

**TOWN OF HILTON HEAD ISLAND**  
**Disaster Recovery Commission Regular Meeting**

Thursday, November 17, 2011

*Members Present:* Ray C. Faust, Thad M. Gregory, Meredith I. Harlacher, Russell M. Hildebrand, Donna Lowman, Ward N. Kirby

*Members Absent:* Thomas C. Barnwell

*Council Members Present:* No council members present

*Town Staff Present:* Scott Liggett, Jeff Buckalew, Jennifer Lyle, Michelle Harrigan

*Public Present:* L. Baldwin (Crowder Gulf), B. Sharp, A. Schumacher, (Palmetto Dunes), B. Phillips (Indigo Run), D. Dennis (Port Royal), S. Warren (Shipyard), Harold Sauls (Long Cove), C. Chapman (Wexford)

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Kirby called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
  2. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COMPLIANCE** – Public notification of this meeting has been published, posted and mailed in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act and the Town of Hilton Head Island requirements.
  3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chairman Kirby asked if anyone had any questions, changes or corrections regarding the minutes from the June 23, 2011 Annual Meeting. There being no discussion, Chairman Kirby asked for approval of the minutes as presented. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Merry Harlacher and seconded by Rusty Hildebrand. The motion passed unanimously.
  4. **APPEARANCE BY CITIZENS** – None
  5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
    - **Clearing of Disaster Related Debris from Private Streets, Easements, and Multi-Family Developments.**

Scott Liggett said it is safe to say we are still trying at the staff level to strike an appropriate balance between the service delivery – how we intend to provide the services should they so be needed to the community and balance that against the cost associated with doing that. Since we last met there have been some material changes to the proposed policy as a result of conversations that we have conducted with the Committee. One of the key aspects that I would specifically draw to your attention is that the current policy has abandoned the notion of attempting to charge or back charge the financial burden of debris removal from any of the private streets, gated communities or otherwise.

The policy you have before you at this point treats all residential properties, whether they be multi-family or single-family identically. Much has been the case here for as long as we have been doing this. We do not intend to go on private residential properties to clean someone's back yard or remove debris from driveways. However, we are also allowing those folks to place debris on rights-of-way that we are responsible for. The same sort of philosophy is proposed to apply now to multi-family properties as well. This is the result of many conversations here in recent months, some of which were with the POA's where we have a lot of regimes, condominiums, etc. That is a key revision since we have all had the

opportunity to look at it. Should we have a declared emergency or known emergency or rescue effort that we need to embark on inside these buildings, we will respond to those. Folks can now dump it in rights of way that we are responsible for and it will be removed. It is safe to say that everything that we have proposed here remains consistent with Town Code and the FEMA guiding documents.

Jennifer Lyle stated it is staff's recommendation that Phase II of the Town's policy on the removal of disaster related debris from private streets and easements be revised, effective June 1, 2012. The proposed revisions to this policy directly relate to the actions and monetary expenditures of the Town to a prerequisite, formal determination on the threat to the public health and safety and the economic recovery of the Town. As a point of clarification, staff also recommends the Town remove and dispose of disaster debris from multi-family developments if it is properly placed in a road right of way, or access way, in which the Town has a legal interest, or is delivered to a citizen drop-off center for processing.

Chairman Kirby asked Mr. Liggett what staff needed from them today. Mr. Liggett suggested that pending the view of the Commission that you take action on the recommendation before you with whatever revisions the Commission believes are appropriate and go ahead and make whatever recommendation you are prepared to today. With that action taken, regardless of what it is, we are prepared to modify or revise and include those comments in the Debris Management Plan. The next step in the process is the formal review of that document. This is a stepping stone along the way of approval of the Debris Management Plan.

Merry Harlacher motioned that the Committee endorse the changes to Phase II of the Policy submitted by staff. Rusty Hildebrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Status Report for Debris Management Plan.**

Jennifer Lyle asked whether the Committee had anything they needed more clarification on regarding the Plan. Chairman Kirby asked Ms. Lyle if staff needed another action stating the Committee accepted the Plan as presented so they could move it on. Scott Liggett said they are ready to move on, particularly since we have this piece in place. Absent a different course of action from the Commission, the next thing that will appear on your Agenda is the Proposed Debris Management Plan with this revised Policy. That will get debated in the public forum of your subsequent meetings.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

## 7. ADJOURNMENT – Chairman Kirby adjourned the meeting at 9:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Karen D. Knox