

## **Memorandum**

**Date:** February 25, 2010  
**To:** Mayor & Commissioners  
**From:** Ken Schenck, Town Manager  
**Re:** Town Update – March, 2010

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I am providing you with brief updates on some of the Town's continuing projects and events.

### **COCONUT LANE DRAINAGE -**

This project is on hold until the Commission decides whether or not to proceed depending on the availability of funds. We have received the construction permits from the SFWMD. The construction permit is good for 5 years and the dewatering permit for 1 year. The dewatering permit has been renewed for another year. We have submitted the project to the State for a 319 grant which would pay for 30% of the cost we have received a verbal confirmation that we are in line for a grant of \$119,000. The funds won't be available until next summer.

### **OCEAN AVE. LANDSCAPE-**

We are working with the landscaper to do some fill in plantings in lieu of the overhaul originally proposed. The Garden Club, under the supervision of Commissioner Bingham, has completed the planting of the Lilies which will add to the beauty of the landscaping. We greatly appreciate their hard work on this project. We sent a letter to the residents on Ocean Ave. reminding them not to put trash or vegetation for pickup in the landscaped islands.

### **ISLAND DRIVE BRIDGE -**

Construction started on the bridge replacement the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. One lane will remain open at all times. The project is on schedule. The water lines have been changed and approved by Boynton Beach. The contractor is waiting for FPL to move the poles from the south side back to the north side. Traffic has been moved to the north lane.

### **OLD OCEAN BLVD.-**

The Garden Club Dune Committee has developed a plan to landscape this section. A draft plan is attached. Jerry Lower will make a brief status report at the meeting with more details to follow in March. They plan to remove the invasive vegetation in April and then begin planting new vegetation when that has been completed. They will be working with the State and DERM and will present the plan to the Commission for approval. They have contacted the owners of the neighboring properties to try a coordinated effort.

### **Zoning Code Recommendations -**

The Planning and Zoning Board met in January on the “green” codes. Their recommendations were addressed during the February Commission meeting and no new recommendations are proposed at this time.

### **Pedestrian Crossing Street Signs-**

FDOT approved the permit and the MOT proposal. Kilbourne and Sons Inc. are scheduling the installation.

### **Police Report -**

The police report for the January activities is attached.

### **Harbour Drive Plantings -**

The residents of Harbour Drive have met and are discussing their desires for the entrance landscaping. We’re waiting for their comments before we do anything. We have not heard anything to date.

### **Town Hall Painting Exhibit -**

The first showing opened on February 25<sup>th</sup> with 3 artists displaying their paintings and sculptures. All three artists are residents of Ocean Ridge. The exhibit will run for about two months. We hope this is the first of many. We've been contacted by several other local artists who would like to display their works. We'll have a report on the exhibit at the meeting.

### **Energy Grants-**

We hope to hear in March about the \$50,000 County grant to make improvements on Town Hall. The State Department of Energy is still reviewing the application but the initial feedback has been very positive. We submitted a separate grant for \$225,000 to the State by the Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> deadline for funding to purchase a hybrid truck and a police SUV. This State grant also includes funding for residential energy saving incentives. The State received about 100 applications for this grant. We don't know how they will rank them or what their preferences will be. A third State grant will be due in March but the State hasn't finalized that program yet. We hope to address the natural gas lines in that grant if they are determined eligible. We sent a questionnaire to the residents with their trash bills to determine their interest in bringing natural gas into the Town. We received an excellent response. We sent out over 1000 questionnaires and received 289 responses. Of the single family responses 111 were in favor of natural gas and 127 were not in favor. Of the multi family responses 15 were in favor and 36 were against.

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### **Telephone Contract-**

We contracted with the League of Cities last year to review our telephone expenses. They have developed some cost saving ideas that we have been reviewing. We are also interviewing other companies besides ATT. We have a present contract with ATT but when that expires in the summer we believe we'll be able to reduce our telephone costs. We're still reviewing the options.

### **Town Hall Pond-**

We had some problems with the Town Hall pond during the heavy rains the end of December. We met with the contractor to try to determine what happened to create the problem of the pond liner rising. Digby Bridges is meeting with the contractor to discuss the solution. The contractor said the repairs could be as much as \$5,000. A revised proposal will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Dune Maintenance-**

We recently sent a letter to all of the homeowners that have dune property reminding them of the regulations for dune maintenance and planting. We will also send it to each registered landscape company along with some guidelines for maintenance and grass and leaf blowing.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS-**

Commission Meeting -----April 5, 2010 @ 6:00 P.M.

Code Enforcement----- March 2, 2010 @ 10:00 A.M.

cc: Edward Hillery, Police Chief  
Karen Hancsak, Town Clerk  
Town Employees