

MINUTES
KITTY HAWK TOWN COUNCIL
Monday, April 3, 2023
Kitty Hawk Town Hall, 6 PM

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Presentations:
 - Introduction of Laura Walker, Administrative Services Director
 - Police Detective Jeff Gard/25 Years of Service
 - Dills Architects – New Police Department Building
 - Stephanie Baker, Assistant Director of Outer Banks Hotline *(added during the meeting)*
5. Public Comment
6. Consent Agenda
 - a.) Approval of March 6, 16 and 17, 2023 Council Minutes
 - b.) Proclamation Designating April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month
7. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
8. Ongoing Business:
 - a.) Trails Update
9. Reports/General Comments from Town Manager
10. Reports/General Comments from Town Attorney
11. Reports/General Comments from Town Council
12. Closed Session: N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) in order to consult with the town attorney regarding matters protected within the attorney-client privilege and to preserve that privilege; and as allowed by N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss one or more confidential personnel matters. Also, N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) for approval of the June 6, 2022, July 21, 2022 and September 2, 2022.
13. Return to Regular Session
14. Adjourn

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Craig Garriss, Mayor Pro Tem Jeff Pruitt, Councilman David Hines, Councilwoman Lynne McClean and Councilwoman Charlotte Walker

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Town Manager Melody Clopton, Town Clerk Lynn Morris, Town Attorney Casey Varnell, Planning Director Rob Testerman, ASD Laura Walker, Finance Officer Liliana Noble, Police Lieutenant Jimmy Helms, Fire Chief Mike Talley and PWD Willie Midgett

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Garriss called this meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Garriss said there is an amendment to the agenda. Stephanie Baker with Hotline would like to make a presentation.

Councilwoman McClean made a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilwoman Walker seconded and it was approved unanimously, 5-0.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

- Introduction of Laura Walker, Administrative Services Director – Manager Clopton introduced Ms. Walker, the new Administrative Services Director. The mayor and council welcomed her to the town.
- Police Detective Jeff Gard/25 Years of Service – Interim Police Chief Jimmy Helms presented Detective Gard with a plaque for his 25 years of service to the town.
- Dills Architects – New Police Department Building

Manager Clopton introduced Anna Campbell, PM and Clay Dills, President, Dills Architect.

Dills: *We went through three or four rounds of early programming trying to get our arms around what the department needs to function right and how to do it the right way. How do we do it in the existing building. Make it all work and make it cost effective and efficient.*

The first rounds look and feel like a wish list, here is everything we would love to have. That has been refined over several iterations. Lots of meetings, lots of time with the department and everyone involved. Thanks to Melody for orchestrating that. Then we took a harder look now that we are getting serious. The plan you see in front of you now is another iteration of what is essentially needed. This is what we think the department must have.

We narrowed it down to roughly 12,000 square feet including the existing building that we are reusing and renovating. The costs associated with that are in your package. At this point those are conservative numbers. We think at some point we are going to get the message of “hey, we have “x” to spend,” and we are going to work with that budget.

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A lot of what we do as a design team includes architecture and interiors, civil engineering, surveying, mechanical, electrical plumbing, fire protection and special systems. All those things that go into a police department building. Part of our job is to make sure that we are all on budget and schedule. We do those things efficiently.

What you see on the plan there is us wiggling down to the essentials and then trying to get to some general, conservative, early construction numbers. We used Jakob Osmundson's company from North Carolina. He used to live on the Outer Banks, and he has a good feel for local contracting and subcontractors. Again, these are conservative at this point, so we are rounding the numbers up.

There is a 10% contingency. If you look at Phase I, it is \$4.88 million and almost a half million of that is contingency. Those numbers are inclusive of furniture, equipment and special systems which can be a big, itemized number for a police department. We must make sure we are regulatory compliant with what agencies need.

Campbell: *Phase I is inclusive of the existing building. Phase II has animal control and some bunking and then Phase III is the firing range and mechanical and storage that would go along with that phase.*

Dills: *We went back and re-examined where we can save walls, save systems and reuse. This plan is starting to get at that a lot better and a lot more efficient for overall costs. On the right of that plan is the major addition to the building. It is a new entrance, meeting, and administrative space and then the rest of it is essentially in the renovated area.*

Garriss: *Renovating and the building addition are basically the same dollar wise even though the square footage is different.*

Campbell: *And the building addition includes sitework so that would be the difference as well.*

Dills: *Smaller new addition but it costs more to build new than it is to reuse an existing building.*

Hines: *If you are adding that additional square footage what sitework do you really have to do with an open parking lot there? I know there is some sitework, but you say there is some dollar amount. What is the dollar amount?*

Campbell: *I think it is looking at the site and the space that we are going to be building as well as the utilities and the existing _____ that is there. Tying it into the space. Now it is a building with a couple of different tenant areas so we must parcel out the tenant spaces for what would stay versus our space. There will be a separate tenant for some of those utilities. It is looking at tying all that into the new addition as well.*

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Dills: *We are adding a sally port and there are those little drive isles and associated parking that comes with it. There is some paving and grading. If you are looking for a number for that new construction, it is 15 to 20 %.*

Hines: *If it is not used what happens? Does it come back? If the 15 to 20% is not utilized ...*

Dills: *Yes. Backing up a second. We are planning that this is going to be a low bid project which means we are not partnered with a contractor. If you say you do not need sitework, we are going to take it out of the project, and it never shows up on bid day.*

Hines: *Okay. Thank you.*

Dills: *If you do not need it, you tell us you do not need it and we take it out of the project. When it goes to bid no one knows the project has decreased.*

Hines: *Right. I am not saying there is not going to be some sitework. I was just curious how you came up with ...*

Dills: *If we do not need it then 20% is out of that number. And again, these are conservative right now.*

Campbell: *There are always some assumptions with sitework I think going into it too.*

Hines: *Sure. Thank you.*

Campbell: *We have an agreement fee based on the numbers broken out for Phase I, II, III. Like we said Phase I is the renovated space. There is a line item for that as well as the building addition and the special systems. You will see special systems in both Phase I and II. We separated those costs out. Phase II is the building addition which would be in the back as you see with the animal hoteling and the bunking area. Phase III is the firing range. We always carried the firing range as its own separate phase, so we kept it that way. That number is not a low number by any means. We wanted you to see it as its own entity.*

Dills: *A lot of this is derived from the CCI who does work around here and all over the state of Virginia. They look at current bids, current things that are happening in the market. This was done at the end of March. On the way here we were talking to people about the costs of construction, and it is in a downward trend. A year to a year and a half ago it was anything but that. It was in a constant incline. If we can get some bid documents together, we may be able to seize an opportunity where we have lower construction costs on bid day.*

Garriss: *If we go through with this project can we try to give some local people jobs?*

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Dills: *Absolutely. If the workforce is present. We can build that into the documents that go out to bid. We are not teamed up with a contractor. We are a design team that is going to build those documents for you which means if you want it in there or want to add something or take it away, whatever you want to see on bid day, we will ensure it is there including the labor force.*

Hines: *I want to back into your numbers a little, okay? You have \$163,928 for your design documents. That is roughly \$13.50 a square foot. Your PME design services are \$89,350. I have found those numbers to be generally a lot less speaking to other architects. I guess I am trying to understand ... let me back up for one second. I am sorry. The original plan that you have done to date, the rendering that you are showing tonight. What did we pay for that?*

Clopton: *That schematic design cost us a little less than \$50,000.*

Hines: *Little less than \$50,000. Do we own that now? Do we have the right to it or is that*

Clopton: *It is ours.*

Dills: *Yes, you own it.*

McClean: *Do we have it in electronic format? In CAD format?*

Clopton: *We do not have CAD. We have a pdf.*

Dills: *We have it drawn in Revit which is a CAD type of software, and you can certainly have that. It is yours.*

Hines: *Tell me a little about your cost estimates because I have kind of found they are not quite as useful in our environment here. Maybe up in Hampton Roads. It is a lot different.*

Dills: *Are you talking about construction costs?*

Hines: *The cost estimators that you use and things of that effect.*

Dills: *Jacob Osmundson has been a long-term guide for us. He lived here, estimated a lot of jobs on the Outer Banks or close by, Currituck and Manteo. We put a lot of faith in them. There have not been a lot of police public safety buildings built here locally so you can see some of these are out a little way. We probably had ten conversations where I grilled him about where he was pulling these numbers from. You see these numbers are much higher.*

Hines: *Right.*

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Dills: *Again, these are conservative. Pull these things out and these numbers all fall. Yes. I put pretty good faith in him. When he does these, he gets it right back to me.*

Campbell: *He sends us studies, reports, and updates on numbers.*

Dills: *He left me a voice mail over the weekend. It is almost 20% cheaper right now for some of his bids. I just heard that from him on Saturday. He is trying to update us on costs because he knows we are going to stand here and answer questions.*

Hines: *If I look at your design document that we are discussing now and then I drop down to your PME design services they are kind of in correlation together, correct? I mean you are looking at a schematic of plans and your mechanical, plumbing, your whatever it is right? Help me understand, if you don't mind, is the fee \$89,350 for the architectural support as well as the plumbing, mechanical, electrical and fire protection design?*

Campbell: *Yes.*

Hines: *But at the top you have \$163,928 for other parts of the plan. Really, we are looking at combining those two numbers for the rendering to be complete.*

Campbell: *The top is the architectural services and then you go into cost estimating broken out by discipline and structural PME services ... (inaudible)*

Hines: *That is what I was getting at. I am adding these numbers up.*

Rob, do we need a stormwater permit for this job?

Testerman: *I will check into it. I do not think so off the top of my head.*

Hines: *Okay. Sorry to jump around on you but I am going to go over to the other page where you have the following items that are not included in this proposal. When I look through those, I see some things that are obviously of importance, but you know when we purchased this building, we did a lot of heavy inspections on it. Have you seen those reports?*

Dills: *Yes.*

Hines: *From the commercial inspections when we were under contract?*

Dills: *We were forwarded some of those. Was there a specific item that you wanted to talk about?*

Hines: *I feel a lot of it is being treated like it is a brand-new building not an existing one to a certain extent. If I am wrong on that help me understand.*

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Dills: *When we went through the wish list program ... I don't know if you saw those early studies or what we produced before this current plan but much larger additions were happening to this building. That is why I said earlier we took a hard look at it. There is an existing building, and we need to go back to make sure we are using it in every way possible. If there is a way to save money in a project like this, it is to reduce the new additions and reduce the renovated area. Those are top of your list every single time. That is why we are here talking about a \$4 plus million-dollar project and not a \$7 plus million-dollar project because we are avoiding that. We are trying to make sure that the department gets what it needs, and we use that building in the best way we possibly can.*

Hines: *It also helps bring the number down when we are going to phase it out. It is not like the number goes away it is just not being done today.*

Campbell: *But the design will be for all phases to your point.*

Dills: *Yes, the design right now is of all of it.*

Campbell: *I think there is a benefit of doing the whole design while sitting with a team instead of waiting and you can just phase out the construction.*

Hines: *Right. You had mentioned earlier about it being a percentage of sitework. But then under civil design services you have another \$30,150. What am I missing there? Because at \$1.9 million, I think it was 20%, is usually earmarked for sitework or grading.*

Dills: *In construction.*

Hines: *Correct.*

Campbell: *In construction the civil \$30,000 is for design. So, they would still have to do every design similar to what we are doing. They would be a part of each _____ similar to what we are providing you so it would be their design, their drawings, for all of those.*

Dills: *We have been assuming they need to get a stormwater permit so that ...*

Hines: *And that is not a big thing to get.*

Dills: *It must go through a site plan approval process.*

Hines: *I understand, sure.*

Dills: *This gets you everything you need to do that. I can pull every permit. That is the intent of this.*

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Campbell: *We are working with John DeLucia on the civil because he is local. We were working with him through schematics as well, so these are his numbers that you are seeing.*

Hines: *Jumping back over to the last page where you have the additional 18 items that could come up but are not being considered in this dollar amount. If we are going to use other areas to assume pricing how much of this may come into play here and if it does how is that billed?*

Dills: *The only thing on here that you will be required to do is one that most owners do. We do not provide it, but we will tell you how much it costs. The number one special inspections on there. You are required to do special inspections. This is looking at the footing to make sure the rebar is correct, look at the steel, make sure your hurricane clips are on where they should be. That is the only one, but most owners carry that cost and that is why we made it number one.*

Hines: *That is general inspections here anyway. That is on everything no matter what, based on our wind code.*

Dills: *But this is structural special inspections Agent 1 and Agent 2. Agent 1 is looking at the steel, the footings, and the rebar. Agent 2 is materials testing. Does your concrete meet its load. All those things. Other than that, we do not think you are going to need them. We made that number one because most owners carry that. We can certainly help put together what that cost is.*

Campbell: *_____ I think it is usually because subcontractors ... we have less control. We are showing as a subcontractor, so it is just not something that we normally design but ...*

Dills: *Any access control system which is doorways is generally an owner. We are happy to do it. For us in the design there is a pathway, a cable, and we show them where the door device to put on it is. We did not think you needed to pay us to do that. You probably know how to do it.*

Hines: *Basically, the fee is still at \$472,513 to design everything in full, whether we phase it out this year, next year, or five years. You are going to have everything "quote unquote" ready for this fee and ready to go.*

Dills: *The \$472,513 includes the whole design team working through construction as well and I will say that is \$120,000. You know we want to stay involved in construction because we will be there to answer questions from the contractor, review submittals and all those things. That assumes we are all working on that through construction. And when I say we, I mean all disciplines. Civil engineers, structural, the whole design team. Often, we work with folks that want to do that on an hourly basis. This is an estimate of what we think it would be if we were all working during construction, so you are at the \$351 number not the \$472 number. The \$351,813 is bid ready, permit ready, you can hire subcontractors and award it and go.*

Hines: *Looking at that number then our total cost or investment in this is technically \$401,513 with the first drawing that we have already done.*

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Campbell: *Sure.*

Hines: *So, it is \$351,813 plus the \$50,000 we have already spent.*

Dills: *Yes.*

Hines: *I will stand down for a second. I will keep reviewing if somebody else would like to talk.*

Walker: *These numbers. Are they conservative too? You have something padded in the figures on page 6?*

Dills: *We do it on the hours we think we are going to spend. Again, this anticipates bidding out the project. When we go into these as partnerships, part of our service, and the value that we add, is that on bid day people are going to bid on a set of documents from every discipline. That gets you what you think you are going to get. It is kind of simply put but that means we coordinate our drawings. We go through a QC process. That means we minimize change orders. A bid project should minimize change orders. It should get you where you need to be in the most competitive way possible. That is what we are anticipating with this. It does take a few more hours from every discipline on our design team to be able to do that. If we just hired a contractor and/or a construction manager for this job, they would likely come in and say I can minimize the design costs. That does not mean they are minimizing anything else, anywhere else. It does not mean you are getting the most competitive bid across all the disciplines; it does not mean the price is being driven down. What we are trying to do is create a set of drawings that does that for you. From a pricing standpoint, on bid day, competition is your best friend. It is only your best friend if the documents they are bidding on are well put together and get you what you want.*

Campbell: *We have three submittals in this. You will see there is a 35% of prefinal and a final. We found that those stages of submittals for design are a good time for you to see the design to give us feedback, questions, comments, mark up the plan. This is after our RQC for submitting a full set to you three different times so that you are involved in the process along the way. Not to say that you won't at other times but just to give you a definitive time to sit and look at the drawings and provide us with some feedback so that you are not surprised by anything at the end. We are making sure you are involved in the design throughout the process and there are not any questions that come up that causes extra work on anyone.*

Dills: *What she is describing is communication. What you are going to get on bid day. We will create a booklet that says this office space gets this ceiling, this electrical, data. Everything in the building is explained in the book that matches the design drawings that are being made. That is not just for our benefit, it is so the guys in the police department, everybody in the town can look and see what is coming and make comments on it. It is critical that happens. Otherwise, someone is going to be surprised that we did not put this type of shelving in the evidence room. They need to be able to operate on day one. Part of those submittals and part of the time we spend is to make*

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sure everything is coordinated and communicated so that when we are at 37%, 65, 90 and 100% ... when we sit down with the department we can all sit there and have a discussion and say what is in the room, where the equipment is, how it is ventilated, how do we operate this space. If it is a problem with our drawings, we can mark it up right there. We can do something about it.

Walker: *Are you able to project how long this project should take for the first phase?*

Campbell: *If we are phasing it out, do you think 9 months?*

Dills: *We might be able to sneak it in under a year. I may have a little PTSD from the last 12 months of cost estimating and scheduling where whole markets went kilter during COVID. So, I would say 12 months maybe a little bit less.*

Hines: *Based on my experiences in this business, if you think it is 12, you need to add 5.*

Dills: *Mechanical equipment and electrical switch gear and handles right now ... it evaporates on projects for some reason.*

Walker: *Have we done ourselves a disservice by trying to renovate something? I know it costs more to just build a building but ...*

Dills: *From a design fee standpoint it costs less. You are saving money.*

Walker: *That was our goal.*

Dills: *We asked that question early on. In the office we said there is an existing building, it is big, there are firewalls and there are going to be tenants. We must get our heads around this. But by buying that building you are saving money on our side, design, across the board and you are saving on construction costs no doubt. It is substantial.*

Garriss: *That is what we wanted to hear isn't it?*

Campbell: *Those fees per square foot are substantial ... (inaudible)*

Walker: *I realize that, and it seems like you were trying to work around something that was causing issues.*

Dills: *When we design something, we get the program where it needs to be and make it work. I think early on we could have done a better job of identifying how to reuse it, just to be totally transparent, and that is why when we went back to the table, we took a harder look and said there is money to be saved in there. Again, this is where we make our living. You say we need to save money and we go make it happen. One of the best ways to do it is renovation. Anyone here who is*

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a builder or contractor knows that with a renovation project, if you can contain it, is money in the bank. I think we are on a good path for that right now.

Hines: *Getting into the design of the building. When you do your measuring to come up with the drawing that you have up on the screen you are not really designing a lot of that. It is already there. You measure and you put it in a CAD file or whatever software you are using, and you start drawing off that right? I guess that is kind of ... I am going to be transparent as well. I am having a hard time with the \$163,000 for the drawings and I am trying to ask questions diligently so you can help me. If I am off, I am off and I have no problem understanding. If I am not right, I am not right but to me that is a big number for a building that is preexisting. I know you have things you have to do but then if I drop back down to the PME design services you are basically at \$7.37 a square foot at \$89,350. When I try to, in my mind, put all this together the only way I can do it is to simply add it all up as one number because it gets you from the start of the job to the finish. When I am looking at those numbers, I am just having a hard time with it. I really am.*

Dills: *You want to know where the hours are being spent.*

Hines: *If we are going to ask that question, I would like to know how many hours you had in it designing this right here.*

Dills: *It is a bunch.*

Campbell: *A lot.*

Hines: *100? 200?*

Dills: *Easily because you are talking like 4 people in the room, so it adds up quick. The people in that room does not include the draftsmen nor the person putting it into the computer, all those things. They are not present in those hours. Part of what you are paying for and what I was getting at earlier, in a low bid project, which is 100% your best way to drive costs down, is that you are paying us to keep the drawings in order. Everyone has a drawing, structural must put footings in the ground and they need a drawing reinforcing the existing building. We must coordinate that with all the other disciplines so on bid day when a contractor sends in the first change order and says it is for \$100,000 because you have _____ on all the duct work we have already identified that on the drawings and that problem does not exist. Part of why the architectural fee is larger is because we watch the budget, the schedule and we follow it. Those are big areas of value that we bring, and it takes time to do it.*

Campbell: *Another part is we are managing the entire design throughout the process. You are not going to have every single person reaching out to you constantly, which would be a lot to talk through. They come to us, and we coordinate. I am your single point of contact. The management of design disciplines is a lot of work for a project, and it is something that we do not necessarily want to ever bombard the client with.*

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Dills: *It represents a large savings. Again, the idea is to make a bid set of drawings that is protective of your interests so that on bid day you can drive the prices down.*

Campbell: *I put together a spreadsheet and every single page has what we think will happen in a drawing. Each design submittal and the hours we think it will take for every submittal. We are doing it page by page. We are not guessing on hours. We are not assuming anything. It is truly looking at every page, wall types, roof plans, building inspections. That is kind of how we start a budget.*

Hines: *I will say the structural engineering is fairly in line for the market here for sure but ...*

Dills: *They generally have the least number of drawings in the set.*

Hines: *With the most amount of liability.*

Campbell: *To be transparent we went out to a couple of different PME teams. We thoroughly vetted that number with a couple of different teams that we have good faith in and use on lots of projects. This was a lower number by a substantial amount, but we did our due diligence, so you are not just seeing one person. We asked for a number one time and that was it. We went through several discussions on it.*

Dills: *We are not only headed towards bid drawings for construction we rounded up from all the disciplines to try to get the low number on these guys. Like the _____ number is really low for what we would see.*

Campbell: *We have fire protection separate _____ able to do that inhouse which is great. Not everyone does.*

Hines: *Who did you reach out to for that?*

Campbell: *Pace Engineering.*

Hines: *For the buyer?*

Campbell: *For doing P M & E on fire.*

Dills: *It includes special systems too. It is not just mechanical, electrical, and plumbing. The fire protection is in there, special systems for alarms, all the low voltage stuff is included in that number.*

Campbell: *It also includes the firing range design which is not a small fee I would think.*

Dills: *Yes. Keep in mind that design fee. That \$351,813 includes all the phases.*

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Hines: *So hypothetically speaking, we have hurricane season coming up and we know the roof needs to be replaced. If the town goes ahead and moves forward with replacing the roof that is no longer in this bid, right? Like a roof plan?*

Campbell: *Right.*

Dills: *Say that one more time.*

Campbell: *If they replace the roof. He is saying would the roof plan still be in the construction documents.*

Hines: *You still must draw it in, I guess.*

Dills: *Yes. We are still required to draw, and we are required to draw it for the new work.*

Hines: *I just answered my own question.*

Dills: *If you are going to do that let us know so we can start tying it in.*

Hines: *I appreciate you answering my questions.*

Campbell: *We know you did demo already and a portion of the space _____ so we are aware of that ...*

Garriss: *Thank you for coming tonight. I know we have a lot of questions. David is a contractor in case you were wondering. I guess you figured that out. A very good contractor. So, we have some decisions to make. We bought this building for a reason. We knew we would save money by doing it and I am glad you answered Charlotte's question earlier. We did save money. We have some big decisions to make, and we need to talk to our town manager about the budget. We need to have conversations with our finance office to see where we are. We want something that is going to be beneficial, something that our police department and our town can be proud of, but we are not going to break our town doing it. That is where we are. Anything else council?*

Hines: *I appreciate you coming. Thank you very much.*

Dills: *Note that part of our job is to get it done on budget and on schedule. I tell everyone in the office too many times that is their job. If someone has a budget our job is to make it happen. When the bids come in on bid day they need to be there. Just know that is included in this. That is what we are after.*

Garriss: *Council I met with Melody this morning and she wanted to stress if we did anything that involved the budget she needs to know as soon as possible because we are in the middle of that process as you know.*

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- **Hotline Services/Stephanie Baker, Assistant Director of Outer Banks Hotline**

Baker: *I am the associate director for Outer Banks Hotline. I came into the position in October and have been a resident of Southern Shores since 2007. I am a single mom, a widow, raising two teenage boys. I am a sexual assault survivor. I have a brother who abused me when I was eight and I was date raped by a baseball player when I was in college. I never reported the baseball player, and my parents did not know about my brother until I was in my 40's and I am 52.*

The nationwide statistics show that every 68 seconds somebody is sexually assaulted and every 9 minutes that person is a child. One in six women have either been raped or there has been an attempted rape. Every one out of ten men have either faced an attempted rape or have been raped. There are lots of statistics I could share with you. People who are sexually assaulted go on to have terrible things that occur. I am more likely to use drugs, have problems with significant others, problems at work, emotional issues, a host of issues. It is a difficult thing.

Hotline has been around since 1980 and never has there been a campaign surrounding what we do. We work with victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. We went from just a crisis phone line to having an eight-bedroom house for emergency shelter. It is not just eight bedrooms, we can host more people, families, children and then there is a transitional part on top. We also operate three thrift stores. When people ask what thrift store I work at I tell them I work in the office in development and outreach.

My first week in October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We were all excited to carry the ribbon for "Ribbon on the Ridge." It was a 50-yard ribbon, about 3.5 feet wide. We were going to carry it to the top of Jockey's Ridge and have a ceremony. Sixty-six North Carolinians had lost their lives to domestic violence. There were staff, some volunteers from the thrift stores and some police from several different departments. Altogether maybe 18 people. We carried the ribbon up, we had our little ceremony, read the names, observed a moment of silence and we walked down. I thought to myself this was nice, but it did nothing to promote awareness in what we are trying to do.

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month and April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault, as I just told you, can happen to anybody. Raising boys and having friends that have daughters ... it is just an issue that everybody needs to know about.

April starts prom and graduation season. These kids are going out to parties, and we have all the tourists coming and they are not immune. They go to a bar; they are at a party, and something happens. Hotline takes care of tourists as well. You do not have to be a resident.

With all these things I thought this is really a great time to do this ribbon and we were going to do it as a fund raiser on that one day. And then I thought about it, and I said no, it must be a campaign. So, I developed Community for Hope. It is a month-long campaign, and it has three components.

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The first is awareness, awareness, awareness. I built different packages and spoke directly to different entities like schools, churches, clubs, government agencies, businesses, and restaurants. There are awareness activities that people can do that are at no cost. Wearing teal ribbons and decorating a Wall of Hope with notes to sexual assault victims. Wearing teal on Tuesdays, different things like that.

I created a pledge, and I went to the schools. I made banners. I just delivered two today. Because this is an inaugural campaign I focused on the secondary schools. The first person I went to is Steve Basnight and then Steve Blackstock. They were the first two to hop on board with us. I spoke to the different principals, and they have a huge 72-inch banner with a pledge on it. Everybody is going to be encouraged to sign the banner and it is going to be in the foyers of the schools. So, awareness, awareness, awareness.

The second part, and nobody must do any of them, but the second part was "100 for Hope." This was originally going to be that Jockey's Ridge event. Just trying to get 100 people to come out and support, but then I thought, no, 100 teams. A team can be one person, it can be however many people are employed at Twiddy. All I want each team to do is raise \$100 from Corolla down to Hatteras, \$100 per team and that is \$10,000 that will go to help support programs. It will also be 100 more people, at the very least, to think about sexual assault and to spread the awareness. That is number two.

Number three is having the "Community for Hope - Ribbon on the Ridge" event on the last Saturday in April. Instead of a fund raiser, and instead of asking people for money on that day, we are going to commemorate the survivors. We are going to lineup in the parking lot, we are going to stand two by two, carry it up Jockey's Ridge in a straight-line formation. We are going to give a presentation and have a moment of silence. We are going to come back, and we are going to eat barbecue and listen to music. We are going to celebrate the survivors. This is our campaign for April. It is an inaugural campaign, and I was just hoping to spread the awareness to you. We are encouraging teams, whether it is personal, church or family.

It is not enough just to have it be one month. We need to carry it on, and I felt women, we like to talk, and we like to commiserate. But we need the men to say sexual assault is wrong, personal violence is wrong, we want to build healthy relationships. So, I will come back to you in May because I have created Outer Banks Men for Safe Relationships. That is going to be a one-month campaign. It is going to go from Mother's Day to Father's Day and I am looking for male leaders. We are going to have a kickoff at our offices, meet the staff, see what we do, the facilities, learn. I am going to ask for \$126 from each of you and the reason for that number is because the average lifetime cost for a female for sexual assault or domestic violence is \$103,000. That is medical bills, that is lots of work, that is childcare, that is having to move. That is all the different things. The average cost for a male for some reason is \$23,000 so I added \$103 and the \$23 to make \$126. When we have the leaders come then they are going to be instructed to share this information with five other male individuals. Again, we are just building awareness. That is my story.

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Mayor Garriss thanked Ms. Baker and said, “sexual assault is wrong.”

Baker: *We just want to make things better for men and women. Again, one in ten men. It is a big number. Thank you again.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Sandra Standley, 130 Gables, Kitty Hawk, NC: *After a very serious discussion and presentation mine may seem very flippant perhaps. This concerns something I just found out about at the end of this past week. There is something possibly in the air about our little dog and skate park. There may be an addition.*

I want to put in some comments from the locals who literally, me included, go every day to the dog park in the morning. There are people from Kitty Hawk, KDH, Duck, Martins Point and Southern Shores. They like our little park, and we are concerned that it may either shrink or additional entertainment will be put in. It is very peaceful back there. I don't know how many of you have been back there. It is very peaceful and of course there are the gardens tucked in the woods which people love. We are hoping that there is not going to be a drastic change. And if there are additional funds that are available for whatever to expend ... I didn't quite know what. It looks like a bicycle loop kind of thing.

Walker: *A pump track.*

Standley: *Okay. We are concerned about how this would affect the existing facilities that we have. Our amenities, the construction, closing it off for something like this. Less green space. I do not think we need any more concrete in town and the need for more parking. It is getting to be full back there in that little parking lot. Groups come in and it is not even summer yet. So, this is another little concern.*

Our main concern is we would like to protect our locals, and not just Kitty Hawk, because a lot of people do use it. Of course, in the summer visitors come over and they are not supposed to because there is a sign you must have your dog tags. That has not been carried out for the last several years so anybody can come in. The dog could have a disease. We are never going to know.

We are just trying to protect our little community in general and if we have all that excess money could we put it to better use for the community? We all know about the people here who are suffering. If there is anything like bikes for people to get to work. I don't know what the finances are (3-minute timer) but that is just ... thank you for your time.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

a.) Approval of March 6, 16 and 17, 2023 Council Minutes. *(Approval of the consent agenda will approve these minutes.)*

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b.) Proclamation Designating April 2023 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. On March 23, 2023 Mayor Garriss proclaimed April 2023 Child Abuse Prevention Month. It calls upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders, and businesses to increase their participation in Dare County's efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live. *(Approval of the consent agenda will acknowledge this proclamation.)*

Councilman Hines made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman McClean, to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous, 5-0.

7. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

8. ONGOING BUSINESS

a.) Trails Update

Manager Clopton reviewed the following memo to the council.

On Monday, March 6th, Mayor Pro Tem Pruitt, Councilwoman Walker, Recreation Committee Chair Paul Henriques, and I met with Erik Alnes, Site Manager for the Kitty Hawk Coastal Reserve. The purpose of our meeting was to determine the State's support for a loop trail proposed by the Town's Recreation Committee. The proposed trail is an alternative to the already approved Birch Lane/Sandy Run Park Connector trail. It provides a loop as well as connecting Sandy Run Park and the Birch Lane Trail. In addition, this trail may be less expensive to construct.

On behalf of the State, Erik said they were willing to explore the possibility of the alternative trail. This proposal will be presented at the Coastal Reserve's next Local Advisory Committee meeting in May. We will keep you posted on the outcome.

9. TOWN MANAGER

Manager Clopton announced she received word this afternoon that the fire service road may be completed as early as tomorrow. It has been 18 years in the making and a celebration is in order.

Manager Clopton thanked everyone who wore blue for the kickoff of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Some staff from each department came to the town hall on March 31st to pose for a picture. She said it turned out wonderful and everybody looks good in blue.

10. TOWN ATTORNEY

There were no further comments from the attorney.

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11. TOWN COUNCIL

Pruitt: *I would like to thank Jeff Gard for his 25 years of service in protecting our community. I certainly appreciate it and I know the community does. I know we are not getting 25 more and will take any time we can get.*

I would also like to address the public comment just for a minute. We usually do not but Dare County owns the dog and skate park. They ask for our input and we work together but when the council talks, we make sure that the dog park is not going anywhere. You can go home knowing we do not plan on getting rid of it. It is not going anywhere.

Walker: *Have you seen the improvements there?*

Standley: *Yes.*

Pruitt: *The Local Advisory Committee meeting for the Coastal Reserve will be held here at the town hall on May 22nd between one and three o'clock. It is open to the public. I have not seen the agenda, but we are prepared to talk about this alternate trail.*

Hines: *I also want to congratulate Jeff. I know you have been here a long time and hate to see you leave. Hopefully, you will be here when the new police department is finished.*

Clopton: *He is waiting for a window.*

Hines: *We are going to get you a window I promise.*

Pruitt: *Welcome Laura. Thanks for being a part of our team.*

Garriss: *Welcome Laura and congratulations Jeff. I have known you for a long time. How did you get to be older than I am? Thank you to all the town staff and thanks to the council for a good meeting tonight. We had an important topic to discuss earlier. A great conversation.*

12. CLOSED SESSION: N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(3) in order to consult with the town attorney regarding matters protected within the attorney-client privilege and to preserve that privilege; and as allowed by N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss one or more confidential personnel matters. Also, N.C.G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1) for approval of the June 6, 2022, July 21, 2022 and September 2, 2022.

Mayor Garriss made a motion to go into a closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and (a)(6) and (a)(1). There was no second and the vote was unanimous, 5-0. Time was 7:12 p.m.

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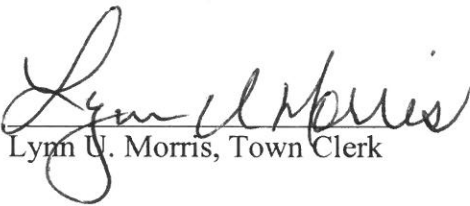
13. RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

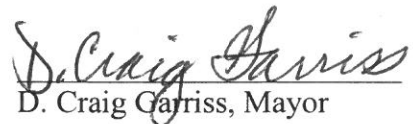
Attorney Varnell announced the council entered closed session to consult with the attorney hired to represent the town in a matter and to preserve that privilege. The council also approved minutes from June 6, 2022, July 21, 2022, and September 2, 2022.

14. ADJOURN

Councilman Hines made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Councilwoman Walker and approved unanimously, 5-0. Time was 7:48 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the May 1, 2023 council meeting.


Lynn W. Morris, Town Clerk


D. Craig Garriss, Mayor