



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Ken Kyser; Commissioners Sandy Miller, Sheila Young, Dennis Harrington and Gina Martin; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Police Chief Wally Layne; and Shoreline Protection and Recreation Manager Christy Ferguson.

Mayor Holden asked for a moment of silence then called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Commissioner Young asked if it is possible to postpone the decisions to fill the vacancies until July. The Board agreed to remove item 10.

Motion by Commissioner Miller to approve the amended agenda; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Young to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 12, 2015; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made.

RECOGNITION OF HOLDEN BEACH TURTLE PATROL FOR THE CONTRIBUTION OF AED (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR) TO THE TOWN

Tony Marwitz, President of the Holden Beach Turtle Patrol introduced Pat Cusak, the program's coordinator. Mr. Marwitz stated the Turtle Patrol is appreciative of the relationship they have with the Town. He presented the donation to the Board, who accepted it. Mr. Marwitz stated the next thing they are talking about is getting portable units.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF WALLY LAYNE

- The island is fairly safe, but fairly busy. We have transitioned from house break-in season to car break-in season. People leave stuff in their cars and don't lock the doors. Encourages everyone in the room to not leave valuables in the car. Lock your car. The county has a significant drug problem. These people know beach communities in the summertime are easy targets.
- Folks are out riding bicycles, jogging and skating. Be mindful on the road. They are out there and not paying much attention.
- In addition to tourist season, we are a couple of weeks into hurricane season. If the Town decides to issue a mandatory evacuation, listen to the warning. Now that the Town has sewer, the system will be shut down during a mandatory evacuation. If you use the system when it is shutdown, it will make re-entry time significantly longer. Make sure you leave during an evacuation. Make your plans now and be prepared. Dolly Mitchell stated she thought if a mandatory evacuation is called everyone has to leave. Chief Layne responded that is correct.
- By the graciousness of the Board, the Police Department has been afforded the opportunity to hire two part-time people. They will work the front window. It will make a tremendous difference.
- Commissioner Harrington noticed 14 animal complaints. He asked if those are tickets or warnings. Chief Layne responded probably a combination, it doesn't specify in the report.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LANDSCAPING PROJECT FOR THE MAINLAND SIDE OF THE HOLDEN BEACH BRIDGE

Town Manager Hewett recognized the members of the Beautification Club in the audience. The area being discussed is the north side of bridge. It is a large scale landscaping of the entire bridge approach abutment area on the other side. The project was initiated by the HB Beautification Club. The project is primarily sponsored by the NC Department of Transportation. He showed pictures of the current views and the plans for the project. The Board would need to approve the project if they wish to proceed and the county would need to go along with it since it is in their jurisdiction. The anticipated start is mid-October, finishing after the first of January. The majority of the project costs will be the Department of Transportation's. Town Manager Hewett stated the Town does need to provide water and electricity hookups and the follow on maintenance. The annual fiscal year cost would be about \$15,000. The suggested funding would be from the BPART Fund. Town Manager Hewett stated the plan is to have the heavy maintenance accomplished via contract. He showed a rendering of the finished project. Commissioner Harrington asked if the Town can ask the county to help fund the project. Town Manager Hewett stated the Town could ask.

Motion by Commissioner Young to approve the project as presented; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Starfish and Pier beach accesses – Permission has been granted to use those accesses. We have been able to provide emergency access for Town vehicles to get to the strand.
- Pending legislation – We do not have anything from the General Assembly on sales tax. We are watching, but do not know what will happen with it.
- A couple of months back he reported to the Board that we were working with the Department of Transportation on sidewalks and some of the safety requirements. We didn't get the answer we wanted or expected. They were explicit on the state requirements. Still working that one.

- Boating Infrastructure Grant – We have the CAMA permit in hand. Cannot do anything there until September because of Fish and Wildlife constraints. Have made application for the sub-grant for the pump out equipment.
- The bathroom facilities bid solicitation is on the street. Tentatively thinking the information will be presented to the Board in July.
- Shallow Draft Inlets –Five (SDI-5) – The state has procured the services of an engineering firm. They’re pulling together everything necessary for locally held permits for the dredging of the state’s shallow draft inlets. The application has gone forward to CAMA. It is a major permit. It is a lengthy process. The year before last, the General Assembly passed legislation that provided funding for dredging of navigational channels. Have been meeting with the Division of Water Resources on a quarterly basis. The Corps doesn’t have any money for dredging the Lockwood Folly Inlet this year or next year, but North Carolina does from the fund that was set up. We have been communicating that we do not want the sidcaster dredge to be used. We would like the sand on our beach, instead of in the air.
- Terminal groin – The Corps had another personnel change. That will slip the public hearing to August. We have communicated with the chief of the branch, he will be assuming that responsibility. It is an ongoing issue.
- Fish and Wildlife Service was on the strand. We have five pairs of nesting Wilsons Plovers. The representatives like the Town’s post and rope mechanisms on keeping folks out of the dunes.
- Showed pictures and gave the status of the strand.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

- On Sunday, the Holden Beach Chapel had a killdeer deposit their eggs in the parking lot. Had to put flags around it.
- Hoping a year from now, we won’t have to tell people Holden Beach has the ugliest entrance. Appreciates the Beautification Club’s efforts.
- Will be having an announcement of the time and date for the Emergency Team to assemble.
- Communication feedback - Rhonda Innis is asking the Town to put some sort of foot rinse at the parking lot near the 800 block. Matt Harrison is concerned about people shark fishing from the pier. He has an email that summer visitor numbers are expected to be down in Myrtle Beach. The reason is people are going elsewhere because they can’t put up tents, cabanas, etc. The Town’s ordinance is beneficial since it allows people to use them if they take them down at night.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Kyser

- Thanked everyone for coming out. This is one of largest crowds he has seen for a meeting.
- Thanked the Beautification Club for all of their hard work in organizing the project.
- Thanked the Turtle Patrol for their donation. Have a great working relationship with them. This is not the first gift they have given to the Town. We appreciate it.
- Thanked all of the people who volunteered for the boards. That is the biggest group of volunteers we have had. To have all of these volunteers is fantastic.

Commissioner Miller

- Thanked everyone for coming and everyone who volunteered for the vacancies.
- Is a member of the Beautification Club, but isn’t one of the ones that pulls weeds. Thanked everyone who is doing that. Thinks the Town will have a great new entrance.

Commissioner Young

- Echoed the thank you to all of the volunteers. Sorry to put the vote off. If we don't pick you this time, please do not go away. Sure we will need more volunteers.
- In charge of section 6 of the Emergency Evacuations Teams. All teams need volunteers. Please volunteer if you can.
- Thanked the Turtle Patrol and the Beautification Club. We appreciate what you do.

Commissioner Harrington

- Echoed all the comments. Hopes the project will work its way further towards Food Lion.
- For those who missed the budget meetings today, we will have one on June 23rd. Encouraged everyone to come.

Commissioner Martin

- Thanked everyone for coming. A special big thanks to the Beautification Club. Thinks the Town will have the most beautiful entrance. Hopefully we will get an opportunity to thank the Department of Transportation for being willing to do this. Without them, it would not have been possible.
- Thanked everyone who put their name in to serve on the boards.
- Encouraged everyone to stay involved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

No public comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Miller to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk