

Memorandum

Agenda Item # 8

Date: October 29, 2016**To:** Honorable Mayor and Commissioners**From:** Jamie Titcomb, Town Manager**Re:** Town Manager Report – Regular Town Commission Meeting

Hurricane Matthew: Town personnel fully engaged for emergency preparations, staffing and mitigate impacts of last month's Hurricane Matthew, though luckily spared major impact from the storm. Initial costs incurred were reported at \$32,000 for FEMA calculations to the EOC under the Town emergency declaration. The final numbers will be reviewed and presented when accounting is complete. Evacuations initially publicized as voluntary by PBC-EOC became mandatory quickly, however many barrier island residents chose to stay put, or relocate nearby. Police Department, Administration and Public Works staff were on site throughout, non-essential employees were sent home "on-call" to stay out of harm's way.

Town Hall remained closed to the public throughout the storm and through the Columbus Day holiday weekend. Solid Waste Authority & Republic Services worked with the Town to expedite debris pick-ups. Public Works staged as first responders with equipment for clearing emergencies. Boynton Beach closed Oceanfront Park and Palm Beach County closed county parks in the emergency period. The Town website and push communication vehicles were updated to refer residents to official points of update and keep ever vigilant, as these storms are unpredictable and can shift in course and impact without warning at any time.

DEP Beach Update: As a result of Hurricane Matthew, the DEP issued an Emergency Final Order (EFO) through November 2. The EFO gave local governments the authority to issue permits for minor repair of dune crossovers, provided the structure remains substantially intact. Minor, locally-approved repairs could be conducted prior to the end of turtle season. On the other hand, if a crossover was substantially damaged and requires major rebuilding or replacement, it would need a DEP field permit for the work. Major reconstruction that needs authorization from DEP will need to wait until turtle season ends (i.e. November 1).

Beach erosion impacts have been worse since the named storm's passage due to other related ocean conditions and there are several acute dangers along the shoreline unearthed by the shifting sands for the first time in decades, we are working with private property owners, DEP, contractors, the building official and town staff to mitigate whatever we can. An emergency call out on our website warns residents to be vigilant of the surfside dangers.

Quick Action by PD: An appreciative shout out is in order for our Police first responders Lt. Jones and Officer McAllister due to their quick action responding to small fire at 5720 Old Ocean, in "Ocean Terrace" townhouses on October 17th which was quickly extinguished by them and preventing additional damages to adjacent units. Boynton Beach Fire followed in securing and processing the scene. In the process, a non-working fire hydrant in close proximity on Adams Street was identified and corrected to working order as a result of this call.

Audit Selection Committee: The committee met with a representative of the IG office in attendance. The committee reviewed the Draft RFP, tweaked some content and were briefed on the necessity for the expanded content under the standards required for compliance. The Town Attorney reissued the RFP with requested changes and it is in the process of being circulated to the public and to appropriate publication for a December selection timeline.

Ocean Ave Drainage: We received confirmation from FDOT engineers that a “Red Valve” (tidal back flow preventer) installation is on order and expected in the next month for the west end of Ocean Avenue Retention area system to help prevent backflow flooding on Ocean.

Woolbright Detention Area: We have met with short-listed vendor specialist for environmental restoration work at the Woolbright Detention stormwater facility basin to address the exotic invasive overgrowth and quality of the biosphere plant material. Our current vendors are stepping up eradication efforts while new proposals are being weighed for additional comprehensive overhaul of the planted topsides. The subterranean infrastructure is being inspected and assessed for its functional condition in conjunction with these efforts. We are hopeful topside efforts will actually reduce cost and needs to address maintenance of the subterranean piece. We plan to convene a resident orientation meeting with adjacent property owners before commencing the full restoration project.

Urban Administration Policy: I attended Florida League of Cities’ Urban Administration Policy Committee meetings Friday October 28th representing Ocean Ridge. Our committee addressed and prioritized advocacy for legislation reform on: 1. Predatory and intentional disruption aspects of current Public Records Laws; 2. Returning local municipal control for code and zoning “home rule” options over Short Term/Vacation Rentals in our jurisdictions; and addressed grave concern for state Legislative attempts to realign local Municipal Elections to State and National election cycles versus the dates codified in a majority of local government Charters/Code as voted on by the citizens. Issue discussions and resources are available at this link: <http://www.floridaleagueofcities.com/UrbanAdministration.aspx>

“Shots Fired” 911 Incident: A full Police Department Internal Review has been initiated in conjunction with the 911 call incident reports and response on October 22. The purpose of the required internal review is to fact find, verify records as reported, interview witnesses, and receive any additional relative information submitted to the Town for this purpose. We urge patience to allow this active investigation to run its course. The Town is following the protocols regulations require and will engage additional resources (internal or external) at any time the investigation may warrant such. In addition the Town is compiling and fulfilling multiple public records requests as presented.

Respectfully,


Town Manager