

**TOWN OF LONGBOAT KEY
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: June 25, 2015

TO: Dave Bullock, Town Manager
FROM: Juan J. Florensa, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Village Peafowl—Preliminary Findings

Consistent with the direction received by the Town Commission, on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 Police Chief Pete Cumming and I met with Village resident James Braha. Commissioner Pat Zunz also attended this meeting. This report offers preliminary findings and summary of this meeting together with other information we have obtained from other sources.

Mr. Braha has, for the past few years, been the lead person in the Village dealing with and managing the peafowl situation. He provided us with a brief summary of recent attempts to control the peafowl population. He is also extremely knowledgeable on what does and does not work in controlling peafowl in the Village and other constraints he has faced in his efforts.

This is what we have learned from Mr. Braha and through our initial limited research with state agencies and other communities:

- The current peafowl population in the Village is estimated at 100 birds and growing.
- Life expectancy for peafowl is about 20 years; 40-50 years if fed.
- Peahens lay anywhere between 5-15 eggs per nest.
- Mating season is generally Spring and Summer.
- The largest congregation of peafowl in the Village is the area bounded by Longboat Drive North, Fox Street, Russell Street and Broadway, even though peafowl can be found in other areas of the Village as well. (See attached map)
- The latest large-scale organized efforts to trap peafowl in the Village occurred in 2011.
- Peafowl like to roost on trees at night.
- Peafowl are generally frightened of dogs.
- There are no known peafowl predators on Longboat Key. In the wild, fox and coyotes are their primary predators.

- Peafowl are not considered “wildlife” by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), instead they are classified as domestic livestock, similar to chickens.
- Peafowl are protected under Florida State Animal Cruelty Laws.
- Licensed trappers previously utilized by the Village tended to be inconsistent and typically could not—or would not—finish the job.
- Peafowl may be trapped and relocated to an animal sanctuary or the property or farmland of a willing owner; it is not permitted to relocate them to an area in the wild.
- There are various points of view amongst Village residents regarding peafowl.

In March 2010 the Town Commission passed Resolution 2010-08 that, among other things, agreed to reimburse the Village up to \$2,400 to assist in the trapping and relocation of peafowl. It also sought to cap the population at 12 birds. While the Village attempted to reach this goal, it is clear that as long as peahens (females) are left to mate the number of birds will continue to grow.

In order to minimize (not eliminate) the negative impact upon residential quality of life, while maintaining a healthy peafowl population that the environment can sustain, a routine trapping program must be instituted and maintained.

It is our opinion that removing ALL peahens is the only way to avoid periodic trapping and removal. An agreed upon number of males (12) can be achieved with proactive, continuous monitoring and routine removal. Very preliminary estimates indicate that the initial costs of removing the majority of peafowl will exceed \$10,000. Once this initial removal is accomplished, recurring monitoring and continuous removal of females should remain at a relatively small amount.

Staff is prepared to work this summer to obtain solid costs through the competitive procurement process should the Town Commission direct staff to do so. These costs can be presented to the Town Commission this fall for further discussion and consideration.

Attachments: 5-11-15 Memo, Manager to Commission
Map of Village

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: May 11, 2015

TO: Town Commission
FROM: Dave Bullock, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Discussion Regarding Peafowl

At the March 23, 2015 Regular Workshop Meeting the Town Commission requested an update on the previous Commission action regarding peafowl.

- At the May 5, 2008 Regular Meeting the Town Commission held first reading on Ordinance 2008-12, Amending Peafowl Ordinance to Include Provision for "No Feeding". This Ordinance was tabled and no future action was taken.
- At the May 5, 2008 Regular Meeting the Town Commission passed Resolution 2008-19, which provided \$2,400 from Contingency funds for reimbursement of peafowl relocation expenses incurred by the Longbeach Village Association. (Meeting minutes and Resolution 2008-19 attached.)
- At the March 1, 2010 Regular Meeting the Commission passed Resolution 2010-08. This Resolution provided \$2,400 from Contingency funds to reimburse the Longbeach Village Association for peafowl relocation fees at \$40/bird. (Meeting minutes and Resolution 2010-08 attached.)

The last official Commission discussion regarding peafowl was at the April 28, 2011 Regular Workshop (meeting minutes attached). The minutes summarized the Commission discussion as:

- Commission position to not be in the animal control business
- Monetary contributions made
- Options to provide funding for an additional six months only
- Anticipated removal costs
- Amending the Code to remove the peacock requirements

Although there was discussion at the April 28, 2011 Regular Workshop Meeting regarding retaining only male birds in order to control propagation, there was no formal action, or consensus.

For your convenience, Town Code Section 91.04 is also provided.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

