



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING RECESSED FROM JUNE 16, 2020  
THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for the Reconvened Public Hearing/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, June 18, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly (Recessed from June 16, 2020). Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Commissioners Woody Tyner, Brian Murdock, Mike Sullivan and Pat Kwiatkowski; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; and Public Works Director Chris Clemmons. Mayor Pro Tem Gerald Brown was not in attendance. The meeting was streamed on the Town's Facebook page and an opportunity for comments was provided prior to the meeting due to the restrictions in place for COVID-19.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 20-10, BUDGET ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020 - 2021**

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said she reread all the public comments. Those supporting adding officers wanted to add them so the Town has two officers patrolling at all times. Tuesday it was said Chief Dixon was planning on adding a detective when it was just one officer being added. She asked if a detective also patrols. Town Manager Hewett stated that he had that discussion with Chief Dixon. Chief Dixon expressed his opinion that he would prefer to add two patrol officers, instead of a detective and an officer.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said in seeking to conduct the second development fees study, the Board was talking about the RFQ. She asked if what goes out will be applicable to both engineering and financial candidates. Town Manager Hewett responded that the RFQ will be worded to reflect the language in the bill which says either, and/or.

Commissioner Tyner said on page 12, there is an item for Contracted Services for \$55,000 in the Water & Sewer Fund. He said that is substantially higher and asked about the difference. Public Services Director Clemmons answered that part of it is a maintenance contract agreement that they would like to put in place for all the lift stations. The other part is for emergency repairs and water testing. He added that Leo Green had put in a grant application for GIS locates. If the Town hears back on that, we may need to have funds there to cover that. We haven't heard back yet if it was accepted.

Commissioner Tyner stated on page 14 under BPART expenses there is \$70,000 under Public Restrooms. He thinks it was \$20,000 this year. Town Manager Hewett said it proposes to update the Jordan Boulevard restroom. It is in bad condition.

*Motion by Commissioner Kwiatkowski to approve Ordinance 20-10, Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021, with the following amendments to the ordinance as we understand from the discussion: the addition of one police officer to the one already proposed, so we have two new officers in total, an increase in the proposed merit pool for employees from 2% to 3%; second by Commissioner Murdock.*

Commissioner Sullivan said as far as amending this and adding another officer, there has been a misconception that we only have one officer on patrol at a time. If you look at the organization chart, we have Patrol Group A and Patrol Group B. There are three people in each group and they work 12-hour shifts. There is one officer from 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and one from 6:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. The third officer overlaps the two. He stated there are two officers 50% of the time. Town Manager Hewett confirmed that we will have two officers, rather than a detective and an officer. Commissioner Sullivan said the Board discussed this all in May and decided to hire one officer and then investigate the utility of using seasonal police officers because they could do what the Board intended to do more efficiently and economically rather than adding more fulltime officers. He reiterated that in the last year when you look at calls for service, there are between five to six per day if you rule out keep checks. He said there is no question that the workload is not overbearing on the current officers. The reason he was in favor of hiring an officer was for their safety and so there would be two on duty. Hiring one officer would accomplish that. Commissioner Sullivan said he is favor of not accepting the motion. He is in favor of the 3% raises, but not in favor of hiring another officer.

*The motion passed by a 3 – 1 vote with Commissioners Tyner, Murdock and Kwiatkowski voting for the motion and Commissioner Sullivan voting in the negative.*

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Commissioner Tyner to adjourn at 3:40 p.m.; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.*

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk