



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 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; and Police Chief Wally Layne.

Mayor Holden asked for a moment of silence and then called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Holden asked the Board to consider adding an update by County Commissioner Marty Cooke to the agenda.

*Motion by Commissioner Miller to add Commissioner Cooke as agenda item 6a; second by Commissioner Young.*

Commissioner Harrington stated at the last meeting, the Holden Beach Property Owners Association (HBPOA) requested two items to be put on the agenda. He inquired why they were omitted. Mayor Holden stated he did not receive a request from the commissioners to add the items. Commissioner Harrington asked if they could be added to the next agenda. Mayor Holden stated they could be if the Board would like or they can add them to this meeting if they choose to.

*The motion to add item 6a passed by unanimous vote.*

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Commissioner Young to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 14, 2015 as written; second by Commissioner Miller; approved by unanimous vote.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

No comments were made.

Mayor Holden introduced the Boy Scouts in attendance. They attended the meeting to earn a merit badge.

**UPDATE - BRUNSWICK COUNTY COMMISSIONER MARTY COOKE**

Commissioner Cooke provided background on the Sales Tax Redistribution Bill that is currently before the General Assembly. If the bill passes as currently written, the local economy could lose a potential of \$2 million per year. If you

factor in growth, we could lose a potential of \$11 million over a four year period. Commissioner Cooke stated the Builders Inventory Bill recently passed, which is estimated to cost the county \$6 million a year in lost revenue. Last year we already lost the revenue from privilege licenses. Commissioner Cooke said people can call House of Representative members across the state and tell them it is not an equitable solution; that it will harm some counties; and request that it be studied further.

Commissioner Cooke provided information on what is going on at the county level. They have been talking about seismic studies. They had to restructure their Economic Development Department. The county lost their county attorney. They are looking at water storage. He stated they are going to need to look at the fire fee aspect. Commissioner Cooke stated that beach nourishment is an issue. He stated that when there were wind and hail issues, Brunswick County really did a great job in dealing with the issues.

Mayor Holden stated the Town continues to get criticized about the Holden Beach Causeway. Commissioner Cooke said the county can't just go in and revamp something. They have to do it on a fair basis. He thinks they need to get a conversation started about the options. He also suggested voluntary annexation.

Mayor Holden asked if he had a report on the shrimp boat. Commissioner Cooke replied no.

Mayor Holden asked about the park on the mainland. Commissioner Cooke stated there are no immediate plans. When the county bought it, they felt it was a good acquisition to develop in the long term. Commissioner Harrington stated the county should consider adding a boat launch ramp to that area. Commissioner Cooke advised him to send in a request so the county can look into that.

#### **POLICE REPORT – CHIEF WALLY LAYNE**

- Summer has been fairly typical. Haven't had any major events.
- For the last month the Police Department has been getting worn out from drug addicts shopping in unlocked cars. They are opening doors and removing valuables. Went over some of the valuables stolen. They have arrested four separate groups in the last month. Every time they arrests one, another group comes down. The word is out that people do not lock their cars. They are working diligently trying to catch them. Please don't leave valuables in your car. Lock your car. Mayor Pro Tem Kyser asked if it would help to put information on the flashing sign. Chief Layne replied it couldn't hurt. We did send out a blast last week. There really is no pattern to it. They are assuming it is occurring late at night. House break-ins during the summer don't normally occur.
- Commissioner Young suggested that the Board invite all rental agencies to talk about the kinds of things that should be put in the packets for renters. The Town might have some suggestions to help inform people.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 15-07, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE HEALTH PLAN**

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser to approve Resolution 15-07; second by Commissioner Miller.*

Commissioner Young stated she has several questions. Town Clerk Finnell explained we have not investigated the details at this point. We need to have an approved resolution prior to moving forward. Staff plans on evaluating this as one of the options for the upcoming year. Commissioner Young stated she has a list of questions she will provide to staff to ask when looking into the plan. Mayor Holden stated as he understands this it is just an expression of interest.

*The motion to approve Resolution 15-07 passed by unanimous vote.*

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Terminal Groin – Dial Cordy has provided the Draft Environment Impact Statement to the Corps. It is in their Legal Department for review. The draft should be released soon. Estimating a public hearing will be held in early to mid-September.
- SDI-5 Navigation Maintenance Permit – the Draft Expanded Biological Opinion is out for review. It is one of the required conditions of the permit.
- Corps Maintenance Dredging in the Inlet – we have confirmed for the first 10 days of September the hopper dredge, Murden, will be clearing the inlet. The sand should be placed in the near shore from the bridge back east.
- Requested an extension on the FEMA Irene Project. We asked for another year so we could figure out how to incorporate that project with some of the other things we are doing.
- All three subdivisions permits for canal dredging have been renewed for five more years. We can now update the Canal Dredging Master Plan. We anticipate having that completed mid to late winter.
- At Greensboro Street the water is up to the edge of the road. Will need to put a small bulkhead in to stabilize the area.
- HB Bridge Beautification Project – the county approved a resolution of support on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Should have an agreement from the Department of Transportation by the end of the week. Thinks it will be an October start date on that project.
- Kids Camp and Tide Dye will end next week.
- Run HB is September 12. Encouraged sign-ups for the events. 100% of the proceeds from the 1 mile walk will be donated to the Turtle Patrol.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

- Thanks to Public Works for reducing the odor at the concerts. Had positive comments last week.
- Tourists are taking lots of pictures at the south end of the bridge. It is amazing the positive comments coming from that.
- The summer crowd has peaked. This is the last busy week.
- Strand/ Road Conditions - Alan Holden Realty cleans a section of the boulevard. Has been chastised for not having any trash when they filed their report. When volunteers go they have a hard time finding trash. Gets a lot of compliments on the fact that there is not much trash.
- Overall thinks we have been having a great summer.
- If interested in volunteering on the Evacuation Teams, see the town clerk.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Kyser

- Thanked everyone for coming. It's nice to see some youth in the audience.

Commissioner Miller

- Thanked everyone for coming. Sees a few new faces.
- Holden Beach will be hosting the Brunswick Shoreline Protection Association meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>. Invited everyone to attend.

Commissioner Young

- Understands we sent information on the newest rendition of the restrooms to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). Inquired if they sent anything back. Town Manager Hewett stated it was not sent to them. The motion was for him to handle it in the most cost effective manner. Town Manager Hewett stated he is moving forward to get it done.
- Received questions and packets from both of the west end property owner associations. Wondered if any response was made to the people who sent them. Mayor Holden stated he understands the building inspector has been active

in the situation they are concerned about and things are moving along. Commissioner Young wondered if the Board would get feedback. Mayor Holden stated Commissioner Harrington did want to talk about it at the next meeting so they can talk about it then if the Board chooses to. He doesn't have a formal report for today.

- The Board did send a letter on behalf of Bald Head Island regarding legislation they were concerned about. Mayor Holden added the letter stated that the Town yields to Bald Head's local concerns. The Town didn't take our own position.
- Inquired on the flood map meeting in Bolivia. Mayor Holden stated it is open to the general public. Town Manager Hewett stated a representative from Town staff will be there in case people have questions.
- Friday at 1:00 p.m. is the ice cream social.
- Would like to work with rental companies so the Town can further educate our visitors.
- Thanked everyone for coming.

#### Commissioner Harrington

- Asked about the process for getting items on the agenda. Thought with a formal presentation from the Holden Beach Property Owners Association that the items would be placed on the agenda. Would like it on the agenda next month. Thinks there is a need to make notice to the county because he would like to see a presentation about the county's noise ordinance. Mayor Holden stated the Town did have a copy of that. Commissioner Cooke stated that ordinance is primarily designed for unincorporated areas and would not be applicable for this area. He stated you could take components from it. Thinks there are other municipal ordinances that are out there the Town could look at it. Commissioner Harrington stated he thinks that takes care of that particular item.
- Requested that the Board be provided with an accounting of the distribution of the \$85,000 to improve the base salaries of employees when it is completed.
- Curious about the number of new homes that were approved for construction on the island this year.
- Commissioner Young alluded to the status of the letters they received regarding mega houses. Would like to know what steps the Town has taken under the advisement of Building Official Evans. Understands there is a major event planned on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Wants to know how the Town is going to approach that. Provided background on the mega house. Thinks it would be wise and in the Town's best interest to move forward with establishing regulations.
- Showed a picture in the Beacon with a Holden Beach sticker. Asked if the Town had anything to do with it. Town Manager Hewett stated the Town did not.
- Asked the status of port-a-johns. Town Manager Hewett stated we have not received any complaints. Public Works has mentioned they are being attended to adequately.
- Appreciates everyone coming.

#### Commissioner Martin

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Thanked the people who have worked so hard at Tide Dye. Had a lot of volunteers. It is a nice event. Thinks a lot of people come year after year. Shirts this year say Holden Beach 2015. People look forward to doing it each year.
- Concerts are on Sunday nights. They have been really well attended. Bands have been great this year.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS**

Beverly Compton stated some of her renters left trance balloons at her home. She stated they should not be allowed.

Lewis Mitchell stated that the house being built at 289 Ocean Boulevard West appears to be three stories. He doesn't want to see three stories on Holden Beach. Mr. Mitchell stated that he understands there was a need to change the ordinance on height. He requested that the Town look at the ordinance and consider changing to allow only two living areas above the freeboard. He asked Commissioner Cooke what Ocean Isle does. Commissioner Cooke stated he is not aware of Ocean Isle's ordinance, but he believes there are buildings that are three story.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Commissioner Miller to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.*

---

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

---

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk