

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

Meeting Date: **September 7, 2021**
Subject: **Town Manager's Report**

Mayor, Commissioners & Residents of Ocean Ridge:

In the month of August, we celebrated the following employee anniversaries with the Town: Dispatcher Courtney Hammond, 7 years. We thank her for her service and dedication to the Town of Ocean Ridge!

FDOT has approved the Town's application to install a crosswalk in the area near Crown Colony and Fayette Drive. The Town Attorney is now working with FDOT on the contract language, and once that is completed, the project will be turned over to the Town Engineer and Public Works Department to complete the installation.

The Coastal Resilience Partnership (CRP) met and discussed our next steps and action items related to the climate change vulnerability assessment, as well as a collective grant submission to the Resilient Florida Grant program. We will be applying for funds to: **Short Project Description:** In 2021, the CRP of Southeast Palm Beach County completed a Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for eight jurisdictions. The analysis needs to be expanded to include the NOAA intermediate low and intermediate high projections to meet the requirements of the statute. The new analysis will update storm surge and tidal flooding, including new FEMA maps, and rainfall-induced flooding using future rainfall for all critical assets in the entire study area. **Project**

Outcomes: Project outcomes will include a technical memorandum detailing the analyses and summarizing new findings to comply with the requirements of s.380.093 F.S., GIS Data and Metadata for delivery to FDEP, and an update to the AccelAdapt platform with the s.380.093 F.S. compliant layers used for the analysis and extending access for an additional year.

The CRP will also be working with students from the Emmett Environmental Law and Policy Clinic at Harvard Law School which offers students the opportunity to practice environmental law through work on a variety of projects. They work with scientists, medical professionals, nonprofit and public interest organizations, and government clients on environmental and energy issues at the federal, state and local level. The work includes writing briefs and comment letters, drafting climate change mitigation and adaptation regulations and policies for municipalities, preparing guidance documents and manuals, drafting model legislation, and preparing policy papers in reference to adaptation strategies identified in the climate change vulnerability assessment report.

Staff is currently working on an infrastructure plan in accordance with the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in conjunction with our Grants Administrator, to submit to the Town Commission for review and approval. We will be focusing on upgrades to the

Town's aging potable water system and/or stormwater infrastructure. The Town Attorney finished her review of the ARPA agreement for legal sufficiency, and the agreement was signed and sent back to the State for processing. We will be receiving a total of \$979,670; with the first payment of \$489,835 being released this year (hopefully), and the remainder to be released next year. We still don't have a timeline for when we will receive the first payment, as the state applied for another 30 day extension.

Bargaining sessions with the PBA are still in progress and we hope to have a contract finalized by the end of the fiscal year on September 30th. Our next bargaining session is scheduled for September 13th.

The Town recently prevailed in a lawsuit regarding an easement over the Town's property, as the route proposed by the plaintiff was not the nearest practical route to the subject property. A new lawsuit has been filed for inverse condemnation, and we submitted the documentation to our insurance company to provide litigation defense. I'm currently working on the case with our assigned outside counsel, Lyman Reynolds, in conjunction with our Town Attorney.

Respectfully,



Tracey L. Stevens, MMC
Town Manager & Finance Director