



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Tom Myers; Commissioners Page Dyer and Rick Paarfus; Interim Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Public Works Supervisor Chris Benton; Finance Director Daniel McRaney; and Lieutenant Frank Dilworth. Commissioners Rick Smith and Tracey Thomas participated by telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Interim Town Manager Ferguson reviewed her slideshow. She went over the Board's proposed goals. The objectives had some common themes between the commissioners. The themes were around the sewer lift station, beach nourishment, the Lockwood Folly Inlet, stormwater, pier property, communications, Block Q, staff recruitment and retention and other facilities. It seems the priorities for the upcoming year would be high quality infrastructure, community improvements/accessibility, communications and growing human capital. She said the next steps would be refining the goals and objectives and looking at revenues and major expenses.

The Board discussed how to refine the goals to come up with a final list. The following changes will be made (final revisions in italics).

Goals –

2 - No new borrowing → *no long-term borrowing*

5 - 90% budget execution excluding contingency items, spend what you asked for → *efficient budget execution excluding contingency items*

6 - No fund balance appropriations → *Fund Balance Appropriations limited to capital projects*

Objectives

LWF Inlet - Fund Lockwood Folly dredging and lobby for Holden Beach to receive sand; Explore long-term solution (terminal groin). → *Explore long-term solutions for Lockwood Folly dredging and lobby for Holden Beach to receive sand.*

Pier Property - Proceed with pier property plan (i.e., complete engineering analysis, evaluate alternatives for a new building, develop cost estimates; Repair/ Open: Consider Public Private Partnership. → *Proceed with pier property plan (i.e., complete engineering analysis, evaluate alternatives for a new building, develop cost estimates, consider potential funding partnerships).*

Revenues

Revenues were reviewed.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson explained that in the General Fund Revenues under Interest on Savings and Investments shows an increase due to renegotiated rates.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said in the Water & Sewer Fund Revenues, the Irrigation Meter Inspections Fees will now be captured under Administrative Fees. Commissioner Paarfus asked why there is not a budget number under Miscellaneous Revenues on the same page for FY 25/26. Finance Director McRainey replied that was due to the sale of 796 Ocean Boulevard West. Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked if Water and Sewer Use Charges are going down. Public Works Director Clemmons responded they seem to be tracking close to previous years. He said he took a conservative approach to determining the number and explained how he projected his revenues.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said the Board approved the DOT sweeping contract so a number should be listed under DOT Sweeping in the General Fund for FY 25/26. It will be \$31,480. She explained the CAMA Permits line should be \$5,247. The Administrative Fee line should be \$2,087. Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked about Ad Valorem Taxes. Finance Director McRainey explained you have to use the collection rate for the current line. He will verify the collection rate.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson explained there are some revisions to the information in the packets for BPART revenues. The Brunswick County Refund line can be changed to \$32,000 based on conversations with the county. Based on the last paid parking report, the Parking Revenue line can be changed to \$787,980 and the Off-Street Parking to \$128,275. She explained how the Off-Street line is tracked. The reason the two items are split is because of prior Board guidance. Finance Director McRainey said the Interest on Investments will change. Interim Town Manager Ferguson stated 441 OBW Rents is the campground and food trucks.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson said Canal Dredging revenues were included for convenience. The amounts were predicated on the assessments remaining the same as the current year. Commissioner Paarfus asked where dredge spoils would be put. Interim Town Manager Ferguson replied that Ward and Smith were successful in working with Congressman Rouzer and we feel more confident that we will be able to access the Corps' areas with advanced permission.

Commissioner Paarfus asked if the Town should ask Right Angle Engineering to assess any increase of cost due to the disposal of the spoils. Interim Town Manager Ferguson said she can reach out to them if the Board is in agreement for the expense side of the workshop. Finance Director McRainey described how the special revenue funds need to be tracked. Interim Town Manager Ferguson explained the funds remain shovel ready. There is permitting that occurs in between projects.

Interim Town Manager Ferguson reviewed the document she prepared that shows big-ticket items that remain in this fiscal year and what is anticipated as big-ticket items for next year's budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked about the item for air conditioning in Pump Station 4. Public Works Director Clemmons explained it is for a solution. He also provided information on his request for a design for a cooling tower for Pump Station 1. Equipment/parts and reviewing water and sewer expenses/revenues were discussed.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked about the Humvee. Lieutenant Dilworth talked about possibly sourcing a passenger high clearance vehicle and returning one of the Humvees. They have worked on one of them, but no funds have been spent on the other Humvee. They still need to hire a detective, but they are trying to fill the officer vacancies first. Interim Town Manager Ferguson added Chief Dixon has internal candidates, but does not feel like he can promote until he gets his patrol officers filled.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:12 p.m. by Commissioner Paarfus; second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk