



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2024 – 8:30 A.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Special Meeting on Friday, December 6, 2024 at 8:30 a.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; Interim Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Sergeant Adam Milligan; and Town Attorney Sydnee Moore.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anne Arnold said she has seen many town managers come and go and it wasn't until David Hewett came on board that she realized what town management was all about. She charged the Board to get someone who will possibly fill his shoes.

Keith Smith expressed his concerns that the Town has lost its ability to share a collective concern through the HBPOA and with the timing of the meeting. He said the Town should put the manager back in the hands of the mayor and make it a strong mayor government.

Sylvia Pate summarized her written comments. She suggested the Board seek external assistance from a group, like the Cape Fear Council of Governments, with hiring a manager. That is a way it could be done inexpensively without hiring an external consulting firm. She applauded the Board's efforts for appointing an interim.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO NCGS 143-318.11(A)(6), PERSONNEL

Town Clerk Finnell read the reason to enter into closed session.

Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to go into closed session at 8:37 a.m.; second by Commissioner Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.

OPEN SESSION

The Board went back into Open Session at 10:08 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to hire our assistant town manager as our interim town manager, Christy Ferguson, at the annual salary of \$140,000 a year, effective immediately; second by Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Smith said he thinks the Board collectively made a good decision and hopes we can move forward as quickly as possible. He thinks Assistant Town Manager Ferguson can make that happen for the Town and the staff.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:09 a.m. by Commissioner Smith; approved by Commissioner Paarfus; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk