Attorney Clem what he thought about that, and Mr. Clem responded that so long as the intention is to return the headstones flush to the ground they are on the right track.

Mr. Velde added the *proposal includes the removal of 8 sabal palms*, with the goal of increasing the amount of sunlight. The current landscape maintenance contract includes the trimming of the oak trees, but not the hard-cutting of the oaks. He believes a meeting with Mr. Griffin and Councilman Carroll at the cemetery will be necessary as there are *some larger limbs on the older oak trees that need to be strategically cut* in order to get sunlight. Councilman Carroll asked if there were any legal issues with removing the sabal palms, and Mr. Velde responded there are not.

Councilmember Peniston asked if they were going to discuss the letter that was distributed to residents regarding the Cemetery Trust Fund. Mr. Griffin said that as a result of the letter we have already received contributions from residents, who are sent a letter of thanks in return. Councilmember Peniston asked what amount of money Mr. Griffin is expecting to receive in contributions. He stated they have discussed an endowment that could be set up. The cemetery maintenance is between \$15,000-\$20,000 per year, not including any capital improvements. Mayor Slater said that would require a \$1 million endowment. Mr. Griffin said there is currently around \$85,000 in the Cemetery Trust Fund. If we complete the proposed project, that fund will be somewhere around \$50,000, depending on the oaks. Councilman Carroll said that Florida Statute regarding cemetery endowments states they can only be invested in fixed income. Realistically, if we had an endowment of \$1.5 million at 2% it would be \$30,000.

Councilmember Peniston asked Mr. Griffin what is currently being done with the Cemetery Trust Fund contributions received, and he said they are going right into that fund. She said we need roughly 10 times the amount in the fund as there is currently. Councilman Carroll said he believes they would need roughly \$1.5 million in the fund. Mr. Griffin stated he has met with two (2) John's Island residents to discuss establishing an endowment and it seems as though they plan to pursue this. Mayor Slater said we should contact all of the individuals with reserved space in the cemetery. Town Clerk Aldrich explained that we do not necessarily have contact information for all those individuals. Mayor Slater requested that this information be updated, and that letters be sent to those individuals who own plots in the cemetery, as they have a vested interest in its future. Councilman Carroll said there is a possibility that this may be accomplished in one fell swoop and he thinks that, for the time being, they should **table discussion on how broadly they should reach out to people**, over and beyond what has already been done. Mr. Griffin agreed.

Councilman Carroll asked Mr. Velde whether we should make an attempt to accurately identify the plots in the cemetery, and, if so, how to go about it. Mr. Griffin stated that another survey will be required, which they did discuss. The current survey is antiquated so identification is a bit hit or miss. There are some markers and stones there that are from the late 1800s. He is happy to look into a survey to be completed between now and the summer. Mayor Slater asked if we could start with the list of who is already interred before resorting to a survey. Town Clerk Aldrich said a survey was completed 10 years ago that lists markers and names. There are Excel spreadsheets that have information on certificates that have been sold – one by last name and one by plot number. We do not currently have cemetery software to marry everything together. That is a project she would like to complete this year.

Mr. Clem added that each plot is 8x3', which can be subdivided into three different parts, and the Town's Public Works department was responsible for digging the holes. To say that any cremains are interred in the exact location intended when there was no survey with markers may not be accurate. Mayor Slater suggested that *Town Manager Griffin brings recommendations and a plan to the next Council meeting* as to how they are going to get to the bottom of this.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter made **a motion to accept the contract with Tropical Property Management for fill, sod and sabal palm removal**, which was seconded by Councilman Carroll and **passed 5-0**.

c. PZV Board Member Changes (Town Clerk) 10:08 AM

Town Clerk Aldrich announced that Mrs. Linda Bolton had resigned from the Planning, Zoning and Variance Board at their last meeting on January 14, and the normal procedure has been to move the alternate up in the order of length of service. The recommendation to Council is to 1) accept the resignation of Ms. Bolton, and 2) appoint Mr. Frantz Bertin, who has been serving since 2017 as an alternate and is very interested in being moved up to a full member. Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked whether Mr. Bertin studies the various issues coming before the Board at each meeting, and Mrs. Aldrich responded that he has extensive knowledge of our Code and works closely with the Building Official regarding each issue.

Mayor Slater said Linda Bolton has worked hard and done many things for this Town, and he thanked her sincerely for her service over time. Councilmember Peniston **motioned to accept Mrs. Bolton's resignation**, which was seconded by Councilman Foley and **passed unanimously**. Councilmember Peniston then made **a motion to appoint Mr. Bertin as full-time member on the Planning, Zoning and Variance Board**, which was seconded by Councilman Foley and **passed unanimously**.

d. Proposed Legislation That Could Impact the Town (Vice Mayor Auwaerter) 10:10 AM

1) House Bill 459, Building Design Element Non-Regulation

Vice Mayor Auwaerter stated the Legislative session is in full swing, and they are in the middle of Committee Meetings right now. Occasionally there is good legislation but there is also a lot of bad legislation, some of which seems to be coming from the House and much of which would limit the ability of local government to rule in their own towns.

HB 459 proposes restricting zoning and development regulations applied to one and two family dwellings unless (1) the structure is on the National Register of Historical Places or (2) the regulation is needed to implement the National Flood Insurance Plan. Items the Town would no longer be able to regulate include external building color, type of style of exterior, style or manner of roof structures and other elements on the façade. He said he always looks at bills and asks what the worst possible outcome is, and he thought of purple houses. He said at least this bill would not infringe on private covenants such as those of condominiums and HOAs. He would like for Town Council to send a letter to our legislators urging them to not allow this bill to be passed.

Councilman Foley said he agrees 100% but believes we should do more outreach to the community. A letter from Town Council is great, but a letter from a lot of our residents would help even more. He believes in “local voices for local choices” and that people are better governed by those closest to them because they are more responsive to them. What works in Orlando does not necessarily work in Indian River Shores.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter made **a motion to instruct the Town Manager to draft a letter to legislators, to be signed by the Mayor, stating Council’s objections to HB 459, Building Design Elements** which was seconded by Councilmember Peniston. Mayor Slater added that the Florida League of Cities is also fighting this bill. Councilman Carroll stated he read through the bill but did not see anything regarding height. Vice Auwaerter said the bill defines “building design elements” and states “the term does not include the height, bulk, orientation or location of a structure on its own lot.” **This motion passed unanimously.**

2) Senate Bill 1128, Vacation Rental Preemption to State

Vice Mayor Auwaerter explained that this is the bill that was introduced by the AirBNB and VRBO lobbyists. A portion of it reads “regulation of public lodging establishments including vacation rentals...is preempted to the state.” If this bill were passed, it would nullify the ordinance the Town just passed regarding vacation rentals. It does state that the bill does not intend to nullify any existing HOA or condominium agreements.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter made **a motion to direct the Town Manager to draft a letter, to be signed by the Mayor, stating Council’s objections to SB 1128, Vacation Rental Preemption to State**, which was seconded by Councilman Foley and **passed unanimously.**

3) Senate Bill 676, High-Speed Passenger Rail Safety

Vice Mayor Auwaerter said he commends Senator Mayfield, as this is a lonely fight. All the Chambers of Commerce south of us and north of us are against the bill and claim there are no issues of safety. What he particularly likes about this bill is the verbiage requiring fencing. Mayor Slater made **a motion to send a letter of support for SB 676, High Speed Passenger Rail Safety, to the Florida Legislature**, which was seconded by seconded by Councilman Carroll and **passed unanimously.**

e. Supervisor of Elections Agreement (Town Clerk) 10:25 AM

Mrs. Aldrich said this is an agreement that we receive from the Supervisor of Elections each year when there are elections held for Town Council. We are charged fifty cents per registered voter for that office to administer the Town elections, which involves ensuring the advertising is done properly, providing the equipment and staff to conduct the election, and performing the vote count and audit. As election official, the Town Clerk still administers qualifying procedures for the candidates, which includes receiving their financial reports. A close working relationship is maintained between the two offices during this process. Our Community Center will also be used for Florida’s Presidential Preference Primary on March 17, on August 18 for the Primary elections to determine each political party’s candidate; and for the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Presidential and General election, when there will be three open Town Council seats. Councilman Carroll made **a motion to approve the agreement with the Supervisor of Elections** which was seconded by Councilman Foley and **passed 5-0.**

8. Town Manager Updates

a. Town Manager Updates

The landscaping around Town Hall has been completed with the exception of one tree in front of Town Hall whose root ball is coming up and needs to be removed for the sake of safety. The employee parking lot is currently being expanded, and many pepper trees are being removed in the process.

The Old Winter Beach Road correction is taking place now and should be completed in one week. MBV Engineering will be monitoring the progress of that project.

b. Departmental Reports (Building, Finance, Town Clerk, Public Safety)

1) Building Official

2) Public Safety. Chief Rosell said the flu went around their department and everyone who called-in sick was checked to ensure they were home. Fire response times jumped up due to one call and a delay in receiving that call. There were many more runs to IRMC due to the volume of people in Town.

Vice Mayor Auwaerter asked whether Arcadis had completed their survey, and Mr. Griffin responded that they had, with the cooperation of the COVB. Mr. Griffin has a “debrief” appointment scheduled with them and is expecting their report shortly after that appointment.

3) Town Clerk

4) Town Treasurer. Mrs. Christmas said there will be a quarterly budget amendment resolution at the next meeting, and she is anticipating the financials for the March meeting. We are still awaiting the numbers for the General Employee’s Pension Plan. She has begun drafting the financial statement in the meantime.

Mayor Slater commented that our actuals to budget are looking very good.

c. Other Town Matters

9. **Council/Committee Reports or Non-Action Items**

*(MPO, EDC, TCCLG, TCRPC, IRC PSC Citizen’s Oversight Committee, CoVB Utilities Commission)*

a. Committee Reports

**TCCLG.** Councilman Foley said they focused on the 2020 census, which we are already well involved with as Mrs. Auwaerter is working on it. Water districts giving cost-sharing funds for certain water projects was also mentioned, which could be helpful to the Town.

b. Informational Updates or Comments

10. **Call to Audience**

11. **Adjournment** 10:32 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Approved at the February 27, 2020  
Regular Town Council meeting.

/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Aldrich, Town Clerk