

Town of Southern Shores Mayor's Chat June 3, 2008

Here are the questions and comments from this month's chat. In *Italic* are the answers received after the meeting.

Mayor Smith thanked everyone for coming and explained he will not be talking about the budget and please don't ask questions on the budget as the budget public hearing will be at tonight's council meeting. Mayor Smith explained he will be showing a short presentation on the Shoreline Management project done in Southern Shores.

Mayor Smith stated each year the Town will receive money from the interest on the extra sales tax collected last year. This fall the Town should receive about \$23,000. This project can be seen on the Town website, go to "[Project](#)", (Note: pictures go from north 13th Ave. to Pelican Watch).

Alvin Rountree, Town Code Enforcement Administrator explained that Pelican Watch ocean front received new sand fence and planting this year. However, two weeks later a winter storm removed all the sand fence and grass plantings, exposed the sand bags and eroded the dune line. The dune line is now in serious jeopardy of making the oceanfront condos "imminently threatened". This means the erosion escarpment must be located within 20 feet of the structures' foundation and if the dune line fails again it is possible that the condos would meet this definition and the buildings will have to be moved westward or taken down. The property owner's of Pelican Watch are going to the Army Corps of Engineers to ask for an emergency beach push. Once the beach push is done the town will install sand fencing and plant beach grass.

Mayor Smith opened the floor up for questions.

Dave Sander stated this is the third time he knows of this kind of exposure and they have never had beach push but the sand came back. Sometimes even with no storms the sand was taken away, but it does return. He suggested contacting Sea Grant who has information on dunes preservation.

Bobby Walters, 60 Hickory Tr., asked about the enforcement on the dogs on the beach. Mayor Smith answered the POLICE DEPARTMENT has a part-time Community Resource Officer (CRO) to patrol beaches and beach parking. Bobby wanted to know when they patrol etc. Mayor Smith stated we will check with the Chief Kole. *Chief Kole reported the CRO does not have a specific time that he patrols the beach and added another large part of his duties are enforcing parking regulations, the CRO will be working 35 hours per week, and his shifts are staggered so we have him working some weekends etc. His hours can range anywhere from 9am – 10p on any given day.*

Sarah Tyler, 165 Wax Myrtle Tr., explained she would like the dogs on the beach law changed. The current law is antiquated and we need to readdress the law. She suggested maybe reducing no dogs on the beach to June 15 to September 1st. Sarah explained the

beaches aren't really crowded, weather is good, and resident would like to bring the dogs to the beach. Mayor Smith stated Council can review her request.

Al Smith, 279 Sea Oats Trail explained this law was to protect kids playing on the beach because people don't clean up after their dogs. After a discussion on loose dogs and how hard it is to enforce, Sarah stated if you have a problem with a loose dog you should call the SPCA. They can pick up the dogs where the Police Department can not. They charge the owners a fee before they can have the dog back.

Steve Uperti, 157 Wax Myrtle Tr., asked if there is going to be a proposed tax decrease and how is that going to effect our share of the shared revenues. Mayor Smith explained Steve came in late and he missed that the budget will be discussed at tonight's budget hearing.

Ray Sharp, 46 Fairway Drive stated in Mayor Smith's letter he sent when he ran for office stated he was a visionary thinker and how will he vision the town in 5, 10, 15 years with roads, bike paths etc. Mayor Smith explained we have a roads committee, stormwater committee, working on a Capital Improvement Plan and the Land Use Plan is in the process of being updated. Mayor Smith feels we don't need multi-use paths; no money for these projects, we would have to raise taxes.

Pete Macfarlane, 67 Trinitie Tr., asked what we are going to do about the brush out now that the chipping program is over. Merrie explained this week we will notify property owners that the brush needs to be moved from the Town's rights-of-way as soon as possible or action will be taken.

Ed Cowell, 134 Beech Tree Tr., stated it is dangerous driving on S. Dogwood without a bike path because people walk and bikers are in the street.

Maryellen Holland, 23 Spindrift Trail, stated most people don't use the bike path in Chicahauk Trail. Mayor Smith explained some bikers don't like to use the path with walkers using it.

Submitted by Merrie Smith