



## TOWN OF KILL DEVIL HILLS

*Land Where Flight Began*

MEMORANDUM

January 9, 2017

TO: Mayor and Board of Commissioners

FROM: Debora P. Diaz, Town Manager

REF: Town Manager's Agenda

### 1. Dare County Emergency Management public information alert system

Dare County is preparing to implement an alert/notification system for information dissemination during emergency/life-affecting situations; all Dare County local governments have been given an opportunity to participate in this system. A meeting with potential contractors for this service was recently held. Michael O'Dell, Chief Tilley, and Kurt O'Dell attended on behalf of the Town and came away with favorable comments and support for Kill Devil Hills' participation in this program.

Uses and benefits include:

- Quick information/alert notifications for anyone who signs up for the service via e-mail and/or text;
- Notifications can be targeted geographically so specific subscribers can be reached – for example: notification of a water break on West Ocean Acres Drive could be targeted specifically to the residents on that road;
- There is conference call ability that would allow a specific public safety group to be texted with a link to call in for an instant conference call;
- The system will integrate with the FEMA Integrated Public Alert & Warning System so that emergency alerts affecting life or property can be sent to every cell phone within a geographic area, regardless of registration with the system – for example, every cell phone within a 3-mile radius could be informed of a hazardous chemical spill at MP 7 on Virginia Dare Trail;
- Hurricane evacuation orders can be transmitted with the system.

At this time, cost estimates are between \$4,000 - \$5,000, annually. More specific information will be available at a later time, and if necessary, Staff will return to a future meeting with a budget amendment.

Staff requests Board authorization for Kill Devil Hills' participation in this alert and notification system. Board guidance will be sufficient and future expenses will be budgeted as usual.