



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Tom Myers; Commissioners Rick Smith, Tracey Thomas, Page Dyer and Rick Paarfus; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Finance Officer Daniel McRaine; Police Chief Jeremy Dixon; and Lieutenant Frank Dilworth.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mayor Pro Tem Myers would like to switch the order of items 14 & 15. Commissioner Dyer asked if item 11 should be on this agenda and the special meeting agenda. Town Clerk Finnell explained that she left the item on the special meeting agenda in case the Board didn't approve the schedule today, but her direction was to bring the item back to this meeting. Commissioner Paarfus said item 12 is to award the contract for the walkway, not for the Hatteras ramp.

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to approve the amended proposed agenda; second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers; approved by unanimous vote.*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST CHECK**

No Board member disclosed a potential conflict of interest.

Mayor Holden advised the Board he has a letter of resignation from Attorney Green effective immediately.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve both sets (Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023, Special Meeting of January 5, 2024); second by Commissioner Paarfus; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Will Carter spoke about his experiences with the pier. He asked the Board to create a new pier for the Town and a pier committee.

Steve Kimbrough said he thinks it would be a mistake to get bids for the pier before there is adequate public input. He talked about creating a committee and deciding on a long-term plan before the bids go out.

Regina Martin said she supports going out and getting an idea of the cost if the Town were to jet in the pilings. She suggested asking the consulting firm to cut the rate because it should have been bid both ways from the beginning. She stated if some of the other ideas are viable, the Town could look at that as well.

Sylvia Pate encouraged the Board to direct staff to engage in value engineering to reduce the scope and rebid the project. She suggested appointing a pier committee. She doesn't understand why there is no mention of boat trailer parking for the Block Q item. She suggested leaving the pavilion where it is if it doesn't need to be completely replaced. She recommended an economic impact study be completed if the Board is going to change the projects.

Jim Bauer thinks it is great to have a public input session for Block Q and the pier. He said the lift station needs to be the priority.

David Bennett explained why he thinks the Town is a special place. He recommended getting a pier committee and getting it going, whether it be building a new one, doing something to what we have or expanding. He said the Town needs a pier.

John Pearce provided information on the HB Community Alliance. They stand to work with the Town to help usher in many decades of the Holden Beach family beach experience. They are gearing up initiatives to help fund, educate, promote and otherwise assist the Town to remain an attractive option for families all over the nation to visit.

Ryan Williams provided information on his background. He said Block Q was purchased for the intention of parking. He talked about the Town losing money due to people not being able to access the water.

William Faircloth thinks talked about his experiences with the pier. He said the pier is outdated and he doesn't think renovating it is an option. He said the Town should put a new pier in.

Lyn Holden about his background and said the beach needs a pier. He thinks the Town should not bear the entire burden of the cost and should get some assistance from the state and county for the pier.

## **POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIXON**

- December was quiet. Not a lot of calls for service.
- PSA – starting to see more credit card and gift card scams. Provided details.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked about after hours water/sewer problems. Chief Dixon explained to call Town Hall during business hours. After hours you can call 911 and they will assist.

## **INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT – INSPECTIONS DIRECTOR EVANS**

- Reviewed numbers on the report
- They are really busy and doing the best they can to keep up.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES §157.083 ACCESSORY STRUCTURES AND §157.006 DEFINITIONS**

Inspections Director Evans explained this was a Board initiated item. In the past accessory structures didn't include boat docks, ramps and piers, etc. by definition in our ordinance. In 2018 the Building Code Council exempted from permitting most of what the Town would consider as piers and floating docks. The outcome of that is we were having piers and docks without guardrails and handrails if they understood what it would take to be exempted. They helped write letters to NCDOI about the hazards of not having guardrails over oyster shells. In 2021, they went back in and rewrote it. When they did, they rewrote those items into the state's definition of accessory structures. The Town had to start enforcing them as accessory structures. Inspections Director Evans explained the Planning & Zoning Board reviewed the item and it is now before the Board. The Board would need to schedule a public hearing and consider a consistency statement if they want to move forward.

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to schedule a public hearing; second by Commissioner Paarfus. They agreed to schedule it at the start of the next regular meeting (February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.) The motion passed unanimously.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF SPECIAL MEETING DATES**

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to accept the proposed meeting calendar as is, second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers.*

Commissioner Thomas said they were asking for two meetings a week, but based on everyone's schedule, they cut it down to one day a week. She stated that is the minimum they want to start out with. Commissioner Smith requested the Board consolidate meetings. We have gone through budgets before without this number of meetings. He reviewed his suggestions. He said the meetings are so spread apart it will be hard for the general public and people with obligations to attend all the meetings. He would like to attend all the meetings. Commissioner Dyer talked about her availability and asked the Board to consolidate the meetings. She is a small business owner and explained how the proposed amount of meetings would affect her business. Commissioner Dyer said she feels like she is doing a disservice to the people who voted for her because she cannot make all the meetings without closing her business. She provides a service that is important to the community. There is a shortage of veterinarians in the country. Mayor Pro Tem Myers stated the budget is a high priority to him. He wants to get it right and get in front of it. He said they picked the daytime ones to be considerate of the staff. He said there is a larger number of smaller bites versus marathon sessions. Commissioner Dyer said the staff is very efficient and they were able to accomplish it in two extra meetings a month. The Town had

an excellent audit and she doesn't see why it can't be done the same way it was previously done. Commissioner Smith asked the meetings to be consolidated around the dates of the Board meetings. They had excellent budget sessions last year and got it done; the audit was wonderful. Commissioner Thomas explained how the schedule was arrived at to try to accommodate everyone's schedule. She doesn't think they can do their due diligence without at least starting this way and seeing how it works out. Commissioner Paarfus said this isn't his first rodeo running budgets. In order to apply sufficient rigor, it takes a lot of seat time. It was emphasized at the Essentials of Municipal Government that you would spend a lot of time on the budget because at the end of the day the Board is responsible. He said a clean audit is a good thing but it doesn't mean the money was spent correctly. It means you followed generally acceptable accounting practices and had sufficient internal controls to prevent mistakes and fraud. He said it is important to remember they are working as a Board; it is not like they are going to do a bunch of crazy stuff when members aren't there. He said the Board needs to work together. People who can't be there will still get information on the meetings. If they have concerns, they can talk about it. The Board further discussed the proposed schedule.

*The motion passed by a 3 – 2 vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Dyer and Smith voting in the negative.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON AWARDING A BID FOR WALKWAY AT 441 OCEAN BOULEVARD WEST**

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained the bid opening was held on January 5<sup>th</sup> for the walkway at 441 Ocean Boulevard West. That is part of the grant the Town received in the amount of \$66,985. The Town received four bids as outlined in the bid tab. Due specifically to the finite and more descriptive detail of the start and stop date, staff recommended that the award go to A.W. Babson. There is only \$300 difference in price between the lowest bid and Babson. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said you are allowed to take time into consideration when awarding bids. The Town is working under a constraint. We have a licensing agreement on the current access that the Town doesn't own, that says it could be pulled from the Town with 45 days' notice.

Commissioner Thomas said the previous agreement was with the former owner. She said the current owner is the mayor and asked if there will be any issues. Mayor Holden stated there are houses being built next door to his lot. In trying to be a good neighbor, he hasn't started his because the Town doesn't have an access if he builds a house there. He wasn't going to say anything about that. He has the right to stop it at any time but hasn't. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained the emergency access will be put in by Public Works at the same time. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said he doesn't fundamentally understand why the Town doesn't go with the lowest bidder. Town Manager Hewett explained the staff felt that the finite nature of the Babson bid justified basically the convenience fee and we had confidence that the probability of expeditious completion was greater. The Board is privileged by statute to discard any and all bids for whatever reason you choose to, to include qualitative aspects beyond price. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the Town has a good working relationship with every contractor on the list. She suggested that language be included in the motion that the town manager get a more finite stop date if the Board awards the bid to the lowest bidder. Timeframes and proposed dates were discussed. Commissioner Paarfus explained he doesn't think the justification is sufficient to go with the second lowest bidder. Commissioner Dyer stated she thinks the staff's decision should be considered.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Myers that we accept the low bid, Richardson Construction, allowing Town Manager Hewett to negotiate if there is an issue with weather; second by Commissioner Paarfus.*

Commissioner Thomas said she would probably agree with Commissioner Dyer if Assistant Town Manager Ferguson didn't say they are familiar and comfortable working with any of these contractors. Commissioner Smith said the Board relies on staff considerably to guide them in the right direction. If they feel it is the right decision, he thinks it is the right direction to go.

*The motion passed by a 4 – 1 vote, with Mayor Pro Tem Smith and Commissioners Thomas, Dyer and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioner Smith voting in the negative.*

## **HOLDEN BEACH PIER PROJECT**

Commissioner Dyer said they wanted to discuss directing staff to engage in value engineering to reduce the scope of work on the pier and to rebid the project. At the last meeting, the architect suggested there is a different method of putting pilings in. We do have money budgeted for the pier. Commissioner Dyer would like to get bids with the new method discussed with Mr. Hemingway. She said the property owners need to be able to make an informed decision and she doesn't think an informed decision could be made without knowing the cost of the repair. She thinks it is a good idea to have a committee formed. She said let's keep moving forward. Commissioner Smith added the Town has been working on this project for several years. Phase 1 was to get the pier itself open. As far as the building and the master plan, that can be changed as we move forward. He watched them build the original pier and they jetted the pilings in the ground. He said we need to get the staff to engage with the architect to get a bid out for jetting the pilings in. Commissioner Smith said if we keep revisiting the plan, we are just spending money on top of money. Our taxpayers are the ones footing the bill. He stated we have a good plan and we need to get the pier open.

*Motion by Commissioner Smith to ask the staff to do some value engineering with jetting in the pilings and get us some reasonable bids so we know where we are at; second by Commissioner Dyer.*

Commissioner Paarfus said he requested to meet with the engineer and staff to discuss this project and talk about some of the aspects going forward. For instance, you need to determine the pile capacity, that requires testing. He said given the current location and existing structure; he doesn't know if we can do that. He said before we start pouring money into this financial hole, he would like to know how deep it is. Commissioner Paarfus said it is not appropriate to go out to bids to get budget numbers. He said if you want to have the engineer give his estimate, that is okay, but it is not okay to request bids from a contractor. He said the Board needs to understand where the pier falls with regard to all the other budget priorities. Mayor Pro Tem Myers believes it is irresponsible to start down a spending path without knowing where you are going, how much it will cost and how we will pay for it. We can repair it, replace it or demolish it. If we do nothing, nature will demolish it for us so he doesn't think doing nothing is really an option. We need the cost to repair it to compare it against the cost of a brand-new cement pier. He said a whole separate issue is how we will pay for it. Commissioner Dyer said the estimate that they gave us for this kind of work was \$700,000 - \$900,000. There is \$1 million in the budget line for the pier for that. She said they are not asking to spend any money at this point, they are just trying to find out how much it will cost to repair it. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said if the Board decides

to build a new pier, any money spent now is wasted money. Commissioner Dyer would like to get the cost so the people can make an informed decision on repairing versus building a new one. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said he doesn't think it needs to be put to bid, but we can get the total cost through economic analysis for a total repair. Commissioner Thomas stated this is the same motion that the Board rejected in December so she is surprised it is back. She feels the Board needs the big picture of what the whole thing would cost, not just putting \$1 million band aids on it. She said until we get that she is not in favor of spending any money on it.

*The motion failed by a 2 – 3 vote with Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting for the motion and Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting in the negative.*

Mayor Pro Tem Myers said this is to start the process of getting public input and coming up with a plan for the path forward for the pier. He is envisioning this to be very similar to the process for Sailfish Park. He is viewing this as a first step for having public input on the pier where we would have the architect present the plans and drawings, have the public ask questions and submit input. Then have the input summarized and brought back to the Board. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said hopefully we can explore repair/replace. He said a pier committee is a good idea. There is a placeholder on the schedule they approved earlier. We may need to change the scope of work for the architect. Town Manager Hewett agreed the scope may need to be amended, he would need to engage with him.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Myers to modify his scope so he could support a public input session and to move forward with holding it on February 29<sup>th</sup>, second by Commissioner Thomas.*

Commissioner Dyer asked how much a public input session would cost. Staff is unsure. Commissioner Dyer suggested forming the committee now. Town Manager Hewett explained there are costs for committees. Commissioner Paarfus said this will be along the lines of a project delivery team, which is more intense. People who are on it will need to put in a whole lot of time. He likes the idea of having a committee, but he is not sure they are ready to create it.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers clarified the public input session would be for collecting public opinion on the existing pier plans. It is the repair path for the pier. It is for the building and pier structure. He said it also includes the pier property, including campground and parking.

*The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE HOLDEN BEACH PAVILION**

Mayor Pro Tem Myers said a year ago Right Angle Engineering did a condition assessment and report on the state of the pavilion. He read from the report. He said he thinks the Board needs to do something. He suggested having Right Angle Engineering do another assessment to make sure it is safe. Commissioner Paarfus is concerned about the safety of the pavilion; that is what we need to determine. He thinks it is important we find out what the current condition is and if we think it is safe to use for another season. Commissioner Dyer said she was under the impression that after the report came out, there were repairs done and monthly inspections completed. Inspections Director Evans explained the history of the pavilion and what repairs have been done to this point. Last summer they made a decision to put up x bracing to try to stop it from racking. If it continues to deteriorate in the condition cited, we

are reaching a point that if the Board doesn't take action, staff will take action to condemn it. Commissioner Dyer asked if the stage is in good condition. Inspections Director Evans said the problem is that when it was originally built, it was not built to the design perimeters of the engineer that designed it. That caused it to rack. When a structure racks, you either need to bring it back to where it needs to be or you have to take action to keep it from racking more. It is the whole structure.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Myers that we engage Right Angle to come back out, do a reassessment of the condition of the pavilion and report to us and instruct staff not to use it until we get that report; second by Commissioner Paarfus.*

Commissioner Dyer asked if that would involve canceling the concerts. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said if it is not safe to use the pavilion, yes and if we cannot find another place to hold them. Based on what he has heard our building inspector say and what he reads in the engineering report, he is not comfortable using it. Holding concerts was discussed. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained contracts need to be signed. Also, we need to go to press since we do a combined ad with the county. She understands the Board's position; we may lose the slots. Commissioner Thomas suggested looking at portable stages that could be used in Block Q. Inspections Director Evans explained the top of the structure is the problem. The stage is safe. Commissioner Dyer asked if the top could be removed until we get the engineer's report. Inspections Director Evans said from a planning standpoint, his recommendation would be to go to guardrail height, cut the top off and get shade sails over the top for the concerts. Commissioner Paarfus said he and Inspections Director Evans discussed that and they want to have Right Angle confirm that gets rid of the safety issue. Commissioner Smith said he doesn't see the need to spend money to have Right Angle Engineering come out to say the same thing. He thinks tax dollars would be better spent removing the top and eliminating the issue. Inspections Director Evans stated when you alter a structure, it will need a new engineer seal. Any structural engineer could do that. The Board further discussed how to move forward.

*The motion passed by a 3 – 2 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting in the negative.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON BLOCK Q**

Mayor Pro Tem Myers said there is potential in the short-term and long-term to have concerts at Block Q. The plan is assuming the pavilion is going away, the Town should explore the opportunity to move the concerts to Block Q. He said this is focused on the interior of Block Q. It is not dealing with right-of-way. There is still boat parking around the right-of-way, which is 30 spots. This is for the green space within Block Q.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Myers to task the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) to work with the current architect because he has the drawings and he has the site plans to develop potential site plans that would include the concert space, dance floor, the ADA compliant bathrooms, greenspace and other amenities as they see desirable; second by Commissioner Thomas.*

*Commissioner Paarfus would like to amend the motion to specifically state boat parking. He said it could be put in the perimeter, but he doesn't want to tie PRAB's hands. Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioner Thomas agreed to the amendment.*

Town Manager Hewett asked for clarification on parking. Commissioner Paarfus said they could consider boat trailer parking and some type of car parking.

Commissioner Smith said we have a plan that includes green space for the pavilion. He asked why we are having the architect do what was already done. He said it seems to be a terrible waste of time and money to start all over again. We need to have pull through parking for boats. Commissioner Smith said the plan was a good plan and still would give ample space for the pavilion and amenities we want. Commissioner Dyer stated we already have the plan for the pull through parking and the ADA bathrooms. They have discussed putting the pavilion over there. From her understanding the reason they held off in the first phase was to keep from slowing the boat parking down since they did say with paid parking they would provide bathrooms and boat parking specifically at the property. She said they still left space. The original plan for Block Q was for 288 parking spaces. That is when they backed off and said let's put pull through parking in and leave the parallel parking. Commissioner Dyer said the problem with putting the pavilion over there is you will be facing residential homes. We need public input before concerts are held over there. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said he has asked for the site plan showing the pavilion on the property. Commissioner Dyer explained the space is there, but it wasn't put on the plan to keep from slowing the project down.

*The motion passed by a 3 – 2 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting in the negative.*

## **AUDIT COMMITTEE ITEMS**

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to recommend Tom Myers; second by Commissioner Paarfus.*

*No other nominations were made. The Board agreed by consensus to have Mayor Pro Tem Myers serve on the Audit Committee.*

*The Board voted by ballot and selected Mary Vail Ware and Tim Thronson to serve as regular members of the Audit Committee. Votes were as follows: Mary Vail Ware – unanimous, Tim Thronson – Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus, Grace Lam – Commissioners Smith and Dyer.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 24-01, RESOLUTION APPROVING TRUIST SIGNATURE CARD**

Town Manager Hewett requested that the Board update the existing bank signature cards to include the assistant town manager and the subsequent designation of the assistant town manager as the deputy finance officer. The Fiscal Control Act requires that all checks be signed by the finance officer or a properly designated deputy finance officer and countersigned by another local government official. Recent events and current manpower configuration have illuminated the need to formally upgrade the Town's procurement procedures.

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to approve Resolution 24-01; second by Commissioner Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.*



## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS**

Ryan Williams said the Town needs to consult with NC Wildlife and the Department of Transportation regarding holding concerts at Block Q. He talked about blocking access to the boat ramp and information he received from those agencies. Mr. Williams talked about the condition of the pier.

Will Carter talked about the wooden pier. He provided feedback on how he would repair the pavilion.

Martie Arrowood asked the Board to consider during the budget that the east end of the beach needs more trash cans.

Regina Martin said she was going to request the attorney address the charter and how it coincides with the rules of procedure, but the attorney resigned. She asked for the charter to be posted online. Town Clerk Finnell explained it is part of the Code of Ordinances.

Phil Caldwell cautioned the Board to be more sensitive to each other's needs.

Laura Smith owns the 2<sup>nd</sup> oldest restaurant in the area. She said everything that goes on in this room affects her business. She shared concerns with actions on Block Q and the pier.

John Pearce would like clarification on the resignation of the attorney. He explained the Town needs to have a pier.

Jeremy Ridenhour talked about the importance of protecting an investment. He talked about protecting the pier and the pavilion.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Acknowledged Plan Reviewer/Inspector Carey Redwine – Building Level I Certification, Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson – appointed to the ASBPA Governmental Affairs Committee and Finance Officer Daniel McRainey – NC Government Finance Officer Certification.
- Sewer System Lift Station Improvements – The \$2 million NC budget appropriation will come through the Division of Water Quality. Made the application for that. Even though the appropriation was made, we still need to have the project approved. Intent is to combine the \$2 million with the funding from the STAG funding (EPA money) to upfit the Greensboro sewer lift station. Have received word from the EPA that our grant application has been approved there. Attempting to dovetail those grant awards with the project and the bidding that will have to take place in order to ascertain any pay go contributions on the Town's behalf. We are waiting for the grants before we can do anything.
- Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (CSRM) – was also an appropriation through the state budget for \$750,000 to cover portion of the Town's CSRM contribution match. We made application for those funds. It is anticipated that the \$750,000 and the pending federal Disaster Relief Act funding will negate the need for any further Town contributions on the study.
- Canal Dredging - \$348,000 Division of Water Resources Grant has been awarded for the Harbor Acres Dredging Project. That is a 75/25 split. \$257,850 is state funds and \$86,000 is local match funds. Those funds are specifically sourced from the Harbor Acres Special Revenue Fund. Presently

awaiting the Division of Water Quality certification before the Corps can issue their federal permit. Simultaneously we have a Request for Proposals out for a 2,700 cubic yards bucket to barge project in Harbor Acres, with the bids being due February 6<sup>th</sup>. Assuming a responsive bid climate and timely permit issuance – staff is attempting to pull these things together for grant acceptance and dredger award at meetings on the 7<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup>.

- Stormwater Project Partnership Agreement with the Corps - Corps rescheduled the meeting scheduled for today until February 13<sup>th</sup>. Our approach is to use the elements from the stormwater master plan that is currently being developed to identify projects and cost scoping to obtain federal funds.
- Ocean Boulevard Resurfacing and Bike Lanes – Contractor continues wrapping up some stormwater improvements and mailbox relocation issues this week, with the promise of work to start soon. We still have a Memorial Day finish promise.
- Wildlife Boat Ramp – staff met with representatives last week. What we gather is renovation is being initiated. What that means isn't clear. It will probably take two years. The design and configuration is unknown at this time. Took it as an opportunity to communicate the Town's concerns with user volumes, accessibility issues, current configuration to include backing trailers up the embankment and the Town's plans for Block Q. With the county manager's permission, conducted a site visit of the county's property across the ICW with the representatives.
- Tires on the Beach – had another storm and another 1,000 tires deposited on the beach. Thanked the Division of Marine Fisheries for cleaning them up again. We had a third occasion that the Parks & Rec technician was able to handle. Talked about the potential cause for concern for what the artificial reef's distribution over time is doing to the sand sources.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

- Would like permission to send a letter of appreciation to Mr. Green for his services. Nobody objected.
- Causeway has been under study for years. There is a plan that has been made available for the public to view and discuss with NCDOT representatives. The plan that has the most acceptance is still available for review. Even though that is in the county and not Holden Beach, the county commissioners have asked if the Town wants to make any comments. It is possible we may be asked formally for a report on our position. Asked the Board to be familiar with it.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Myers

- If you are not aware, there are plans for a major insurance hike. Now is the time to express your opinion. They are talking about almost doubling our rates. Now is the time to express your opinion about the hike and have your input be heard.

Mayor Holden said there was an email blast sent out in regard to the proposed insurance increase. Commissioner Thomas asked if the Town should send a letter to the organization. Mayor Holden said that has been done.

#### Commissioner Thomas

- Asked about the process for getting an interim lawyer. She said they were at training last week with the NCLM. There were a lot of lawyers there. That might be an opportunity for the Town to contact an interim lawyer and then we can move forward with the process of interviewing.
- Thanked everyone who volunteered for the Audit Committee. There were a lot of great candidates as you can tell when they interviewed. It was a tough choice. Really appreciates everyone stepping up and volunteering for the position. Mayor Pro Tem Myers agreed. It was amazing the caliber of people who applied.

#### Commissioner Smith

- We were going to have the pier open this summer, but that is not going to happen now. Also, Block Q. We had that ready to go. Boat parking by the time the next flounder season comes around we would have adequate parking. That isn't going to happen.
- Really nice to see a room full of people here. Evidently, whatever is going on here isn't to your liking or there is something you would like to voice your opinion about. That helps the Board be better commissioners. Input is important and is much appreciated.
- Staff is appreciated. Everyone here works hard to get what it would take most places more people to do. Have excellent staff. The work they do is absolutely phenomenal.
- Wished everyone a good rest of the month and a peaceful rest of the evening. We live in a beautiful place. It needs to be a place we can all live and be happy.
- Couldn't do it without the volunteers. It is very appreciated.

#### Commissioner Paarfus

- Really happy to see a room full of people. We do need to hear from you. Governing is a messy situation; we need to hear from everybody.
- Congratulations to the award recipients.
- If we do have a pier committee, it will be an intense thing. If we get to that part and you think you want to sign up, consider what the talents are that you bring to the table and be willing to put that time in.

#### Commissioner Dyer

- Thanked everyone for coming out and everyone listening online. Your input is very important. Appreciates you taking the time. It has been a very long evening.
- Congratulated Assistant Town Manager Ferguson, Finance Officer McRainey and Plan Reviewer/Inspector Redwine for their awards. We have an excellent staff. They work hard and get everything done. Congratulated Finance Officer McRainey on his baby.
- Heard it was an excellent bakeoff. Everyone had fun. Hates she missed all the chocolate, caramel and pastries. Hopes we have another one soon. Heard it was a big success and a lot of people got involved. Thanked Assistant Town Manger Ferguson for what she does to get the Town involved.
- Thanked the people who took time to interview for the Audit Committee. We appreciate you wanting to contribute. If you didn't get on, you can participate in other aspects.
- Have a lovely evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to adjourn at 7:58 p.m.; second by Commissioner Paarfus; approved by unanimous vote.*

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk