



TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH ♦ TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
January 23, 2008 ♦ 5:00 o'clock p.m.

STORMWATER COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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8 **1. INTRODUCTION**

9 The meeting came to order at 5:00 PM. Those in attendance were the new Stormwater Committee  
10 members: P.L. Mabry, Daniel Sine, Ken Harbin and Jerry Strange. William Blankenship was  
11 absent. Staff present: Town Administrator, Mr. Booth and Town Clerk, Ms. Pinnell. Mr. Booth  
12 introduced himself to the committee. Mr. Booth explained that this meeting is simply introductory in  
13 nature.  
14

15 **2. INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE**

16 Mr. Ken Harbin introduced himself stating that he does not have any stormwater or engineering  
17 background knowledge. He stated that Councilmember Martin suggested that he might want to get  
18 involved with the Stormwater Committee. Mr. Harbin gave a quick background of himself stating that  
19 he finished University of South Carolina was a counselor working with family court kids for a while  
20 and then went into real estate where he currently is. He has lived in Surfside for the past two years.  
21

22 Mr. Dan Sine introduced himself stating that he has lived in town since 1997 when he moved here  
23 from Binghamton, New York to go to college. Mr. Sine stated that he has been in real estate since  
24 2001 where he worked for Chicora then McQuiddy and is currently with Dunes Realty. Mr. Sine  
25 stated that he has wanted to get onto a committee in town for the past six or seven years and this is  
26 his first opportunity and he is looking forward to it.  
27

28 Mr. Jerry Strange stated that he lives on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North where he has lived since 1991. He is a  
29 retired martial artist and currently works part time at Wal-Mart two or three days a week and goes to  
30 the mountains whenever he can.  
31

32 P.L. Mabry stated that he lives on 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. He moved to the beach in 1973. He was a  
33 field engineer for McCrory and Sunbelt Construction Company on the Landmark Motor Inn, Regent  
34 Towers, Indigo Inn and Contessa Motor Inn. Mr. Mabry stated that in 1977 he built the Harris Teeter  
35 in Surfside and the towers in Ocean Lakes. Mr. Mabry stated that he was the Field Engineer for the  
36 Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority on the Plant G. Mr. Mabry stated that he then became  
37 self-employed and he has been in construction all his life.  
38

39 **3. MISSION STATEMENT**

40 Mr. Booth stated that the next step the Committee would need to accomplish would be to come up  
41 with a mission statement that would decide and discuss the purpose and objectives of the  
42 Stormwater Committee. Mr. Booth stated that he would like the Committee to be involved with the  
43 dredging of the lakes; to look at the lakes and review the bids that the town receives. Mr. Booth  
44 stated that once these have been reviewed the Committee would need to come to Council with a  
45 recommendation. Mr. Booth stated that the Committee would be figuring out the best way and the  
46 least costly. There was additional discussion regarding the bids the town is receiving. Mr. Booth told  
47 the Committee that he would be going over the bid process and the various dredging techniques and  
48 pros and cons of each with them. It was confirmed that the instruction of Council was to get  
49 separate bid prices per lake to dredge. Mr. Booth stated that he might have trouble gaining access  
50 to lakes like Myrtle and some of the lakes may be done in house. Mr. Booth stated that the  
51 Committees mission statement would include the projects they need to take care of.  
52

53 **4. BUSINESS**

54 *i. Meeting Schedule.* Mr. Booth asked the Committee if they were available any time before 5 PM  
55 for future meetings. The Committee members stated that they would be available earlier as long  
56 as they had enough notice. Mr. Booth stated that he would take the Committee around and  
57 show them the lakes that need dredging along with various projects in town. Mr. Mabry agreed  
58 that a field trip would be beneficial. Mr. Booth stated that there are different procedures that the  
59 lake dredging companies use to dredge lakes and they would go over these as well. Choosing a  
60 particular meeting date a month was discussed. Mr. Booth stated that he would like to meet  
61 twice next month, once to look at the lakes and then again to look at the bids. Mr. Booth stated  
62 that once the bids are reviewed he would ask the Committee for a recommendation and then

63 take it to Council. Mr. Booth stated that he would review the bids first so he has some  
64 knowledge of each one and then they would be looked at as a group. Mr. Booth stated that he  
65 has been given approval from the Corp of Engineers to go ahead with the dredging since permits  
66 are not needed for these particular lakes; they are stormwater lakes. Mr. Sine asked if anyone  
67 would be addressing the environmental impact and Mr. Booth stated that this is only necessary  
68 with lakes requiring permitting. Mr. Booth stated that the town saved \$66,000 by not having to  
69 get permits for these retention ponds. It was determined that the next meeting would be  
70 scheduled for Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM. Mr. Mabry asked if the engineer would be at  
71 the meeting. Mr. Booth stated that he would arrange for someone from Earthworks to be at the  
72 next meeting. Mr. Booth stated that the time frame of the project would run approximately 6  
73 months. Mr. Sine stated that one of his recommendations would be is to contact other  
74 municipalities to see how they did their dredging and how they faired. Mr. Booth stated that  
75 there are not many towns around that have done this and we are on the leading edge and the  
76 reason is that many of these stormwater ponds were not required too long ago and very few  
77 have gotten cleaned out. Mr. Booth stated that he believes that Ocean Lakes had cleaned out  
78 their pond so he will contact them to see how that went. It was confirmed that the next meeting  
79 after the February 13<sup>th</sup> meeting would be on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. Mr. Mabry asked what  
80 volume are the lakes being requested to be dredged at and Mr. Booth answered that the best  
81 treatment, per Ms. Libes, could be done at 4 feet.

82 **ii. 5 Mil Property Tax** - Mr. Booth stated that the Committee will need to discuss where we will get  
83 the money to clean the lakes and one of the recommendations that the Stormwater Committee  
84 needs to discuss is to continue the 5 mils. Mr. Booth explained that the Committee will discuss  
85 the need and then Council will make the decision as to whether to continue it or not. Mr. Booth  
86 stated that we currently still have money in the budget from the millage that we have already  
87 received; this will be spent on existing projects and then it would be considered to continue for  
88 other projects. Mr. Mabry stated we still have yet to do the North end where stormwater  
89 problems currently exist so the town still does have other projects to consider. Mr. Booth agreed  
90 that there is still a need. Mr. Sine stated that he would think that stormwater should be one of  
91 the top priorities for the town. Mr. Booth stated that it was but since the town has done so many  
92 projects it is not a major issue and also it has not rained in some time and people tend to forget.  
93 Mr. Sine added if a problem did arise they would be reminded.

94 **iii. Schedule of Committee Projects Visits** - Mr. Booth stated that one of the more important  
95 projects in town is the 5<sup>th</sup> street outfall. Mr. Booth stated that this is one of the areas he will be  
96 touring with the Committee. There was some discussion as to the location of the outfall and it  
97 was determined that it was 5<sup>th</sup> North by the Ocean. Mr. Booth stated that the Committee would  
98 also be reviewing the drainage system that was not done and Earthworks would be brought in;  
99 they did a lot of the studies surrounding this.

100 **iv. Federal Funding for Surfside Beach** - Mr. Booth reported that the funding has not been  
101 passed but the law has given the town 11 million dollars to do stormwater projects. Mr. Booth  
102 stated that the other towns want to pipe the stormwater out into the ocean 900 to 1100 feet but if  
103 you talked to Dr. Libes and other stormwater scientists they would tell you that this does not do  
104 any good because the water comes right back; instead of centralizing in one little area it spreads  
105 it all out. Mr. Booth stated that it would cost approximately 3 to 4 million for a swash and added  
106 that he believes that Council thinks it would be better if we closed off all of the swashes by  
107 putting box culverts in; it would make it look better and it would still run down the beach. The  
108 water could be strained and treated with ultra-violet light and then you are left with a clean  
109 product that continues out to the ocean. Mr. Booth confirmed that this would be done at each  
110 swash. Mr. Mabry stated that we would need to keep in mind the volume of water that is  
111 transferred from the swashes to the ocean and that he would think it would be impossible to treat  
112 all of this water. Mr. Booth stated that there is currently a pilot project out there and that we are  
113 just talking about treating it enough to kill off a good portion of the bacteria; it has been done in  
114 the County already. Mr. Booth stated that the question is as we move with the stormwater  
115 permits the Federal Government will make us treat the stormwater; this is their goal and they are  
116 going to be treating this the way they do the sewers. The sewers were a part of the Clean Act  
117 Water of 1972, which required towns to treat their sewers. Mr. Sine stated that we are at the  
118 bottom and we receive stormwater from the County and Deerfield is a reality and he knows they  
119 are working on this now and asked if there would ever be an opportunity for Deerfield to treat  
120 some of their water. Mr. Booth stated that this is something we need to negotiate in the future;  
121 we have an agreement with the County that allows them to bring the stormwater here but only a  
122 certain amount. Mr. Mabry stated that approximately 8 or 9 years ago the town entered into the

123 agreement with the County about transferring water and with that agreement the County stated  
124 that they were going to build some retention ponds on the other side of 17 to treat this and stated  
125 that they have yet to build anything over there. Mr. Booth stated that the County has just started  
126 to work on this. Mr. Booth stated that he had reviewed the agreement and it was not very  
127 beneficial to the town; it did not give time lines and it threw a lot on the town.  
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129 Councilman Samples stated that the agreement required that a base line study be done and for  
130 7 years the town failed to conduct the baseline study. Mr. Sine added that it was our own fault  
131 then and Mr. Booth agreed stating that part of it was the town's fault. Councilman Samples  
132 stated that we did not hold up to our end of the deal and whoever signed off on it should have  
133 started on getting it going the very next day. Mr. Booth stated that Dr. Libes has the contract to  
134 do it and he realizes that they get busy and he has a push for her to get this going. Mr. Booth  
135 explained that the baseline study includes both pollutants and amount of discharge. Mr. Deaton  
136 stated that he was a Councilman on the Stormwater Committee when it first started and the town  
137 was 2 years ahead of the curve. Mr. Deaton explained that the contract that was negotiated with  
138 the County was mostly concerned with the 72 inch pipe that was to come under 17 and at the  
139 time there was supposed to be some kind of restriction put in which was never put in; they ran  
140 into all kinds of problems with sediment and trash and at the time they built a retaining wall two  
141 thirds of the way on the 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the north side of the wake itself and they came in and put  
142 a larger culvert coming from lake Elizabeth into Lake Dogwood and then they built the weir at the  
143 end of Dogwood Lake on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue North. Mr. Deaton continued to state that the County paid  
144 for the entire infrastructure, it was approximately 900,000 dollars of work, which was a major  
145 infrastructure investment by the County. Mr. Deaton stated that they were to be responsible for  
146 70 percent of any kind of damage repairs or maintenance that needed to be done. Mr. Deaton  
147 stated that the water quality issue was to be the Town's responsibility and no one ever contacted  
148 anyone to initiate those studies or samplings to be done. Mr. Deaton stated that our part "fell  
149 through the cracks". Mr. Deaton stated that if anyone on the Committee needs any information  
150 they could call him; he has a lot of background on the stormwater issues. Mr. Booth stated that  
151 they would need to do testing on the water that comes from the County and also on the water  
152 that is pushed off onto the County on 15<sup>th</sup> Street/Melody Lane. Mr. Booth stated that he needs a  
153 baseline prior to doing the dredging as well because sooner or later the Federal Government will  
154 require us to do our quality of water testing. Mr. Booth stated that we will take a baseline prior to  
155 the start of the project and then again once it is completed to show the improvement. Mr. Sine  
156 asked if grant money was available for projects like these and Mr. Booth answered no. Mr.  
157 Booth stated that the Federal Government has allowed the States to establish stormwater impact  
158 fees and about 80 or 90 percent of the towns have an impact fee. The town of Surfside Beach  
159 had elected to do a 5 mil on our property tax. Mr. Booth stated that our Environmental Control  
160 Stormwater permit allows us to have a stormwater system and requires us to have a Stormwater  
161 Committee. Mr. Harbin asked if we are monitoring water quality of any type on a regular basis  
162 and Mr. Booth answered that we are doing this only on the beaches. Mr. Mabry stated that  
163 Coastal Carolina was doing a study a few months back at the Bi-lo and asked for confirmation  
164 that they are working on the stormwater and Mr. Booth confirmed that they were. Mr. Booth  
165 stated that he likes Dr. Libes and added that she really knows stormwater. Mr. Booth stated that  
166 he feels that the Stormwater Committee will enjoy being on this Committee and he added that he  
167 believes that they will make a big impact with the town; it is needed. Mr. Booth stated that it  
168 would be impossible with everything that Council has to deal with to not have certain  
169 Committees to assist them in reviewing particular projects and issues more in depth.  
170


171 Mr. Mabry stated that the Committee will be going through an educational process and Mr. Booth  
172 stated that he would provide whatever experts the Committee feels they need to help make  
173 educated recommendations to Council. Mr. Booth confirmed that if any member misses a  
174 meeting they could come in and meet with him and he would fill them in. Councilman Samples  
175 addresses the Committee adding that the town currently has a stormwater management  
176 ordinance in place, which Earthworks helped put together and it includes a lot of best  
177 management practices, which may be beneficial to the Committee to follow up on. Mr. Samples  
178 stated that it might also help if they read the NPDES permit. Mr. Booth stated that he would get  
179 the Committee a copy of the Phase II permit. Mr. Sine stated that this might be a big part of their  
180 mission statement they come up with. Mr. Booth stated that we are currently at the education  
181 phase where we are supposed to educate the public. Mr. Booth added that some of the basic  
182 pollutants are birds and pets and they plan on passing out flyers and advertising the awareness

183 in the newsletter. Mr. Sine asked if the stormwater includes, for an example, if Earthworks does  
184 a site plan for new construction and Mr. Booth answered no, adding that this process, per our  
185 ordinance, is if someone has new construction they get their own engineer and this engineer will  
186 sign off on these plans. Mr. Booth added that the town's building official is getting certified so  
187 that she can look over these plans and make sure the engineer has done their work. Mr. Booth  
188 added that this would be part of the building permit and not really the stormwater. Mr. Sine  
189 asked about the catch basins and Mr. Booth stated that the Committee could look at these with  
190 possibly doing pervious cement over catch basins.

191  
192 Mr. Booth stated that after February the Stormwater Committee would have a standing meeting  
193 set each month. It was discussed that the public could join in the lake and stormwater tour at  
194 3:00 PM on February 13<sup>th</sup> if they so chose to. Mr. Booth stated that the Committee would need  
195 to choose a Chairman at the next meeting.

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198 **ADJOURNMENT**

199 The meeting was adjourned 5:50 PM

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202 \_\_\_\_\_  
203 Sharon Pinnell, Town Clerk

204 Approved: February 13, 2008

205   
206 \_\_\_\_\_  
207 Ed Booth, Town Administrator

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211 Clerk's Note: This document constitutes minutes of the meeting, which was audio taped. In accordance with FOIA, meeting notice and the agenda  
212 were faxed and/or emailed to local media and interested parties. A complete list is on file in the clerk's office. The agenda was posted on bulletin  
213 boards outside council chambers and in the town hall reception area. Meeting notice was also posted on the town marquee.