

**JUPITER INLET COLONY
EMERGENCY COMMISSION MEETING
Jupiter Inlet Colony Town Hall
50 Colony Road**

LIVE AND VIA ZOOM
Meeting ID 585 628 8134

02/07/2024

6:00 PM

MINUTES

1. Mayor Ed Hocevar Called the Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll call for the record:

Mayor Ed Hocevar	Chief of Police Dan Kerr
Vice Mayor Mark Ciarfella	Town Administrator Kevin Lucas
Commissioner Marie Rosner	Town Attorney William P. Doney
Commissioner Bill Muir	Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo
Commissioner Sharon Seagren	

2. Discussion: Beach Erosion

An emergency meeting was called due to the beach erosion and the homes that were affected. There was a lengthy discussion between the Commission and residents. With the recent storms that happened, ocean front properties experienced significant beach erosion especially between lots 11 through 16. The current rock revetment ends in lot 11. The concern was what could the Town do immediately. Mayor Hocevar had a conference call with Doug Aaron from the DEP in Tallahassee. He was informed that the State was still under a State of an Emergency and as a result, the Town would not be required to pursue a permit in order to restore the land that was removed from the storm. The Town could proceed immediately provided that it has the means to replace the sand. They can replace the sand with similar sand, it cannot be taken from the beach, it can be trucked in. The sand must be of the same color, same grain, and consistent with what is already on the beach. This work would begin immediately. Mayor Hocevar has been working on access with the contractor. He stated they may be able to use lot 4, if not, they can use the beach walkway access which is less desirable to bring in the material. Another concern is that turtle season would be starting soon. It would be desirable if the work would be completed before March 1st but work can potentially be extended until the first part of May as long as the Town coordinates with the Marine Loggerhead staff who mark the nests. This would be the short-term solution to fixing the problem.

For the long-term solution, the Town will initiate the process to pursue a permit that would allow the continuation of the rock revetment from where it ends, at 11 Ocean, to continue it down the beach. Vice Mayor Ciarfella asked if the intent would be for the immediate replenishment and protection of the dune. It is not a beach renourishment project? It would be to replace the sand for the dune and then permit the rock revetment and let the beach come back naturally? Mayor Hocevar replied yes. The Town will pursue the permit, pursue access for the contractor but the financial responsibility for loading, trucking and bringing in the sand would fall on the property owners along the beach.

Since a permit would not be required, it would give the homeowners an opportunity to restore the dunes from the rock revetment west. Residents who do not have further erosion can chose to restore the rock revetment at this time, it would be considered as maintenance.

Resident Lori Jacobs, from 16 Ocean, stated she was concerned about the statement the Mayor said regarding the financial responsibility. She stated the residents pay extremely high taxes and asked if the Mayor would help them get the taxes lowered to help compensate for the cost? Will FEMA be involved or help them pay for this? She stated she has lived in Town approximately 27-28 years and this was the worst she has seen. Mrs. Jacobs asked where does the beach stop and where does the residents property stop? She stated that 90% of what is gone is the Town's and about 10% is the homeowners. She stated it is not fair to ask the homeowners to burden the cost. She does not think it's fair for the residents to put the sand back when it's the Town's beach. She asked the Mayor if he would help them go to FEMA or the County tax collector to get a cut in their taxes.

Kelly O'Hare, 13 Ocean, asked if they can get things moving and then split the cost.

Ted Rauch stated he had been working with the Jupiter Inlet Water District and they have a large amount of sand that is river and dredged sand which they want to get rid of and they offered it for free.

Stephen Hendrickson, 8 Ocean, stated that the Town of Jupiter Island is doing a \$27,000,000.00 beach renourishment project and about 10% came from the Town. 90% of that came from FEMA. He stated that they have a tax that all the residents pay into. Mr. Hendrickson also stated that he believes that the 25 landowners on the beach presently fund 25% of the budget. As the fourth highest tax payer he would be happy to pay a proportionate tax, whether a beach erosion tax or as part of the overall tax rate. He does not think it is fair for the people who do not have the rock revetment to pay 100% of the cost and hopes that the Town considers what money is available from FEMA and the State.

Chip Block stated that the Mayor has meetings set up with County Commissioner Maria Marino. Congressman Brian Mast's office was also contacted and his chief assistant will be coming with a representative with the Army Corp. He said it is important for the Town to say they will pursue any funds from FEMA or anywhere else in Federal, State or County government to help alleviate the financial burden. Mayor Hocevar stated he would also be in touch with Jupiter Island to find out how they did it.

Bernie Eastman, contractor that is working at Coral Cove Park and has also done work in Jupiter Island stated first thing the ocean needs to calm down so they can get equipment on the beach safely. They have to look for potential access points and target the homes that are of more concern. He stated they can take each individual home and specifically manage how many loads is added to their property. He recommended that the Town and its residents hire a coastal engineering firm that can answer questions and have the capability to obtain permits and navigate to try to get money and resources to pay for placing sand or upcoming revetment or sea walls. The sand is sacrificial, if there is another storm, it is not going to stay but it will allow each property to have some storm protection so that it takes the sand that was added rather than take mor property and undermine the homes. He stated sand would be brought in by truck haul, dump it on the beach and then reload it on off road trucks with the capability to travel on the beach and place the sand wherever it needs to be and then grade it. He stated he would stage the trucks offsite and radio each individual truck one at a time so that the community would continue to have access to get in and out of Town. The earliest start date would be the week of February 13th but they have to wait for the wave action to slow down and make sure there is enough beach to run on.

It was suggested to the Mayor to create a committee to assist the Mayor with this because this seems to be a long-term issue and he should not be doing this by himself.

Vice Mayor Ciarfella suggested to have another meeting on Friday because there are a lot of unknowns and maybe by then they will have more answers. He said it would be great to get a permit for the rock revetment and if there is any political pressure, they can put on the State to expedite the permit, it would be great.

3. **Wrap-up and adjourned at 7:08 p.m.**

Motion: Vice Mayor Ciarfella made a motion to approve.

Second: Commissioner Seagren seconded the motion.

Motion passed 5-0.

Approved by:

Mayor Ed Hocevar

Date

Town Clerk Ivelisse Chico-Randazzo

Date

STATE MANDATED STATEMENT

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency, or Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he/she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he/she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Any person requiring special accommodation at this meeting because of a disability or physical impairment should contact the Town prior to the meeting. Please contact the Town Administration Office, Administration Building, 50 Colony Road, Jupiter Inlet Colony, and FL 33469, telephone 561-746-3787.

DRAFT