



Will climate change lead to mass migration north?

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Committee casts wider net for coastal engineer

Cape May hopes to hire expert to design more gradual slope to beaches in bid to prevent injuries

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Beach Safety Advisory Committee continues to take steps to find a coastal engineer in its search for a solution to a sharp drop-off in the surf zone that has been blamed for head and neck injuries to bathers.

A coastal engineer would be expected to complete 3D and computer-generated models that would mimic the waves

in Cape May's position on the coast.

At a Aug. 2 meeting, Beach Safety Advisory Committee Chairman Steve Seger said engineer Marc DiBlasio has reached out to several firms that have experience with the type of issues Cape May is experiencing.

Deputy Mayor Lorraine Baldwin said the city initially received requests for qualifications (RFQs) from only two firms.

"After review, the subcommittee felt like we needed to cast a wider net," she said.

DeBlasio said he researched other "purely coastal engineering firms" that did not submit an RFQ to the city and contacted six of them. He said he informed them the city would be receiving additional RFQs and received positive responses.

The city is likely to receive a more robust response from coastal engineers as it advertises again for RFQs, DeBlasio

said. "One of our other coastal communities that we work in has completed a feasibility study — not quite the same exact same problems that Cape May has but there is a lot of synergy in some of the issues," he said. "Some of the things that I learned I'm going to bring them forward to help shape how the city can look at beach safety and the profile of the beach, and then we can also incorporate that to our discus-

sions with consultants that you are considering to use moving forward."

Baldwin said the subcommittee would review and interview candidates. She said the most difficult task was finding a coastal engineer to address the city's issues.

Steger said the beach modeling process can begin once the city selects a coastal engineer. That will provide data to the

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Hayes appointed surrogate, setting off domino effect

O.C. councilman Barr takes her position on County Commission

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

OCEAN CITY — Former Ocean City Council president Bobby Barr has taken his place on the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners, filling a vacancy left when E. Marie Hayes was appointed as county surrogate.

That leaves a vacancy to be filled on Ocean City Council.

Barr resigned his council seat last week immediately after Cape May County Republicans gathered Aug. 2 for a special CapeGOP convention and chose him over Upper Township's Michael Palombo to fill Hayes' seat.

On July 6, Hayes, also of Ocean City, took the oath of office to become the Cape May County surrogate. She was nominated by Gov. Phil Murphy and confirmed by the New Jer-

sey State Senate the week before to fill a vacancy created when Dean Marcolongo became a Superior Court Judge.

That also will change the look of the November election among GOP candidates, with Barr seeking to be re-elected after a roughly three-month stint. Hayes also will be running for re-election after her short appointed term as surrogate. She will be facing Democrat Beverly McCall, who made it onto the ballot with a write-in campaign.

Barr will be teamed up with newcomer Melanie Collette of Middle Township and incumbent Will Morey. Sitting County Commissioner Jeffrey Pierson of Upper Township decided not to seek re-election.

Democrat Patricia

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Frank Scott/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

National Night Out in Cape May

The city and Cape May Police Department held the annual National Night Out event Aug. 1 that included beach games, bounce houses, a dunk tank, U.S. Coast Guard displays, food and prizes. Above, firefighter Joshua Vandermark of the Cape May Fire Department shows Bradley James Carney how to work the fire hose. Below, Cape May Police Chief Dekon Fashaw addresses the crowd.

Cape May council OKs \$12.4 million bond sale

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a resolution authorizing the sale of previously approved bond ordinances, combining them into a single \$12.4 million bond.

The bond includes funding for various capital improvement projects, the city's share of costs for the new library totaling \$1.9 million and improvements related to the beach utility dating back to 2013.

At an Aug. 1 meeting, former councilwoman Stacy Sheehan noted the total included bonds approved by council dating as far back as 2018.

"Some of these are things we have already purchased such as the ambulance, so I don't understand why we are going out to bond for an ambulance that was already purchased," she

said. Chief Financial Officer Kevin Hanie said the reason the city does not bond each item individually as they are approved is the great expenses incurred by a bond sale.

"Because of that, we wait and group them together to include multiple in one bond sale just to fund them," he said.

The reason some bondable items have already been purchased is they were needed by the city and were bought with funds on hand with the bond sale acting as a reimbursement to the city's general capital or beach utility fund, Hanie said.

Councilwoman Maureen McDade said bonds are used in a manner to keep debt service on an even keel.

"Why weren't we bond-

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