

Proposed long term OT budget

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To: "Commissioners@CurrituckCountyNC.gov" <Commissioners@currituckcountync.gov>, Bobby Hanig <Bobby.Hanig@currituckcountync.gov>, Bob White <Bob.White@currituckcountync.gov>, Mike Hall <Mike.Hall@currituckcountync.gov>, Mike Payment <Mike.Payment@currituckcountync.gov>, Kitty Etheridge <Mary.Etheridge@currituckcountync.gov>, Marion Gilbert <Marion.Gilbert@currituckcountync.gov>, Paul Beaumont <paul.beaumont@currituckcountync.gov>
Cc: Dan Scanlon <dan.scanlon@currituckcountync.gov>

Dear Commissioners,

Attached to this note is the Corolla Civic Association's (CCA) proposal for a ten-year budget for spending Occupancy Tax (OT) along with an Appendix of details for each proposal. A draft of this document was circulated to the community for comment, and the attached version reflects significant community input. This proposal has broad community support which when implemented, will produce robust and concrete economic benefits for all of Currituck County.

We are requesting that you send CCA the current version of the County's draft future budget for OT. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in the next week or two to walk you through our proposal. We believe that a future plan for the use of OT funds can be jointly developed in a several hour work session prior to June budget approval.

The CCA has been working with local residents, property owners and business operators for almost a decade. We have attempted to influence your use of Occupancy Tax funds with limited success. For example, we warned the County that pedestrians walking along NC12 needed a safe off-road path, but three people had to die before the County took action.

Last April, we met with Commissioners Hanig, Etheridge and White, and County Attorney Ike McRee to discuss our concerns about past expenditures of OT that we felt were either explicitly excluded from the OT statute or whose use we felt was questionable to best protect and grow the tourism economy. We followed up that meeting with a recommended business-like approach for you to use to develop options and determine resource allocation of OT funds. The OT budget approved by the Commissioners last June ignored our concerns. The unsatisfactory response from the County then led us to hire legal counsel who confirmed our understanding of the OT law. Her public document request to the County almost three months ago has failed to produce an acknowledgement or response.

Over the past year, CCA has hosted several community meetings to discuss land use issues and opportunities in conjunction with development of the new Land Use Plan. These meetings were very productive and contributed to the attached detailed plan for future use of OT funds. Some of this material was presented to the Commissioners in the Land Use Plan work session last November.

On behalf of the citizen-taxpayers that we represent, we ask that you schedule a work session to discuss both our OT budget proposal and the County's draft budget proposal so that our input may be fully considered prior to your approval of the budget in June.

Thank you for your service. We are looking forward to working with the County toward the best interest of all County taxpayers.

On behalf of the CCA Board and COBX Community,

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*"One voice to preserve, protect & enhance the Currituck Outer Banks
for residents, owners, visitors & businesses"*

2 attachments:

OT TRE 10 yr Budget SUMMARY v7. with table-1.pdf

OT TRE 10 yr Budgets Appendix v6.pptx.pdf