



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024 – 5:30 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 5:30 p.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; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Finance Officer Daniel McRaine; Lieutenant Frank Dilworth; and Town Attorney Sydnee Moore.

Mayor Holden asked for a moment of silence and then called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas that we put a time limit on item 18a of 10 minutes for a public presentation; second by Commissioner Paarfus.*

Commissioner Thomas explained it is a public presentation and that it is appropriate per the Rules of Procedure. Her proposal is 10 minutes. Commissioner Dyer said there was never a time limit on other presentations so she didn't take into consideration that she would need to find out how much time they need. Commissioner Thomas provided information from the Rules of Procedure. Commissioner Dyer said since they were accused during Candidates' Night that they don't listen to the public, it looks bad. The motion was further discussed. Ms. Ragland said 10 minutes would be sufficient.

*The motion passed by a 3 – 2 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting in the negative.*

*The agenda as amended passed by a 3 – 2 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting in the negative.*

**CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CHECK**

No conflicts were disclosed.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to approve (a. Special Meeting of February 20, 2024, b. Special Meeting of March 8, 2024, c. Special Meeting of March 18, 2024 and d. Regular Meeting of March 19, 2024); second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers.*

Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked if parking was enforced for the festival, Town Manager Hewett replied no.

*The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Jim Bauer talked about the permeability of Block Q. He suggested using gravel. He thinks the Town should go with trailer bathrooms for Block Q. He said for the pier, there should be a survey and the taxpayers should be heard. He asked where the lift station is, that should be taken care of.

Will Carter said they have a group called the Concerned Taxpayers Group. They think taxpayers should have a voice. He talked about the history of the Town. He directed people to their website, newholdenbeachpier.com. There is an opportunity for taxpayers to vote. He talked about the new pier he is proposing.

Ronnie Venters talked about his family's concerns for Block Q. They include the proposed boat trailer parking, traffic and the retention pond. He agrees the property needs bathrooms and would be a good space for the pavilion.

Ken Turner said he thinks the Town is headed in the right direction trying to provide some parking with Block Q. He talked about the current lighting ordinance. He said the Town needs to stick to no lights on the south side. He will provide a picture to the Board of the lighting at his neighbor's home. He asked if the Town could use the pier as the pavilion.

Steve Kimbrough talked about item 18b. He said it is about time we have an actual plan for the pier. He thinks the Board should move forward with the proposed plan or a similar one.

## **POLICE REPORT – LIEUTENANT DILWORTH**

- Starting to see more folks here.
- Is sure everyone is happy the construction crew is gone from Ocean Boulevard and about how nice it is to drive down a smooth roadway. Reminded everyone to watch their speed. The bike lane is in place. It is not a parking area.

Commissioner Smith asked if we have any trouble from people using the bike lane to run. Lieutenant Dilworth replied he has not seen more than in the past. He explained there is no state law that prohibits them from being in the roadway.

## **INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT – INSPECTIONS DIRECTOR EVANS**

- Very busy. Went over numbers.
- Will be extremely busy through July with people trying to get their homes ready.

Inspections Director Evans agreed to bring an update on the ADA quarterly meeting to the May meeting.

## **FINANCE DEPARTMENT REPORT – FINANCE OFFICER MCRAINEY**

- All funds are tracking for March, pretty in line with last year.
- If you look at the General Fund, the expenses are always a little higher in March because of the Town Hall debt service. Same situation in the Water Sewer Fund. That is the county sewer system payment.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers asked the status of the audit. Finance Officer McRaine answered the auditor will come in June to give a kickoff meeting to the Audit Committee.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE 24-06, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES, TITLE VII: TRAFFIC CODE**

Town Clerk Finnell explained the proposed amendment makes the necessary changes to allow for year-round paid parking as requested by the Board last month. It also removes H63 from Section 72.02 to reflect changes made at the previous meeting.

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to approve (Ordinance 24-06); second by Commissioner Thomas; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **BLOCK Q**

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson explained the Board sent a tasker to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). The PRAB spent several months, including special meetings to come up with a site plan for the Block Q site. On the proposed site plan, some of the taskers were eliminated to include things like playground equipment and food trucks.

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus that we just accept this as the work product from the PRAB and just curtail any further work by them at this point; second by Commissioner Smith.*

Commissioner Smith said this is what we sent to the PRAB to do. They worked hard and came up with a relatively good plan. He said it is something the Board could work with and make some adjustments. Commissioner Paarfus explained he is not satisfied with it. The pavilion currently sits where the drainage features are, pervious material hasn't been addressed. He said he appreciates the hard work, but thinks it is a more complex project and wants to take it off their backs. The Board will need to work on it. Commissioner Thomas stated she is disappointed in the recommendation; it is the exact plan the Board rejected in January with the pavilion added. She doesn't think the Town needs to spend all that money that we don't have to make 15 boat spots when we currently have 30 around the perimeter so we reduced the number, made them massive and we are paying \$330,000. She was hoping they would come up with something that would benefit the homeowners. After discussion, Mayor Holden clarified that the motion is to thank the PRAB for their work, the Board will review it and take it from them. Commissioner Paarfus agreed.

*The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to instruct staff to revise the stormwater plan to include only the bathroom and the bathroom parking as identified in the grant that we accepted last month; second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers.*

Commissioner Thomas explained she thinks at this point it is important that the Town only spend money on the item the Board approved, the bathroom. Town Manager Hewett said based on the direction from the last meeting, staff has been proceeding with getting specifications for the piece of parcel for the bathrooms. It does not require a state stormwater permit, but because of the size of the parcel it does require a local permit. That will require professional engineering services. Inspections Director Evans added once that is done a local plan will need to be approved by the Inspections Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Myers explained he appreciates the work the PRAB has done. He said he thinks we need to move forward with the bathrooms, we accepted the grant. He believes that is on three parcels, so it would be stormwater retention on those parcels. With regards to the boat parking, the boat parking on the plan is designed to accommodate large 30/40-foot boats, four engines, triple axel trailers. Our residents and rental home visitors do not have that type of boat. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said he is not in favor of sacrificing the bulk of Block Q just to serve those large boats. He thinks the Town needs to serve the types of boats our constituents have and let the county serve their constituents. He likes the location of the pavilion, but he is not sure why we need something that big. Commissioner Dyer said she is not sure what is wrong with the current stormwater plan. If we go with any type of boat parking, whether it be paved or gravel in that spot, we will need a stormwater plan. If we put the pavilion there, we will need a stormwater plan. She said the current plan does the whole parcel so it will be set for what we move forward with. Commissioner Dyer said we paid for the plan and have it in the budget. With this, we will need to start over. She stated two plans will cost more money. The types of boats owned by property owners was discussed. Commissioner Dyer said there are thousands of property owners who don't vote, they need to be represented. She said they also serve the community. Commissioner Smith said we already did the study and now are going to start again; that seems to be a waste. He talked about the difficulty of parallel parking a boat trailer. He thinks having spaces is important for the Town's future.

*The motion passed by a 3-2 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting in the negative.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 24-07, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES, SECTION 92.32, UNLAWFUL LIGHTS**

Inspections Director Evans explained that everything they bring to the Board is a recommendation. If the Board wants to make amendments, this is the time to do it. The lighting ordinance has been modified a couple of times over the last couple of years. There was some confusion between holiday lights and decorative lights and when they could be used. He said the end product makes it easier to understand what decorative lights are. When the ordinance was first amended, it was clear the Turtle Patrol and citizens did not want lights out there that would interfere with nesting season. Inspections Director Evans reviewed the proposed changes.

Lighting for safety, compliance/enforcement and solar lights were discussed. Commissioner Paarfus said he emailed some suggestions and asked Inspections Director Evans to review them.

After discussion, Inspections Director Evans will look into adding a little more clarity, as well as investigating solar lights and a comment made. He will try to have the information ready for the next meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF A DATE TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 24-08, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE HOLDEN BEACH CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 154: FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION**

Inspections Director Evans provided background. We changed our ordinance in such a way that it drove our CRS rating lower so we went from a 10% discount to a 15% discount. FEMA guidelines and the National Flood Program are set up to have a state guided partner, which is the NC Department of Public Safety. We get visited once annually for an annual evaluation for the CRS. If something is not right, we can lose our rating. He said we get a five-year evaluation. This fall is when we get the next five-year evaluation. NC Department of Public Safety came down and made recommendations. They ran the recommendations through the CRS and they agreed with them. This ordinance has some text amendments. They removed things that were not necessary. Inspections Director Evans reviewed the proposed changes.

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to schedule a public hearing for this for the June BOC regular meeting; second by Commissioner Paarfus.*

*Commissioner Thomas with Commissioner Paarfus in agreement added to accept the consistency statement to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE TRANSFER OF FILES AND PAPERS FROM THE FORMER ATTORNEY**

Commissioner Thomas explained most of the documents have been provided. Attorney Moore stated she will pick up the remaining documents by the end of the week.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SELECTING A NEW TOWN ATTORNEY**

Commissioner Thomas stated the Town received three proposals.

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to schedule some interviews for the three candidates for a permanent lawyer. She made the recommendation that they be remote on the lawyers' part since two are out of town.*

Town Clerk Finnell will solicit the firms' availability and let the Board know. Firms can participate remotely if they choose.

## DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON CONFLICT-OF-INTEREST CONCERNS RELATED TO THE HOLDEN BEACH PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Commissioner Thomas explained that there has been discussion about conflict-of-interest at a prior meeting about serving on the HBPOA. The lawyer has investigated that and came to the conclusion there is no conflict in serving on the Board and on the HBPOA.

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to accept the Town attorney's findings and determination related to the conflict-of-interest of BOC members also being on HBPOA board; second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers.*

Commissioner Smith asked if the attorney was working for the HBPOA. Commissioner Thomas replied absolutely not. It was brought up in a meeting and she addressed that in the letter. Commissioner Dyer said people have asked who instructed the attorney to send the letter to the HBPOA before a commissioner meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Myers explained there was an allegation at a meeting. Attorney Moore said she didn't see a conflict and was going to review the information. He said there was a HBPOA meeting and they needed to know so he asked her to document her findings. Commissioner Dyer said her understanding is the Board should vote to direct an employee to do a project. After discussion, Attorney Moore said she is a contractor, not an employee. She said it was a clarification of what was said at the meeting. Mayor Holden said he has been doing this for a long time. It is a bad practice to allow this type of activity at the expense of the Board without the knowledge and support of the other members. He recommended that any Board member not hire or request things from anyone without the fellow members knowing about it. Attorney Moore said it was not billed on the statement; it was a clarification of what she said at the meeting. It was okayed by the NC State Bar Ethics Department. Mayor Holden suggested notifying the whole Board if something like this is done.

*The motion passed by a 3 – 2 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith and Dyer voting in the negative.*

## HOLDEN BEACH PIER PROPERTY

Lisa Ragland went over the petition statement: if you want the HB Board to evaluate all viable options to save the pier and are against the demolition of this historic landmark. She went over the results and presented their list of viable options. She said the organization will bring money to the Town if a motion is passed to accept financial contributions and donations specifically for the purpose.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the 501c is official. Ms. Ragland responded yes; they received their letter of determination in February. They can legally collect money; they need to know the direction the Town wants to go. Commissioner Paarfus said he is not in favor of making a commitment today. He is not saying the Town wouldn't take the money. He has some concerns on the data. He said the bid process is not how you figure out the cost. He talked about using the proposed plan to move forward. Ms. Ragland thinks the concern is the public would like a commitment that the money would be used for the pier. Moving forward was discussed. Mayor Pro Tem Myers questioned if it costs more to save the pier than to replace it and how we are going to pay for it without inflicting an excessive financial burden on taxpayers or sacrificing other investments that are more important. Ms. Ragland said she believes the sewer lift station is a priority. She said the pier is not the must have, it is a nice to have which is why she thinks the people who would enjoy it would help pay for



it. She talked about a need for a commitment from the Town in order to raise funds. She said the Board agreeing to take money from them is the first step. Commissioner Dyer questioned why agreeing to accept donations would be a problem and to say the goal is to get the pier open. In order to get the pier open without raising taxes, the Town needs to involve all the commitments, private/public, grants and donations. Commissioner Smith asked if there is an avenue for them to donate funds to the Town for the purpose of rebuilding the pier. Commissioner Paarfus said he has the information, it is possible. Town Manager Hewett said he believes the Board would be best served by stipulating what purpose the funds would be used for if there is a desire to accept funds. Commissioner Thomas asked where the Town would stand if \$50,000 is donated, it costs \$2 million and we can't come up with the remaining money from the budget. Ms. Ragland suggested setting a minimum. Commissioner Thomas suggested getting a plan in place first. Ms. Ragland said the Town needs to explore options to see what the best option is. They will commit funds to any of the alternatives.

Commissioner Paarfus said he produced a plan with help from a bunch of folks on what he thinks is a rational approach to developing the pier property. He reviewed the highlights, He said we need to get information to make decisions. We need to look at the entire property. This plan will help get critical information such as construction cost estimates from the engineer and architect. It separated the property into two components, the pier and the pier house and then those can be broken into phases to fit within our financial capability. Commissioner Paarfus said he places a priority on the pier because it is the centerpiece of the property and is also in poor condition. He wants to get financial data. He went over background information. He asked people to review his plan. It is a starting point.

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus that we approve this document as the baseline approach to developing the pier property; second by Commissioner Thomas.*

Commissioner Thomas said she thinks it is an excellent plan; Commissioner Paarfus put a lot of hard work into this. She thinks it is something the Board can use as a baseline. It will probably be evergreen, but she supports it and it is a great plan to move forward with. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said he thinks they have always been saying we didn't have a viable plan when we bought the property. He knows there was a plan that was developed in January 2022, but that plan is proving to be very unrealistic in terms of the numbers. He thanked Commissioner Paarfus for his time, effort and using his own money to roll the ball down the field. He agreed it is not perfect but agrees the Board should endorse it and move it forward. Commissioner Smith asked if the plan requires hiring engineers. Commissioner Paarfus explained how the Town would need to proceed to repair the pier and that you would need to have engineers to move forward. Staff will take the lead. He would like to take part in the development of the scope. He said the structural engineer that Mr. Hemingway used is the one who did the Oak Island pier. The Town will need to put money into engineering. Commissioner Dyer said there was a statement that Commissioner Paarfus stated he felt the pier project was handled in a way others don't agree with which was also the general consensus of those in attendance. She asked if Mr. Hemingway was in consensus. Commissioner Paarfus responded yes. Commissioner Dyer said if you pull the minutes, Mr. Hemingway said it was a viable option to get the pier rebid with the change of scope; now he is telling you he does not agree with that. Commissioner Paarfus said Mr. Hemingway said we would just jet the piles in. He was not correct about that. He is an architect, not an engineer. His statement concerning getting the pier open as cost efficiently as possible was relative to the design that they initially produced. Commissioner Dyer said when he was working for the Town, his recommendation is different from now. Mr. Hemingway's statement was further discussed. Stakeholders were discussed.

Town Manager Hewett asked if the Board is contemplating that the contract with the existing architect be severed. Commissioner Paarfus replied no. Town Manager Hewett said in order to procure additional engineering services, you would follow the Mini Brooks Act and we will need to advertise for it. He doesn't know if that will be a conflict with the arrangement between the architect and his engineer. If the Board wants to hire a separate engineer, it will require the process associated with the Mini Brooks Act. Commissioner Paarfus said he is not familiar with the scope; we will need to look at it.

*The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

*Motion by Commissioner Thomas to instruct the attorney to determine our legal obligations of the pier grant; second by Mayor Pro Tem Myers. After discussion, Commissioner Thomas said she will withdraw the motion and she could put the item on the next meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Myers agreed.*

Mayor Pro Tem Myers said in the plan, it describes a path for going forward. He would like to start action now. The information we need is budgetary level capital cost estimates for either repairing or replacing the pier. We also need budgetary ongoing operating and maintenance cost estimates associated with those options. He said we need someone to help us with potential funding strategies for those options.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Myers to direct Town staff to develop a RFP requesting this scope of service, which is the budgetary capital cost estimates, budgetary operating cost estimates and the development of funding strategies and then bring that back to Board here at our May meeting for approval prior to issuance; second by Commissioner Thomas.*

Commissioner Smith said he thought the Board accepted the plan. Mayor Pro Tem Myers stated this is the next step. Town Manager Hewett said he is not sure he can get it accomplished within this timeframe.

*Mayor Pro Tem Myers said he could withdraw the timing aspect of the motion. Commissioner Thomas agreed to the revision.*

Commissioner Paarfus said he doesn't like the wording at this point. He thinks having just adopted this plan, he needs more time on how the staff should be directed.

*The motion did not pass by a 2 – 3 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioner Thomas voting for the motion and Commissioners Smith, Dyer and Paarfus voting in the negative.*

Commissioner Smith said his request was going to be to ask staff to develop a RFP to rebuild the pier and make sure it meets all codes, but he thinks with what was brought to light, it may be smart to wait until we get reports. After discussion, no action was taken on this item.

Commissioner Smith said there have been private entities requesting a lease of the property. They would like to come back with a proposal to either repair or replace the pier house and/or the pier. This would be a request for people to put in proposals and the Board would listen to them when they come in. Commissioner Dyer added this carries on the public/private partnership. We would get RFPs from private entities to repair or replace the building and repair or replace the pier. The purpose is to have recreational space on the property that allows for retail, food vendors, restrooms,



outdoor showers and an entry ticket booth to the pier. This would allow the Town to provide recreational activities for the PARTF grant. The six camping spaces, the food vendors and the parking are already providing revenue. The revenue could go towards the debt service. The person would take on the maintenance. She said the Town would just be responsible for the debt service. There would also be a leasing agreement. Commissioner Dyer provided information on other private/public relationships. Commissioner Paarfus suggested having someone do a presentation if someone is interested and to not issue a RFP.

*Motion by Commissioner Smith that we advertise for presentations for the pier building to be replaced.*

Town Manager Hewett said the staff needs to discuss the technical aspects of the process with the Local Government Commission (LGC) before proceeding to assume issuing a RFP is correct. If we are going to solicit, we need to do it correctly the first time.

*Commissioner Smith withdrew his motion.*

*Motion by Commissioner Dyer to ask the staff to ask the LGC what is needed for public/private partnership; second by Commissioner Smith; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PLACING THE TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Myers said Town Manager Hewett provides the Board with an update, a written summary of critical initiatives, programs and projects that are going on. He feels it is important information and it should have a spot on the agenda.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Myers that we add a town manager report to our BOC agendas starting next month, second by Commissioner Thomas.*

Mayor Holden cautioned the Board that it could be like reading an old newspaper. Due to the lead time, things could change between the report and the meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said when we get to that point, he could verbally update the Board with the status. After discussion, Town Manager Hewett explained he doesn't mind where it is in the agenda. There could be some confusion because he tries to make the report pertinent and timely. He inquired on the form that is being requested. Mayor Pro Tem Myers said the current form is perfect. He said the format would be the same as the other reports on the agenda.

*The motion passed with a 4 – 1 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Myers and Commissioners Thomas, Dyer and Paarfus voting for the motion and Commissioner Smith voting in the negative.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENEREAL ITEMS**

Rick McInturf said he is encouraged with the talk tonight. He explained the HB Alliance stands ready to work with the Town. He provided information on a new app they created.

Jeremy Ridenhour provided history on the area and talked about the HB community. He said next time you say if you don't live on the island your vote shouldn't matter, think about the people who work over here and provide needed services.

Will Carter advised people to go to [newholdenbeachpier.com](http://newholdenbeachpier.com). He explained they have the plan for a new pier site. He said legislators are looking for money. He wants to move forward.

Lisa Ragland is a real estate agent. She said there is so much negativity in the Town and it is discouraging people from coming here. Property managers she has spoken with have told her rentals are down 25%. Ms. Ragland talked about providing amenities to the public.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Demolition of Pavilion – today we received one responsive bid for the work for \$25,000. Will present that for the Board's consideration at the May meeting.
- Lift Station 2 Greensboro Street Upfit – we have not received a response back from our submission to the NC Department of Environmental Quality. Once we do receive the offer to fund, the Board will need to vote to accept that.
- Canal Dredging – project in Harbor Acres is complete. Our engineer is certifying the quantities.
- Working on the potential Miss Kate Project in the Lockwood Folly Inlet. Made the grant application for the funding. Our coastal consultant engineer is coordinating with the permitting agencies.
- Pier Walkway and Emergency Ramp – we still need to refine some of the handicap spaces in the layout. We are working on that.
- Beach Accesses – we initially started out with the blue mats several years ago. It appears the blue mats will be the mechanism of choice in order to increase access to the beachfront. A general observation is the mats will be covered up and seems like it will be an ongoing maintenance issue.
- 114 Quinton Street – the bid was awarded at \$70,000, which is within the budget for the site's bathroom construction. This is a Key Bridge agreement item and we are attempting to close out the project before the end of the fiscal year and the prime tourist season.
- High Point Street – resurfacing is complete. The engineer is certifying the project.
- Ocean Boulevard Resurfacing/Bike Lanes – looks like Ocean Boulevard is getting close to completion. Five crosswalks will be put in at four locations. There will be two at Jordan Boulevard, 301, 567 and 915. Those locations were determined through the efforts of the Inspections Department's exercise several years ago. Those were the areas that met the DOT requirements and were approved and okayed by the Board.
- 796 OBW – has been advertised per the Board's direction. The initial offers are due to us Friday at noon.

Commissioner Thomas asked if it would make sense to draw attention to the crosswalks. Town Manager Hewett answered we will need to ask DOT. Lieutenant Dilworth went over the law. Inspections Director Evans reviewed criteria and next steps.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

- We have a problem that oceanfront numbers are missing on a lot of houses. It is a Town ordinance that house numbers should be legible from the high tide area. Asked people who own oceanfront properties to check if you have numbers in place in case of an emergency. Check your house to see if you are in compliance with street numbers also.

- Asked the Board to reconsider the policy for take home vehicles. The property immediately behind him has Town vehicles on it over the weekend. It is technically leased to the rental company/coffee shop. Owns the property and has allowed the Town to park vehicles on it with no financial benefit. The Turtle Patrol also uses the property. The Turtle Patrol has asked about the Town vehicles. When a metal vehicle sits outside on Holden Beach day and night, it will rust. The value will go down quicker. Asked commissioners to revisit that. Town Manager Hewett said we can take care of not having vehicles parked out back over the weekend.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

### Mayor Pro Tem Myers

- Thanked everyone who is here physically or virtually listening in. Your involvement and interest in our matters is very important. Any input is appreciated.

### Commissioner Smith

- It was a pleasure to come in this evening to see this many people in the room concerned about what is going on. It was enlightening how many people are all for keeping a pier. It is rather evident that it seems to be the general consensus or there wouldn't be the people here tonight.
- Thanked staff; the Police Department for keeping us safe; Inspections Director Evans you guys are overwhelmed with all building, you do a good job; Assistant Town Manager Ferguson, the rest of the staff, Town Clerk Finnell and Town Manager Hewett, you keep this place running smooth.

### Commissioner Thomas

- Received several phone calls from homeowners who are concerned about content in the From the Mayor's Desk emails. Read from a recent email. The concern is separation of state and church. She asked if the mayor should be using his position to solicit financial gain for the chapel. Asked to be sensitive on what goes out from mayor's desk. Mayor Holden asked to be provided with the names of the people.

### Commissioner Dyer

- There are a couple of things she wants to address for the sake of the public. There have been questions about why the Town isn't fixing the lift station. Clarified it was discussed whether the Town should take out a loan and fix it in a year and a half, versus going through the grant process. The grant process is slow and we are at the mercy of the grant. We are doing the Greensboro station. She was accused of not listening to the public when she ran for re-election. Her definition of the public is property owners, whether they are registered here to vote or not and the community surrounding Holden Beach, so those people have a say too. They come over here and spend money. Trying to listen to as much of the public as she can. They were accused of not being fiscally responsible. Concerned with a lot of the projects that have been stopped. We had to do continued dredging of the Lockwood Folly because the terminal groin was not accepted. We are having to do another stormwater plan when we will probably need the whole lot done eventually anyway. It would be nice to have the festival in Block Q and would take some pressure off the Police. We bought the pier property for the emergency access. We now have two accesses there for the people who live on the streets across from the pier. Those people requested that we keep the property for the access. It would have been nice if we bought the campground, we would have the revenue from that. The pier property is not just the pier itself. We have emergency access there, the campsites, provided much needed bathrooms there and

we have revenue coming in from paid parking. Some of the misconceptions were that we were irresponsible in buying a \$3 million property that is now worth double that, we have revenue from the campground and we provided much needed access for those homes in the area.

- Asked about the award the Town received. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the Town was given the award of Best Restored Beach by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association in Washington, D.C. at the end of March. It was for the big project we did. Commissioner Dyer thanked the staff for all their hard work to make this happen.
- Thanked Merchants Association for a wonderful festival. The weather was beautiful. The Police worked overtime to protect everyone's property. Thinks it was a good turnout.

Commissioner Paarfus

- Thanked everyone for coming out and for your comments. Hope you have a good night.

## ADJOURNMENT

*Motion by Commissioner Paarfus to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.; second by Commissioner Dyer; approved by unanimous vote.*

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk