

News from Southern Shores Town Hall Tuesday, June 23, 2009

From the Town Manager:

TRAFFIC SIGN VANDALISM

Town Council voted unanimously to approve a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for damaging Traffic Control Devices (street signs) at the vicinity of the intersection of the three Dogwood Trails over the weekend.

This act is not merely a simple vandalism – it is a criminal act and is being investigated by our Police as a criminal act and the Town will pursue prosecution of the offender(s) as a criminal act. What some might think is humorous could easily lead to a traffic accident with tragic consequences. Ironically it has had the effect of eroding support for a proposed Town Ordinance to exclude cut through traffic.

Anyone with information may contact the [Southern Shores Police](#) or the [Town Manager](#) anonymously.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

A full description of the June 23rd Council Meeting will be in the Friday Broadcast however, it is important to report on the adoption of the Town's budget.

Town Council voted to approve and accept the Town Manager's Budget as presented. Property taxes will remain unchanged at 9.75 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed property valuation. Council unanimously agreed that a tax hike would not be appropriate in consideration of the current state of the economy.

CIP Chairman Bill Gleason suggested, and the Council and Town Manager agreed, that this is the time to describe the end-of-cycle changes to the budget. Late last Thursday, June 18, 2009, confirmation was received for two critical parts of the Canal Maintenance Dredging Project; the NC Department of Natural Resources approved the Town's request and extended the 80% funding grant for a period of one (1) year to September 1, 2010, and the Town successfully concluded contract negotiations with the Stone family for use of their commercial property as a dewatering site. With these two pieces of the puzzle finally confirmed, a budget item for the Canals Project was placed into the budget ([see budget](#)). The figures provided are the best possible estimates and are subject to change. The Town will be advertising a Request for Proposals (RFP) and responses from the most responsive and responsible bidders (contractors) will provide information that is likely to drive those changes.

Over the past year, the Town has worked diligently to identify and secure the most appropriate, most suitable, and most cost-effective Dredge Spoils Dewatering site or sites. Time and time again, the Town was thwarted in its efforts. When the Town was denied access to potential sites under the control of the Southern Shores Civic

Association and the Chicahauk Property Owners Association, the Town was compelled to explore other options. Accordingly the commercial property located behind the Good Will store was selected and a contract with the owners was reached. The financial terms of the lease are; \$380,000 for Phase I of the Dredging Project and \$320,000 for Phase II if the contract is renewed. These figures totaling \$700,000 plus the extra measures required to utilize this site, including the use of geo-bags and a solid membrane, will undoubtedly bring the cost to use that site to nearly one million dollars or more. The Town Council and Town Manager will continue to explore every option to reduce costs and to re-engage the leadership of the SSCA and CPOA in hopes of receiving their cooperation and assistance. Mayor Smith again called upon the SSCA and CPOA to put this matter up for a vote of their full memberships as soon as possible.