

THE TOWN PASSES THE FINANCIAL FITNESS TEST



The Town of Kiawah Island continues to strive for financial excellence in its management of public funds. As such the Town completed the fiscal year ending June 30th with a health reserve of \$1.8 million. The annual audit which began in early August has been completed with great success. In addition to its financial strength, the Town has excelled in financial reporting as well. The Town was awarded the Government Finance Officers Association certificate Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (CAFR Program) designation for the fiscal year ending June 30th 2013. This marks the Town's tenth year receiving this designation. The award program was started in 1945 to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments that succeed in achieving that goal. Reports submitted to the CAFR program are reviewed by selected members of the GFOA professional staff and the GFOA Special Review Committee (SRC), which comprises individuals with expertise in public-sector financial reporting and includes financial statement preparers, independent auditors, academics, and other finance professionals.

Further the Town received the Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR Program) Award for the year ending June 30, 2013 as well. The PAFR program began in 1991 to encourage and assist state and local governments to extract information from their comprehensive annual financial report to produce high quality popular annual financial reports specifically designed to be readily accessible and easily understandable to the general public and other interested parties without a background in public finance. The award recognizes individual governments that are successful in achieving that goal.

During the 49th Annual Association of Public Treasurers of The United States and Canada conference in Salt Lake Utah, the Town received recognition as a recipient of the organization's nationally certified Debt Policy. Whether its fund balance, cash management or financial reporting or debt management, the Town of Kiawah Island has demonstrated its ability to stand head and shoulders above the average community.

TOWN NOTICES

OFFICE CLOSINGS:

Tuesday, November 11th Veterans Day
Thursday, November 27th Thanksgiving
Thursday, December 25th Christmas
Thursday, January 1st New Years Day

SOLID WASTE CHANGE NOTICES:

November:

Thanksgiving – Yard debris will be collected
Friday, November 28th rather than Thursday, November 27th.

BASE FLOOD ELEVATION



While we all enjoy coastal living, there are some factors that you must take into consideration that are of little consequence in other communities. One of the most critical components is ensuring that your home is constructed to the correct elevation, as determined by the base flood elevation for your property.

Base flood elevation, what is it? The base flood elevation refers to the elevation associated with the "100-year flood", or a flood with a 1% chance of occurrence in any given year. All of Kiawah Island is in what FEMA terms as a special flood hazard area. The Town of Kiawah Island is a participating member of National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System. Participation in this program ensures that residents receive the most affordable flood insurance rates possible. Flood Insurance Rate Maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency depict the base flood elevations for all properties on Kiawah Island. The Town will be issued new flood maps in the fall of 2015.

Why is this important to me? Floodplain managers, insurance professionals, contractors, inspectors, and land surveyors all use base flood elevations as the basis for determining your home's elevation. Insurance agents use your the base flood elevation and the elevation of your home to determine your risk factor as it applies to your flood insurance rates. Those of you with secondary homes may have already seen a rate increase on your flood insurance policy. If your home is determined by your insurance provider to be below base flood elevation you could see significant rate increases for flood insurance. The Biggert and Waters Reform Act requires changes to all major components of the program, including flood insurance, flood hazard mapping, grants, and the management of floodplains. For more information visit the FEMA website at www.fema.gov. If you are considering remodeling your home; then your floodplain manager will perform a substantial improvement determination and review base flood elevations.

How can I find out what my current base flood elevation is?

Flood Insurance Rate Maps are accessible on the Town's website at www.kiawahisland.org. These maps can be slightly confusing so, if you have questions about your base flood elevation for your property, please contact the Town's floodplain manager at 843-768-9166.

December:

Brown Trash & Hazardous Waste: Friday, December 5th.
Christmas – Yard debris will be collected
Friday, December 26th rather than Thursday, December 25th.

January:

New Years Day –Yard debris will be collected
Friday, January 2nd rather than Thursday, January 1st.
*Holiday Trees will be collected with yard debris on
Thursdays in January. All decorations must be removed.

FOLLOW KIAWAH



TOWN NOTES

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOWN OF KIAWAH ISLAND



Town of Kiawah Island • 21 Beachwalker Drive Kiawah Island, SC 29455 • 843-768-9166 • www.kiawahisland.org

2014 MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Town of Kiawah Island operates under a Mayor-Council form of government as allowed in the South Carolina Code of Laws; Section 5 9 20. The Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County will conduct a General Election for the Town of Kiawah Island on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 to fill (1) one seat for the Office of Mayor, (4) four seats for the Office of Town Council. This is a nonpartisan, at large municipal election. Election results will be determined by the plurality method. Term of office will expire December 2016.



A detailed description of the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor and Town Council are outlined below:
The Mayor shall be the chief administrative officer of the municipality. He shall be responsible to the council for the administration of all city affairs placed in his charge.

The Mayor shall have the following powers and duties:

- (1) to appoint and, when he deems it necessary for the good of the municipality, suspend or remove all municipal employees and appointive administrative officers provided for by or under. He may authorize any administrative officer who is subject to his direction and supervision to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office or agency;
- (2) to direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices and agencies of the municipality except as otherwise provided;
- (3) to preside at meetings of the council and vote as other councilmen;
- (4) to act to insure that all laws, and ordinances of the council, subject to enforcement by him or by officers subject to his direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;
- (5) to prepare and submit the annual budget and capital program to the council;

(6) to submit to the council and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the municipality as of the end of each fiscal year; and

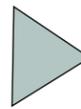
(7) to make such other reports as the council may require concerning the operations of municipal departments, offices and agencies subject to his direction and supervision.

The Town Council may establish municipal departments, offices and agencies. Further, the Mayor and Council may employ an administrator to assist the mayor in his office; all departments, offices and agencies under the direction and supervision of the mayor shall be administered by an officer appointed by and subject to the direction and supervision of the mayor; the council shall adopt an annual budget for the operation of the municipality and capital improvements.

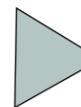
Those seeking to fill these seats and perform the duties outlined above have until October 2nd at noon to file for candidacy. Please look for a special Election Edition of the Town Notes which will feature the name and bio of each candidate that will be on the December 2nd ballot.

The last day that persons may register to be eligible to vote in this election is November 1, 2014. If submitting a registration by fax or mail application, it must be post marked no later than November 1, 2014. Applications may be obtained at www.scvotes.org.

Registered voters who cannot vote in person may be eligible to vote by absentee ballot. Absentee ballots may be obtained from the Board of Elections and Voter Registration of Charleston County. You may call 744-8683 or send an email to absentee@charlestoncounty.org to inquire about the availability of absentee ballots.



MEET THE CANDIDATES
NOVEMBER 20TH AT THE SANDCASTLE.
TIME -TBD HOSTED BY KICA



ELECTION DAY - DECEMBER 2, 2014
AT THE SANDCASTLE!
7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

JULY 2014

Resolution 2014-01 - Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – Adopted Covers events such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tsunamis; and acts of violence.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2014-08 – An Amendment to Article 16, Dog Restraint – Adopted Amended the dog restraint ordinance (see page 3 for details)

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan – 2013/2014 Status Report - Approved Published annually and shows completed activity through the current year. The report was forwarded to the County for inclusion in the overall County plan.

Resolution 2014-02 - Project Impact Action Plan – Adopted Outlines the Town's ongoing participation in the Project Impact Outreach Program.

Emergency Services Study Update PSSi emergency consultants provided a presentation detailing the process and schedule to complete the evaluation of emergency services provided to Kiawah including fire, emergency medical services and police protection.

Fiscal Year 2015 Police Coverage Contract Approved the contract with Charleston County Sheriffs Department (CCSD) for police protection for the Town and Freshfields.

AUGUST 2014

2nd Reading of Ordinance 2014-08 – An Amendment to Article 16, Dog Restraint– Adopted

CARTA Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Approved the FY2015 Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) budget as presented by CARTA's Executive Director Mr. Jeffrey Burns.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2014-09 - Amend Building Codes-Board Construction– Adopted Increased the membership of the Construction Board of Appeals from 6 to 7 members representing the various construction trades.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2014-10 - Flood Hazard Reduction Tabled until the September Council meeting.

Carolina Waste Solid Waste Contract Amendment Approved the contract amendment for a 3% cost of living increase for solid waste provider, Carolina Waste.

Collins Engineering – Post Emergency Professional Services Approved an agreement with Collins Engineering, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, provide emergency professional services to include inspecting the Town's infrastructure.

PSSi Agreement Extension Proposed an amendment to their contract totaling \$14,950 to cover the additional expenses incurred in conjunction with the Emergency Services contract as it relates to the analysis of the Fire District. Council remanded the request to the Ways and Means Committee for an additional review.

Atlantic Business Continuity Agreement Amendment Approved an amendment to the agreement with Atlantic Business Continuity to create and negotiate Memorandums of Understanding with the various Kiawah stakeholders and entities.

Kiawah Island Election Authority Reviewed the ordinance from Charleston County, confirming that the County will take over the management of the Town's Municipal elections.

SEPTEMBER 2014

2nd Reading of Ordinance 2014-09 – Amend Building Codes-Board Construction– Adopted

Resolution 2014-03 – “Turn the Towns Teal” Recognized September as Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and participated in month long activities and promotion of the awareness effort. Dr. Sue Sommer-Kresse, a two time ovarian cancer survivor and long-time resident of Kiawah was presented with the resolution.

Agility Recovery – Business Emergency Recovery Service Agreement Discussed the proposed service agreement which provided business continuity coverage and emergency response equipment. It was concluded that the service was duplicative and of no additional value to the Town; this proposal was not approved for lack of support.

Perkins Cleaning Services Contract Amendment Approved amendment to extend the janitorial services agreement for an additional two years and approved a 2% cost of living rate increase bringing the annual cost to \$25,560.

PSSi Contract Amendment Approved a contract amendment with PSSi for additional services related to the analysis of the Fire District on a time and materials basis including all travel and study related expenses not to \$14,950.

Mayor's Corner - Charles R. Lipuma



The Town of Kiawah Island continues to be on a solid financial footing. For the current fiscal year (2014-2015) our projected expenditures are \$6.4 million and revenues are \$7.5 million, adding about \$1.1 million to our cash reserves. Presently, our reserves total over \$17 million; which is unprecedented for a municipality our size. Unlike most South Carolina municipalities and counties, Kiawah does not impose a property tax. The majority of the Town's revenues are from business licenses, building permits, local option sales tax, franchise fees and accommodations taxes. Recent Council initiatives have served to improve the Town's financial health. These include the annexation of Freshfields Village and taking over building permitting from Charleston County. Combined these initiatives total about \$1 million in additional revenue. Town Council will continue to manage expenditures, build reserves and maintain the outstanding quality of the Kiawah community.

ADMINISTRATIVE

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Town Council and the Town's Emergency Committee, comprised of key personnel from the Kiawah Island Community Association, Kiawah Island Gold Resort, Kiawah Partners, Kiawah Island Utility, CERT, Berkeley Electric Cooperative, and Charleston County Sheriff's Department all participated in a full day training and exercise in late July. The exercise was facilitated by Scott Cave of Atlantic Business Continuity, and focused on the major components of the plan. The first component was clarification that the Town would serve as the lead agency as the local government; second was explaining the roles that each entity would play in an emergency situation; and third, practicing the applications of the plan during a mock scenario. The group participated in a scenario of a Category 3 Hurricane with a severe hit to Kiawah. Officials utilized the Incident Command structure to manage the scenario.



In September, the Town staff participated in a hands-on training exercise that focused on notifying the community, managing the Emergency Operations Center and working through the three phases of emergency management; prepare, respond and recover. The Town officials and staff will undergo quarterly and annual training and testing of the plan to insure compliance and readiness for any emergency that may threaten the Kiawah community.

AMENDED PET RESTRAINT ORDINANCE-EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER

The Town of Kiawah Island, on August 5th amended the pet restraint ordinance. Please familiarize yourself with the ordinance and pay special attention to the bold sections which reflect the changes. To view the Pet Restraint map visit www.kiawahisland.org/municipal-library. Contact the Code Enforcement Office at 843-768-9166 with any questions. This ordinance goes into effect on November 1, 2014 and is listed below.



Owners may unleash their pets year round (in those areas of the beach designated as "Dog Use Areas" on the map of Kiawah island showing proposed location of critical habitat areas and pet restraint requirements which is made a part thereof). This provision applies only during daylight hours, i.e. from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Dogs are prohibited in the areas designated "Critical Habitat Areas" on the referenced maps as well as those areas posted as critical bird habitat areas located on the eastern and western ends of Kiawah's beach. The Dog Use Area on the map is amended to reflect that the western end of the beach "known as Beachwalker County Park" to a Dog leash Area effective November 1, 2014.

Owners may unleash their pets from November 1st through March 15th in all areas of the beach except those areas designated as "Critical Habitat Areas" as well as those areas posted as critical bird habitat areas located on the eastern and western ends of Kiawah's beach. The owner must remain with their pet, have their pet under control and have in their possession a leash in the event that there is a need to leash their pet, or if requested by other beachgoers.

ENVIRONMENTAL

TALLOW TREE CONTROL PROGRAM



The Town of Kiawah Island, working in cooperation with other island entities, initiated a program to treat and control infestations of the invasive Chinese Tallow Tree on the island in 2013. The Chinese Tallow Tree is a severe threat to freshwater wetland areas on Kiawah Island. It quickly colonizes these areas, virtually eliminating the existing native vegetation. The Chinese Tallow Tree (*Triadica sebifera*) is a deciduous tree that is native to China. It was introduced to the southeast in the 1700's. It has a very rapid growth rate and quickly colonizes shallow, freshwater wetlands, moist soil areas, ditches, and even upland areas. Infestations can spread rapidly via root sprouts and seeds. Seeds can be dispersed long distances by water and birds. Mature Tallow Trees can produce as many as 100,000 seeds each year. The Tallow Tree can grow up to 60 feet high and reach a diameter of 3 feet or more. It has heart-shaped leaves that turn yellow to red in the fall before dropping off in winter. The fruits are produced in groups of 3 and resemble popcorn.

TREATMENT PLAN

- 2013 - Tallow Trees were treated with a selective herbicide on 130 acres of common property located throughout the island. In addition, tallows were treated along all KICA roads and leisure trails. Treatments were very effective and more than 95% of the trees in these areas were killed.
- 2014 – Treatments are scheduled for October and will target Tallow Trees on all 4 Resort golf courses, Little Bear Island, and a few additional areas.

FUTURE TREATMENT AREAS

Town Staff are working on a plan to control and treat Tallow Trees on undeveloped and developed lots. The protocol and time frame for these treatments has not been determined at this time. In addition, retreatments will be necessary in the Year 1 treatment areas, likely beginning in 2015. For questions on this program and to find out how you can help control Tallow Trees in your own yard, please contact Town Hall.

TURTLE SEASON REPORT



Kiawah Island, blessed with a beach that is long and wide and relatively level, is an important nesting beach for the turtles of the northern subpopulation Loggerheads, who make their nests from North Carolina to the Florida border. The Kiawah Island Turtle Patrol, numbering approximately 200 volunteers, is the largest volunteer group in the state involved in this conservation effort. The Town of Kiawah Island has also supported this effort since its inception. Turtle Patrol has reported that they have uncovered 142 nests and 95 false crawls (track, but no nests) this season. Thank you to all the volunteers!