



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EMERGENCY MEETING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2020 – 3:30 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for an Emergency Meeting on Friday, August 7, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Gerald Brown; Commissioners Woody Tyner, Brian Murdock, Mike Sullivan and Pat Kwiatkowski; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Police Chief Jeremy Dixon; Fiscal Operations Supervisor Margaret Lancaster; Budget & Fiscal Analyst Daniel McRaney; and Fire Chief Doug Todd. 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.

RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON CURRENT RECOVERY OPERATIONS AND CONSIDER ANY REQUIRED BUDGETARY ACTIONS NECESSARY TO RESPOND THERETO

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order. He said we are in much better condition as compared to our neighbors. Our boat docks and canal homes have been flooded. Most of them had water come up under the houses, but overall the wind damage was very minor. The Police Department, Public Works Department, Fire Department and all involved, including the commissioners and staff have done a great job. The island will be open for renters tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

Town Manager Hewett said there is a prepositioned contract in place to take care of disaster debris, primarily in the canal subdivisions. The contract was approved by the Board about this time last year. We do not have funds to activate it. The Board has Ordinance 20-12, Amendment No. 1. in the amount of \$267,000 in front of them. That is a reprogramming of the contribution to the Beach & Inlet Capital Reserve Fund. He is recommending that the transfer not be done and those funds be used to pay for the projected expenses in order to activate the disaster debris contract. The second amendment is to appropriate \$42,000 out of BPART fund balance for debris removal on the front beach strand. The third one in the amount of \$629,000 is to get the sand fencing restored and reinstalled in the amount of \$153,000 and get a running start on repopulating the strand with vegetation.

Town Manager Hewett said the \$267,000 is for the public areas island wide, but the damage is primarily in the areas on the canals. Public Works Director Clemmons explained what the contract covers. The information will be provided to the public if the Board approves it. It is island wide pickup except for gated communities. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked why it wouldn't be covered for the west end. Public Works Director Clemmons answered the only way he can pick up debris from the gated communities is if it is a public safety hazard. Pickup in gated communities was discussed. Public Works Director Clemmons said if it is picked up, the Town would not be reimbursed by FEMA for it. Commissioner Tyner inquired if the contractor could be paid separately to do it. Town Manager Hewett said the questions are if the service

can be provided within the gate and if it is reimbursable. Our understanding is they don't provide the service within the gate. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said this needs to be clarified.

Public Works Director Clemmons said he spoke with the monitoring firm and the contractor that does the pickup. You might see debris start to be removed Tuesday evening/Wednesday.

Town Manager Hewett replied that the amount charged is based on yardage and pounds. We don't know how much there is, but the budget amendment equates to about 1,000 pounds for 80 homes. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked why the Town should use the money that was going into the capital reserves. Town Manager Hewett said to put money in the capital reserve fund at this time is akin to filling up the hot tub when the house is burning. If you appropriate it out of fund balance, you will drive your fund balance ratio down. He said we are in the middle of a hurricane situation, that money has not been put in the capital reserve fund yet because it has not been collected. If you want to put the money in the capital reserve fund that is fine, but you would have to pay for it from somewhere. It would have to come from fund balance.

Commissioner Sullivan asked for an estimated amount of occupancy tax revenue that the Town will lose because of losing last week's rentals. Town Manager Hewett said he does not know. Commissioner Sullivan asked the average weekly occupancy tax on the island in August. Town Manager Hewett stated he would have to look at historical data. He can provide the information, but he doesn't have it at his fingertips. Commissioner Sullivan explained he is trying to look at the totality of the cost of the storm to the Town. Town Manager Hewett said he is not sure if the amount in the proposed ordinance is the right number. He may need to come back to the Board. Commissioner Sullivan said the Board just passed a budget and appropriated a lot of expenditures. He inquired if the Board should look at some of the things approved and take money out of that. Town Manager Hewett replied he doesn't think so. A lot of those expenditures needed to be made two - three years ago.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if the debris pickup is reimbursable. Town Manager Hewett answered we don't have a federal declaration yet. Right now, we are working with Town money to move the island forward and to get things cleaned up.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Brown to have the manager get going with this stuff, the trash pickup.

Substitute Motion by Commissioner Tyner that we approve Ordinances 20-12, 20-13 and 20-14 as offered by the town manager and finance director (Mayor Pro Tem Brown agreed to the substitute motion), second by Commissioner Murdock.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski questioned when the Town anticipates that the work will start for the sand fence and beach vegetation. Town Manager Hewett replied that Ordinance 20-13 is the money to use to clean up all of the spikes out there. That lays the groundwork for the first piece to get sand fence out there as quickly as possible. Some of that will be driven by getting the material. Beach vegetation will be later in the fall. The beach vegetation will be for all the damaged areas. He said that is the same for the sand fence. Commissioner Sullivan asked if the portions outside of the engineered beach are reimbursable. Town Manager Hewett answered the Town will have to absorb that. Debris pickup is tip to tip on the strand.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Town Manager Hewett said all of his direct reports are here and have been working really hard. He thanked Chief Todd and the Fire Department for putting a fire out in the middle of a hurricane.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Brown at 4:00 p.m.; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk