

Heather Finnell

From: Carlton Pittman <rucpitt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 1:15 PM
To: Heather Finnell
Subject: Re: Holden Beach Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting

Heather,

Can you include this as public comment for this special meeting on May 2nd?

Carlton

Raises for town employees

I am strongly encouraging the Board of Commissioners to implement meaningful raises for town employees.

None of us live here on this little piece of sand we call home or paradise without them.

The town employees work day and night, after hours, holidays, weekends, in good weather and bad, so WE can all live here.

It took several years even AFTER salary studies showed they were all underpaid before salary adjustments got them even into the bottom of the salary range where they should have been. And, it took a mid-year, then a beginning year adjustment to get their salaries and wages up to even an acceptable level. And you should not stop there.

You cannot expect to recruit, hire, and retain, talented, qualified people if you don't pay them.

We were short two police officers for 2 years. **Why – because the job doesn't pay enough to attract candidates.** We still need a detective position as well. We had one officer here for a year, then left to go to County Sheriff's Department for 6-7 thousand dollars a year more than Holden Beach was paying.

I know of one young man that left Public Works for FOUR dollars an hour more at another job. That is significant when you are an hourly wage employee. You need to pay your employees.

And when the discussion turns to – *well, we have to look at their total compensation package, not just their salary* – Yes, and No.

Benefits are great – they save you money.

But, you cannot eat benefits, you cannot pay bills with benefits. You cannot pay for your kid's sports uniform or pay their school fees with benefits – it takes money for those.

So please, pay your employees. **NONE of us live here on the island without them and the work they do for the town.**

So please – pay your employees.

On 4/30/2024 1:05 PM, Heather Finnell wrote:

Please see the attached agenda for the Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting scheduled for May 2nd. You can also view the agenda online at <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/33823a15-c1dd-4855-8231-e746e7f3f203/downloads/BOC%20May%202%2024.pdf?ver=1714496476879>.

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