

Town of Ocean Ridge, Florida**Town Commission Agenda Memorandum****Office of the Town Manager**

Meeting Date: April 5, 2021
Subject: Town Manager's Report

Mayor, Commissioners & Residents of Ocean Ridge:

In the month of March, we celebrated the following employee anniversaries with the Town: Police Officer Nubia Savino, 8 years. We thank Officer Savino for her service and dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge!

Town Staff is currently addressing FDOT's comments regarding the Crown Colony crosswalk application in reference to lighting requirements and the removal of trees and hedges in the right-of-way that are causing sight-line issues.

The Anna and Edith Street crossovers were opened to the public on April 1st. We are still awaiting the finalized landscape plan from the contractor. The crossovers will need to be temporarily closed again for a few days while the landscaping work is taking place, however, we asked the contractor to keep one of them open while the other is closed and vice-versa. We are waiting to hear back from the contractor on the proposed dates.

At the last Town Commission meeting, the Town Commission voted to name the new street off Thompson Street "Whitney Lane". After that time, the family of Mrs. Whitney requested that we change the name to "Whitney Way". I have attached the request for your review and would need a consensus to change the name from "Whitney Lane" to "Whitney Way".

The Federal Government recently adopted the American Rescue Plan in which the Town of Ocean Ridge is expecting to receive \$820,000, with the first half to be distributed in 2021, and the second half to be distributed in 2022. This is a rough figure, and the Town has not received official notification regarding the stimulus funds as of the date of this memo. If the Town accepts this stimulus money from the federal government, the funds need to be fully expended no later than December 31, 2024, and staff would be responsible for tracking the "grant" and completing the required periodic reports. The Department of Treasury will issue guidance detailing its interpretation and implementation of eligible uses, but the statutory language specifically authorizes use of the funds. Each of the following is a separate allowable use of the funds for the recipient:

- To respond to the pandemic or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- For premium pay for essential workers (as determined by each recipient government) during the pandemic, providing up to \$13 per hour above regular wages as "premium" or "hazard" pay;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the pandemic (relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency);
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

I am still waiting for clarification as to whether or not stormwater infrastructure would qualify under the "investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure" category, and questions related to the process of amending the current year budget to accept the stimulus money and make expenditures from it, and I'm hoping to receive clarification by the date of the first budget meeting.

Our Grants Administrator informed us that the Town was not selected for funding this cycle for the Septic to Sewer Planning Grant. He is still waiting for the official notification with information as to the evaluation and scoring, and will send further information to us once it's received. He stated that the denial was due to the low number of low-to-moderate income residents that would be impacted, and the size of the total impacted area. He stated that almost all of the funded projects were for planning efforts related to entire cities with tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands in population. He indicated that if another similar grant opportunity comes up in the future (possibly in September), he will be able to resubmit our application as part of the original agreement at no additional cost to the Town as long as the scope of the project does not change.

On April 5th – 8th from 2-8 pm, the City of Boynton Beach will be making parking lot modifications to the upper level parking area at Oceanfront Park. As a result, the upper level parking area will be unavailable during these times. The lower level parking area will be available with a "temporary" entrance/exit access after 2:00 pm. To facilitate traffic flow, loading zones will be added behind the restrooms and concession stand. The Town of Ocean Ridge has approved construction hours from 2pm-8pm for the four days specified above. Questions should be directed to the City of Boynton Beach's Project Manager, Carl Frumentti at 561-742-6238 or FrumenttiC@bbfl.us.

Please join us on Saturday, April 17th in the back parking lot of Town Hall between 9 a.m. and Noon for the annual Shredding Event for residents of Ocean Ridge and Briny Breezes. Town Staff will be available to assist.

The annual budget season will kick off on Monday, April 19th at 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall with the Goal Setting Workshop. Now is the time for residents to speak with Town Commissioners with ideas for fiscal priorities for the coming year.

Please check the Town's website regularly for important informational updates regarding COVID-19 vaccine opportunities. Governor DeSantis opened vaccine opportunities for all those age 18 and over effective April 5, 2021. Town Staff will continue to gather information regarding vaccine opportunities for our residents to ensure everyone who wishes to be vaccinated can do so.

Palm Beach County extended the emergency order until April 18th that mandates facial coverings be worn in all businesses and establishments, in all county and municipal buildings, on Palm Tran, and in any outdoor public places where social distancing cannot be accomplished. We ask that our residents and visitors continue to do your part in wearing a facial covering, maintaining proper social distancing, and washing hands frequently to help slow the spread of this deadly virus. Emergency Orders and other information related to COVID-19 may be reviewed on the Town's website at www.oceanridgeflorida.com. We hope you all continue to remain safe and healthy!

Respectfully,



Tracey L. Stevens, MMC
Town Manager & Finance Director