



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 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; Shoreline Protection and Recreation Manager Christy Ferguson; Building Official Tim Evans; CAMA/ Zoning Official Rhonda Wooten; Fiscal Operations Clerks Margaret Lancaster and Mandy Lockner; and Fire Chief Doug Todd.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Holden asked that the Board consider adding Report by Fire Chief Doug Todd as Item 7a.

Motion by Commissioner Miller to approve the agenda as amended; 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 September 8, 2015 as written; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF WALLY LAYNE

- Over the season, the Police Department issued 142 dog warnings, with one physical arrest due to an individual not complying with the request to remove their dog from the beach. A written warning is an enforcement action. If you comply with the written warning, no further action is necessary. They issued 77 written warnings concerning holes. There were 46 items that were tagged for being left on the beach overnight. The Police Department just tags the items. Public Works removes them, so he is not sure how many were actually removed.
- Dodged a hurricane. We did not dodge the rain. Had lots of rain and high water. Some of the side streets and parts of Ocean Boulevard West took on some water. They did re-route traffic from Rothschild to High Point when they felt Ocean Boulevard West wasn't safe. There were no substantial incidents as a result of a major rain event.
- The speed limit west of the pier has been changed. It is back to 45 MPH until the spring.

- Currently halfway through the annual in-service training that is required by the state. It is great to have our own instructors.
- The Festival by the Sea will be October 24th – 25th.
- Make sure to attend the Boo at the Beach.

Mayor Holden asked about the parade. Chief Layne stated he just heard that they will not have a parade this year. The Merchants Association only received two entries for the parade, so they decided to forgo the parade this year. Commissioner Martin added there were also some issues with the permit that they were required to get from the Department of Transportation.

Commissioner Harrington asked what should be done to minimize the amount of dog warnings. Chief Layne stated the people we have a problem with concerning dogs during the season are people who are staying at pet friendly homes. People assume the beach would also be pet friendly. He stated it could be an educational item between the Town and real estate companies. Typically once the Police Department speaks with them, they keep their pets off the beach. Commissioner Harrington stated at the last meeting a resident filed a noise complaint. He asked if the complaint was really filed. Chief Layne stated he has looked into that, the story was not as it was portrayed at the last meeting. Chief Layne stated the Police Department responds to everything they get. Chief Layne answered questions from the audience.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – CHIEF DOUG TODD

Chief Todd provided stats on the types of calls they have had so far this year and the response time for the calls. The Tri-Beach Fire Department has added 24 hour staffing to Station 1. They purchased two new engines to replace two of their older ones. Chief Todd explained they received a smoke detector grant. Since they received the grant, they have installed 272 smoke detectors throughout the district. Chief Todd thinks the summer went really well. He thinks staffing the island over the season has helped. He stated that on February 29th, they will be inspected by the Department of Insurance for their insurance rating.

Commissioner Young thanked the Fire Department for their good work. Chief Todd stated the concrete in front of the station on the island has been replaced in response to Commissioner Young's inquiry. Commissioner Harrington asked how the fire house on the island is staffed. Chief Todd responded it is staffed with two fulltime people from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. from the week of Memorial Day through the week of Labor Day. At least one person on duty has EMT or medical responder training. Commissioner Harrington explained that an access to the beach was purchased in the area of the Fire Station. Chief Todd stated it has been helpful and gives them quick access to the beach. Chief Layne added that the access was super beneficial to the Police Department this year.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF SEWER REFINANCING AGREEMENT, RESOLUTION 15-10, RESOLUTION APPROVING TERMS OF REFINANCING

Fiscal Operations Clerk Lockner explained she has a proposal from BB&T to reduce our interest rate for the existing sewer loans from 3.27% to 2.34%. This would reduce our annual payments by approximately \$13,000. This would save the Town about \$65,000 over the remaining five years of the loan. The closing costs are \$3,900. Staff recommends approval.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser to approve Resolution 15-10; second by Commissioner Martin; approved by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO FISCAL OPERATIONS CLERK MARGARET LANCASTER AND RHONDA WOOTEN, CAMA/ ZONING OFFICIAL FOR ACHIEVING STATUS AS NORTH CAROLINA CERTIFIED PROPERTY MAPPERS

Town Manager Hewett presented Fiscal Operations Clerk Lancaster and Zoning/ CAMA Official Wooten with their certificates and provided background information on the program.

UPDATE BY BUILDING OFFICIAL EVANS ON THE PLANNING & ZONING BOARD'S PROGRESS ON RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE OCCUPANCY USE IN RENTALS

Building Official Evans explained where they were in the process for regulations on big homes. Right now the Planning & Zoning Board is still researching the subject.

Building Official Evans stated the noise ordinance was a separate issue and a committee was formed. The members assigned to the committee will be clarified at the next Planning & Zoning Board meeting.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Storm – It was a challenge for the Public Works Department to keep the sewer operational with that amount of water. We believe there was infiltration into some of the lines. We have some investigative work to do. It did function as designed throughout the event. Kudos to the guys. One specific item that revealed itself immediately after the storm was bulkheads in the canal subdivisions. Working with Inspections and representatives of the canal system working group to identify issues. Please share with us if you know of one that needs attention. If you see paving issues, please bring them to our attention also.
- Terminal Groin Draft Environmental Impact Statement - the deadline for comments is today. If you don't have your comments in, they probably will not take them after midnight tonight.
- The beautification agreements that were approved with the county and Town have made their way to Raleigh. The Board of Transportation will have to approve the agreement between the state and the county. Believes it will be an item on their December agenda.
- Odor control at Jordan Boulevard – the structure has been built, but it is not operational. Awaiting a forced air induction fan. It will probably be in after the festival. It is being constructed by the Public Works staff.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Holden

- Reminded everyone to vote on November 3rd. Thanked everyone for allowing him to sit here for the last term. Hopes everyone considers putting him back in the chair again.
- Keep the family of Henry Busch in your hearts and prayers. He was certainly an example of a good citizen.

Mayor Pro Tem Ken Kyser

- Thanked everyone for coming.
- Remember to go out and vote for your candidates. A lot of people have fought and died to give you that right. Early voting starts soon.

Commissioner Sandy Miller

- Thanked everyone for coming tonight.
- Encouraged everyone to go out and vote. It is your privilege.

Commissioner Sheila Young

- The Wi-Fi is not working at Town Hall. Town Clerk Finnell stated she will reset it.

- There has been confusion with having the festival and Boo at the Beach dates on the same sign. Town Manager Hewett stated it will be taken care of.
- Asked about concerns with the east end lights. Town Manager Hewett stated he solicited opinions from property owners where the lights are located. There are three lights down there. The results were about a 50/50 split. Looking into alternative options for the area.
- Has a concern on the public's perception on when a chairman of a board is related to an elected official of the Town.
- Thanks for coming.

Commissioner Dennis Harrington

- Asked if it would be at the Town's expense if we move the streetlights. Town Manager Hewett explained he isn't that far in the process, but it is normally part of the lease costs. We don't own those lights.
- Rain Storm - was able to pump water out of a lot of areas, but we didn't do it on Ocean Boulevard. Asked if there is a way to do that. Town Manager Hewett explained where the Town has the okay from DENR is the areas where the pumping facilitated the maintenance and operation of the sewer system. That was our first focus. Once we had a handle on that, the water on Ocean Boulevard had dribbled away. Commissioner Harrington inquired if the Town could involve the Fire Department in the future and run water to the spoil areas. Town Manager Hewett stated in this case, DENR was fairly adamant about the pumping being related to the sewer system, not as a matter of convenience. Town Manager Hewett stated he forgot to mention that the Public Works Department is spraying aggressively against mosquitoes. He understands that Brunswick County found the West Nile Virus in their testing. The Town didn't frontload that question to DENR, but we might be able to see if that could be added in the future. He added we believe we have taken care of the public areas. He encouraged everyone to get rid of standing water in their yards.
- Asked if the Town had an employee change in the Inspections Department. Town Manager Hewett responded that Pam Powell, the former secretary is no longer with us. We currently have a temporary hire.
- Thanked everyone for coming. Get out and vote.

Commissioner Gina Martin

- Thanked everyone for coming out. It is nice to see such a large crowd and new faces. Looking forward to seeing everyone on voting day. Hopes everyone exercises their right to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Dolly Mitchell asked if people should call about mosquitoes. Town Manager Hewett stated people who have problems can call. Mrs. Mitchell stated this morning there were people at the shrimp boat working. She asked if anyone knows what is going on. Lou Cutajar stated that Brian Murdock has a contract to remove the building.

Beverly Compton stated it seemed the dunes on the west end were breached pretty badly after the storm. She asked if Town Manager Hewett was able to observe those dunes. Town Manager Hewett stated absolutely. He stated in the context of his communication about the storm, to remember that the beach goes from the toe of the dune to the depth of closure. There is a sand bar out there. He stated where we should be concerned is if there are breaches that allow water to get to your house and we don't see a sand bar. Mrs. Compton stated one of the great things about Holden Beach is that you can see the stars. There is lighting that permits that, she hopes it will be considered.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Miller to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.; second by Mayor Pro Tem Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk