

PALMER: "IT'S COSTLY TO KEEP UP THE BEACHES.'

Beach bill \$150K for repairs

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LONG BEACH TOWNSHIP — The Board of Commissioners has approved an emergency appropriation of \$150,000 to pay for beach repairs after a Jan. 30 storm wreaked havoc on township beaches.

The board agreed on the appropriation at its meeting Jan. 30.

"Without the project, it's going to cost the township a lot of money to keep replacing the sand that has been taken from the beach," Commissioner Robert Palmer said. "It's costly to keep up the beaches.

"Hopefully this is all that we will need," Palmer added.

The winds and high tide washed away the beach under a home on Ocean Boulevard.

"It's like the wind and tide went right for the home," said Palmer. "This is not the only place on the Island that experienced erosion. At the public beach access ramp in North Beach, there is a 15-foot-drop cliff."

Palmer said the home at 5301 Ocean Blvd. is structurally sound despite the erosion.

On Feb. 1, Palmer said the township ordered 300 tons of sand from Sahara Sand Plant in Eagleswood to repair the damage.

"When I saw this morning (Feb. 1) what was going on, I knew that we needed to get this fixed," Palmer said. "My men will be out there all day today and tomorrow, trying to make sure that this does not happen again."

The beach has since been returned to normal, Palmer said.

Palmer said the the erosion caused by the minor storm shows the need for the planned beach replenishment project.

"If we do not get the project, this could happen all over the place," Palmer said. "We need this (project) to happen."

The sand being provided by the township is in addition to a planned beach construction project by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

The proposed beach project includes construction of a 125-foot-wide beach berm and a sand dune 30-feet wide; incorporates 347 acres of planted dune grasses and 540,000 feet of sand fencing; raises the beach 8 feet above sea level and dunes another 14 feet for a total height of 22 feet; replaces 7.4 million cubic yards of sand fill during initial construction; and provides maintenance work about every seven years over a 50-year period.

As a condition of Long Beach Township's participation, the state Department of Environmental Protection is requiring the township to improve public access to its beaches in North Beach and Loveladies sections of Long Beach Township boasting palatial waterfront estates. Residents in those areas are fighting against granting public access easements because of insurance issues.