



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 – 5:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Public Hearing/Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Rick Smith; Commissioners Brian Murdock, Page Dyer and Pat Kwiatkowski; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Police Chief Jeremy Dixon, Lieutenant Frank Dilworth; Budget & Fiscal Analyst Daniel McRaney; and Town Attorney Rick Green.

**PUBLIC HEARING: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' INTENT TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE A PORTION OF CAROLINA AVENUE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH JORDAN BOULEVARD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH QUINTON STREET**

George Stout doesn't see a need to add more parking spaces by taking a road away unless we have the infrastructure to handle the extra parking.

Jim Bauer said as a past emergency responder and civil servant, it is ridiculous to close down a street to get an extra 10 spots. He said to have an emergency vehicle drive around the block instead of driving straight through is ridiculous. The studies he has seen say the Town has more than enough parking at this point.

Mike Felmly opposes to the closing of the street because of what is to be done to the street. If you close the street and turn it into a parking lot, it will devalue the houses across the street and there will be a major concern on how you will get emergency vehicles down there. He added they have no idea what is being done on the lot.

Mayor Holden closed the public hearing at 5:08 p.m. and called the Regular Meeting to order.

**REGULAR MEETING:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve the agenda as written and submitted; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Motion by Commissioner Murdock to approve (minutes of the Public Hearing/Regular Meeting of August 16, 2022); second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Jim Bauer started to talk about his concerns regarding the PARTF grant for the pier. He was asked to hold his comments to the end comment period since his topic is not an agenda item.

Martha Myers talked about beach mats and her support for the agenda item. She provided information on beach access routes and Ocean Cure. She suggested the Town establish a beach wheelchair program.

Mike Felmly said the police report last month said Otto Connect issued 492 parking citations for the month of July. This month it is 344. He said the Town has made a lot of people angry with the parking program. People can't afford it. He said we don't need more parking. The parking lots were not full this year. He recommended holding off.

## **STATUS UPDATE AND ADDITIONAL WORK NEEDED FOR CORPS' COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY**

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson introduced Colonel Bennett, Christine Brayman and Bob Keistler from the Corps. They are here to give a project update on the Corps' Coastal Storm Risk Management Study. The Board may want to consider a letter of intent regarding changes to study parameters. Colonel Bennett provided history on the proposed project. The first step is to do the feasibility study. Traditionally, the study is usually three by three; they usually get it done for \$3 million in three years. It is a 50/50 cost share. It is usually accomplished in three years, but every terrain is different. They received \$500,000 in August 2021. The Town provided an additional \$500,000. They spent about nine months on the effort and now basically the federal money stopped. Colonel Bennett said they were able to do some good work and capitalize on the efforts of the Town. Some of the issues are sand availability and environmental implications. As they looked at it, they realized that based on the complexity of Holden Beach and the environment, they won't be able to do it in three years. It will probably require an additional 11 months. They won't be able to get it done in the \$3 million total cost. It probably will take an additional \$1.25 million. He went over the expenditures to date, which totals close to \$1 million, \$500,000 from the federal government and \$500,000 from the Town. As they looked at the complexity, they realized it would cost overall \$4.25 million and take a total of about 46 months. Colonel Bennett talked about a funding opportunity. Based on hurricane supplemental that is available, they are trying to put in a request to get some of that to cover the gap. If they can get the supplemental, it would be 100% funded by the federal government. They are willing to make a play for the money,

but they need to make sure they have the support of the Town. If they can't get that, the other path is through traditional appropriations. They would hope they would see by the spring if money is available. If it is, they would come back about the cost share.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said she has never seen a project plan and where they are on different tasks so the Town can understand what has been accomplished. She asked what reasonable guarantee the Town would have that this would not happen again. Colonel Bennett said this is their best guess, based on the analysis and the information they have. If he didn't have confidence that it was pretty close, he would tell the Town. He said as information becomes available to them, he is happy to share it. Based on the information they have learned since when they started, they believe they will be able to achieve that with an additional 11 months of work and \$1.25 million. His commitment is to be transparent with the information they have and to give his best assessment at any given time. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked about the window to determine if the supplemental funding is approved. Colonel Bennett is hoping to have clarity within six months. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if we could take a timeout until the decision is made. Colonel Bennett replied yes, but the risk is you lose the opportunity to go after the 100% federally funded money. The money would go off the table and it may also trigger getting further appropriations. If you decide you want to make a play for it and it doesn't come to fruition, you could stop at any given time. Mayor Pro Tem Smith asked if progress reports have been published. Colonel Bennett responded that they can make technical reports available. Mayor Pro Tem Smith said he understood from the Memorandum of Understanding that the Town would be updated throughout certain points and he hasn't seen anything. He would like an overall report of what was done. Colonel Bennett replied sand availability, quality, quantity, surveying vessels all around the inlet to understand if we have enough, modeling across the enterprise, making sure we understand the impacts of sea level rise and understanding the environmental impact sensitivities and whether we will need an EIA or go to an EIS. Commissioner Murdock inquired if anything was piggybacked off the FEMA project. Colonel Bennett said from an environmental standpoint no, but they have been able to capitalize on some of the work and some of the sampling the Town did. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if there is a possibility of credit for information provided by the Town. Colonel Bennett responded the information provided reduces the overall cost. They would take the work the Town paid for and integrate it into their study. Commissioner Kwiatkowski said she read SACS (South Atlantic Coastal Study) and inquired about back bay flooding analysis. Colonel Bennett said the back bay flooding analysis is something the Corps is realizing they need to start taking into consideration. It is something to make sure their studies are thorough and will address all of the issues.

Colonel Bennett explained the sooner they can get an answer from the Town, the better. There are other projects that are rapidly competing for this. The sooner it can be decided this is something that we collectively want to go after, the greater our opportunity for securing it and alleviating any non-federal participation. He reminded the Town that they could put a stop to it down the road. Commissioner Kwiatkowski suggested their meeting minutes would be helpful. Colonel Bennett said that is fine, but most of their minutes are super technical stuff, but he would be happy to come in with an update.

The Board agreed to let the public ask questions. The Corps answered questions from the audience.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked how to proceed. Town Manager Hewett will have a draft letter of intent for the Board to look at on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **POLICE REPORT – CHIEF DIXON**

- Went over the Police Report, which included service calls, incident reports, state citations and ordinance warnings and violations.
- Went over a seatbelt worksheet. September 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> is the Governor’s Highway Child Safety Week Campaign. The child seatbelt restrictions also are applicable to low-speed vehicles.
- October 1<sup>st</sup> is Run HB, it is the big race we do every year. Went over the route for the half marathon. Part of the run is over the bridge. There will be lane closures and a pilot car. There will be officers at all major intersections. Don’t be in a hurry. If you need to be somewhere, leave way early. Cones will be put out around 4:00 a.m. and the pilot car will start around 6:00 a.m. October 8<sup>th</sup> is Cycle NC. No lanes will be closed. Will have patrol cars with blue lights, slowing traffic. Asked everyone to slow down and pay attention. Went over the pattern. Both events have a beer garden. The Festival by the Sea will be October 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Said has not heard discussion on moving the festival to Block Q so there are less road closures in response to Commissioner Dyer’s question. Town Manager Hewett explained at this point, it may be too late.
- Still two down with staff. Had a regional chiefs’ meeting today and talked about some strategies they are using to recruit. Trying to bring back some fresh ideas for recruiting.
- Showed a public safety video about low-speed vehicles.

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

- Went over numbers. Right now, there are 51 active permits for new residential homes, 418 other permits, 30 that are waiting to be picked up for a total of 499 permits. Provided information on permits in review. Services permits that have not been picked up yet are 111. Last month they were averaging from 21 – 27 inspections per day for a total of 556. That doesn’t include complaints. There is currently one structure that is condemned on the island, and three with stop work orders.

Commissioner Murdock said as a contractor on the island he has seen a significant improvement in the office. Inspections Director Evans explained they were fortunate to move someone over that is doing a great job and we hired someone who is doing a fantastic job. With that, it allows them to help more.

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS RECEIVED FOR BLOCK Q AND THE PIER PROPERTIES**

Town Manager Hewett explained as directed by the Board, we readvertised the Requests for Qualifications for Block Q and the pier properties. We received three for the Block Q property, McGill Associates, Bowman Murray Hemingway Architects and Pinnacle Architecture. The same three firms, in addition to Stature Engineering provided a response for the HB Pier property. Town Manager Hewett said if the Board wants to qualify these projects for grant funding, it’s really important we comply with the Mini Brooks Act. You pick an engineering firm based on qualifications. When you think you have the right one, you negotiate a contract. He recommended using score sheets if the Board would like to

proceed. The Board discussed how to proceed. They decided they would like to bring the scored sheets to the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE 20-20, AN ORDER CLOSING CAROLINA AVENUE FROM ITS INTERSECTION WITH JORDAN BOULEVARD TO ITS INTERSECTION WITH QUINTON STREET**

Town Clerk Finnell said the Board held the required public hearing to close a portion of Carolina Avenue tonight. If it is found to the satisfaction of the Board that closure is not contrary to public interest and no individual property owner in the vicinity of the street would be deprived of reasonable ingress or egress to the property, the Board could adopt Ordinance 22-20. The ordinance orders that the portion of Carolina Avenue from its intersection with Jordan Boulevard to its intersection with Quinton Street be closed effective immediately.

Commissioner Murdock said we have no plan on what the Town is proposing to the property. He does not want to see a barricade on Carolina Avenue immediately. Town Clerk Finnell suggested using a future date or holding off on adopting the ordinance. Town Manager Hewett said this was done in anticipation of being able to cohesively develop a master plan by the consultant that was hired by the Town. If the Board defers action, any potential improvements will have to be contingent on it happening. After discussion, Town Clerk Finnell will check the statute to make sure there are no time constraints for adoption of the order now that all of the steps prior to adoption have been completed.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE SCHEDULING OF A DATE TO HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING TO INTERVIEW POTENTIAL CANDIDATES TO FILL THE VACANCY ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND TO SELECT A NEW MEMBER TO FILL THE VACANCY**

The Board agreed to schedule the special meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON POTENTIAL FUNDING OPTIONS PRESENTED BY BRUNSWICK COUNTY FOR BIOSOLIDS DISPOSAL**

Public Works Director Clemmons said the West Brunswick Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is in need of upgrading in order to effectively manage the disposal of biosolids during wet weather. Over the past several years, the facility has experienced operational issues caused by the inability to dispose of biosolids during wet weather that have caused an increase in operational costs and are the underlying reason for Notices of Violation in previous years. Assistant Town Manager Ferguson said the county selected Dewberry Engineers to conduct a comprehensive study for a solution to effectively manage the disposal of biosolids from the facility. The cost of identified needed upgrades is estimated at \$6.6 million. The Brunswick County Finance Department has developed several financing scenarios that are attached for your review. Public Works Director Clemmons reviewed the options (hereby attached to minutes). His opinion is option 2b is best. Town Manager Hewett added the county is polling all the partners to see their preference, but they are going to do the project so it is important to provide our feedback.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith that we approve option 2b for 28-year payback plan for the rate increase for the water treatment of Holden Beach's wastewater; second by Commissioner Kwiatkowski; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION ON ESTABLISHING A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

Public Works Director Clemmons said stormwater has been a major challenge for years on the island and is getting worse with increased development. He would like to request that the Board approve sending out a Request for Qualifications for engineering services to develop an island-wide stormwater master plan that would better equip the Town for these issues moving forward.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve sending an RFQ for engineering services to develop an island-wide stormwater plan.*

Public Works Director Clemmons explained he thinks that developing a master plan is the way to go for the future.

*The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kwiatkowski.*

Commissioner Kwiatkowski stated there have been a lot of towns who have plans and they are using them to get grant monies. There has been a lot of expertise built up in innovative stormwater improvements on islands. She requested that the town manager share the RFQ with the Board before it is sent out to make sure nobody sees anything that is missing. Commissioner Murdock said do not forget the bike lanes.

*The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ENCROACHMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND JERRY FAIRCHILD (222 OCEAN BOULEVARD EAST)**

Inspections Director Evans said that Jerry Fairchild, the owner of 222 Ocean Boulevard East, is asking that the Town approve an encroachment agreement so that they may have access across the portion of the dune located over the top of Hillside Drive. We already have some of these agreements in place. The agreement is the one the Town has been using for a while. It holds the Town harmless if anything should happen and requires them to remove it if the roadway becomes active again.

*Motion by Commissioner Murdock that we approve the encroachment agreement between the Town and Jerry Fairchild; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON JORDAN BOULEVARD RESTROOMS**

Commissioner Kwiatkowski stated there have been a couple of mentions by staff and in the Block Q RFQ there was discussion about moving the restrooms to Block Q. She said they never really had a discussion on this. The restroom renovation has been in the budget for years but has never been moved

on. She understands that there are issues, but they have never discussed the various options. She believes before a decision is made on where the restrooms will be located around Jordan Boulevard, she would like staff to bring all of the possibilities to the Board. Town Manager Hewett said we do not have staff capability to produce that type of analysis. That's one of the reasons why we backed away from it in the beginning. Those issues appeared to be so complex and detailed requiring an engineering analysis. DOT has communicated with us that there are issues with locating public facilities in a federally controlled highway easement. Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked where else we planned to move these if we didn't buy Block Q. Town Manager Hewett replied we are stymied. That's why we backed off it and informed the Board in 2021 of the issues. It is just fortuitous that the possibility of co-locating the facilities at Block Q has now materialized in light of the additional loading that will potentially go into that site. Mayor Pro Tem Smith inquired if we are still able to maintain it as it is. Inspections Director Evans responded that he thinks it can be maintained as long as it doesn't trigger a permit and explained why. He explained the history of the restrooms. He said it was his idea to move the restrooms to Block Q so it would meet with all ADA requirements and give the Town a better facility. The facility itself has issues.

### **INLET HAZARD AREA SITUATION UPDATE FROM TOWN STAFF**

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said the inlet hazard areas have continued to be debated over the past year. A decision was made on it. She asked for an update on the final results, the changes over the past year and on the anticipated impacts on Town properties. Inspections Director Evans said they tried to expand the inlet hazard areas around 2013/2014. He took up that mantra and challenged some of the stuff they did. Over a few months period they dropped it. It showed back up in 2017/2018. It was a huge expansion of the area. It moved it a mile. He and Town Manager Hewett wrote a letter that the Board approved. He spoke in opposition at all of the CAMA meetings, except for the one in May. He spoke with senators who also spoke in opposition. In January 2021, we had over 100 people in this room. CAMA was here to hear comments. None of the comments were positive. He spent time with the CAMA representative that lives on the island and the one who lives in the county to try to get them to reduce the inlet hazard area. The inlet hazard area met all of its public hearing requirements before May 15<sup>th</sup> and was up for vote at the last meeting. The May meeting was a public hearing about the amendments that were done to the original rules and regulations that are actually in favor of the Town. He didn't speak at that meeting since they amendments were in favor of the Town. Town Manager Hewett said he did attend that meeting. Inspections Director Evans talked about the effect of the new rules. Some of the rule changes they made took out negative impacts that would really have an effect on us. Since we have size limitations, our lots are limited in size and we have stormwater percentage limitations, their limits on square footage really don't affect any of our lots, except on the west end. The lots are far enough from the vegetation line and are outside that buffer area so they really aren't affected either. They have a five-year review period. He told them he would be back. He is certain there will be nothing but a positive change on the west end, unless we have a really bad storm. He explained they fought it hard.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON PLANNING FOR DRY SAND PLACEMENT OF MATS AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL RESIDENTIAL USE FOR WALKWAYS**

Commissioner Kwiatkowski said she understands that at the CRC meeting, the CRC essentially went forward adopting what they put in the packet with the document CRC-22-17. One thing that is particularly useful is that you don't have to get a variance from the commission anymore if you want to put mats on the dry beach. If you are going to enhance handicap accessibility you would sponsor it as the local government and it is subject to review by NCWRC and the USFWS. She stated we don't have to go through a variance request; we will need a plan and justification linked more to wildlife. We can move forward without having to go to the CRC. That gives us the ability to create a plan for how we will have mats on the beach to enhance handicap access. Commissioner Kwiatkowski would like to see this done so we can have mats on the beach next season in select locations where we won't have issues. The second item she was happy to see was they also acknowledged mats could be useful for residential walkways. She asked what the Town would need to do to proceed so that owners understand how they can apply for using these mats for walkways over the long dune areas. Inspections Director Evans explained the residential part has not been approved yet. We can write our own rules for the residential part as long as we don't go beyond the last line of natural stable vegetation once it's approved. There will be some ordinances that need to be written. It reduces the debris put out there for walkways. For the commercial portion, we will need to have a plan that will need to be approved. He talked about utilizing the mats. He thinks it is a good thing.

*Motion by Commissioner Kwiatkowski that staff begin the process of putting together a plan for where they are going to have extended mats onto the beach and in addition look at where there might be some areas that could have dry sand placement parallel to the dunes and the water, again for people to be able to sit on the beach on wheelchairs, not just on a straightforward path. So, it is the same thing as Kure Beach, Carolina Beach have been working on. It is both access to get down closer to the water, but also parallel to those dunes so they can sit out on the beach.*

*Commissioner Kwiatkowski condensed her motion to that she requests staff put together a plan for dry sand placement of mats with ADA and ABA considerations; second by Mayor Pro Tem Smith; approved by unanimous vote.*

Commissioner Kwiatkowski would like something out there next season. Town Manager Hewett stated it would be subject to a plan developed by Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Marine Fisheries. Commissioner Kwiatkowski would like to see a plan before the end of the year.

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF ORDINANCE 22-21, AN ORDINANCE ENACTING AND ADOPTING A SUPPLEMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA (SUPPLEMENT 17)**

Town Clerk Finnell said the latest supplement to the Code of Ordinances was provided in the packet. It codifies the ordinances that the Board already passed.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to adopt Ordinance 22-21, to adopt the Code of Ordinances Supplement; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved unanimous vote.*



## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 22-08, RESOLUTION APPROVING TRUIST SIGNATURE CARD**

Town Clerk Finnell explained we need to update the signatories for the Town's Truist account. Traditionally we have done the mayor, mayor pro tem, town manager and Daniel McRainey's position (budget & fiscal analyst).

*Motion by Commissioner Murdock to adopt Resolution 22-08; second by Commissioner Dyer; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ORDINANCE 22-22, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 22-14, THE REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023 (AMENDMENT NO. 1)**

Budget & Fiscal Analyst McRainey stated this amendment is to move outstanding appropriations from fiscal year 2022 to the current fiscal year. The appropriations were encumbered in last year's budget but due to supply chain issues the products and services were not delivered before June 30<sup>th</sup>, making this amendment necessary. These items include police in-car cameras, mobile radios, valve pits, generator and a truck for Public Works. It is a housekeeping issue.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to approve Ordinance 22-22, Amending Ordinance 22-14, The Revenues and Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS**

Martha Myers is hoping someone can explain why there is an access mat at the bottom of the stairs at Avenue D. Town Manager Hewett explained the Town was one of the first locations in the county to start using mats. The regulatory framework of where we could do that was oftentimes gray and questionable. The location of that one was chosen for a mobility challenged person that was struggling to get across the sand. Ms. Myers said the idea of a mat parallel to the beach is a wonderful thing to consider. She added when looking at the priority of the mats, access is a need not a want.

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Parking Financials – since we started the program at the end of the fiscal year we have hard booked (rang into the cash register) \$389,000 in revenues through the end of August, not counting Labor Day weekend through current. We have not hard booked that. Otto Connect owes us another \$28,000 in receivables. To date you could say we have \$417,577 in revenues collected. Expenses are \$50,863 with the net being \$366,714.
- FEMA Storm Damage Repair Project - we formally requisitioned the project closeout coincidental with FEMA's deadline being September 14<sup>th</sup>. The special obligation bond has been retired. We have received affirmation from FEMA/the North Carolina Department of Public Safety that our special obligation bond has been approved for reimbursement. There are

\$500,000 in eligible project expenses that are pending reimbursement of which \$452,000 is interest on the bond. That will be retained by the North Carolina Department of Public Safety until the final project inspection takes place, which could take a year or more. We received a notice of violation for the sand compatibility to the Colonel's statement today of being sand starved. To all those shell seekers who picked up shells, the price of that is we will be subject to monitoring for the next two years. We will have to rock pick and till if required by the regulatory agencies.

- Pier Grant Status – we have several in the works. The CAMA acquisition grant that the Board is under contract for award has been reduced to \$155,000 due to the difference in our preliminary cost estimates in the initial award and the final purchase price. We provided supplemental documentation so we can qualify some additional administrative expenses. We are awaiting disbursement from the state. For the PARTF Acquisition, at the end of August, the Parks & Rec Trust Fund Authority made a \$500,000 reimbursement award for purchase of the pier. We anticipate that the Board action in October will be to consider accepting funds via a contract arrangement. The CAMA access grant that the Board approved submission on has been tendered to the Division of Environmental Quality and award on that \$50,000 grant funding is expected in October.

Commissioner Kwiatkowski asked if he received any more information on post and rope liability. Town Manager Hewett said it is a non-issue. He agreed it rests with our Town and our attorney.

## **MAYOR'S COMMENTS**

- Hurricanes - we have one out there that is thankfully way offshore. Have one more month to get by and we will have a good non-hurricane event fall. Keep your prayers going. Beachfront is in excellent condition in preparation for a storm. Hope we can get by this year without one. If there is one that looks threatening, we will be prepared. We will communicate our normal ways, emails and other avenues.
- Traffic on the island always slows down this time of year. It was sudden this year.

## **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Smith

- Thanked everyone who came out this evening. Had a good crowd. Thanked those listening online. Thinks it's important that everyone knows the decisions that are made are hard decisions. Trying to do the best for the Town.
- Thanked everyone who signed up for possibly taking over Gerald Brown's seat. It is still tough to see the empty chair. Planning on having the interviews on September 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- Thanked Town staff for all of the stuff they do, as well as our Police Department. Having the video this evening eases his mind. Thinks it will help us a bunch.
- Reminded all staff and the Board that we are public servants and we are working for the citizens of Holden Beach and their safety.
- This is heart of hurricane season. Hopes everyone has their plans ready. Know what to do if storm threatens. Be assured, our Emergency Management Plan has been reviewed and updated. We stand ready to do what is necessary to make sure the island and the people are safe.

- So lucky to be able to live in this beautiful place. All need to stop and think about how we can be kind to our neighbors and visitors at all times.

#### Commissioner Dyer

- Asked if there is an update on the shark tournament. Mayor Holden said the Board will be seeking legal advice.
- Thanked staff for all their hard work.
- Good to see a good crowd. We are making decisions to make plans for the pier and Block Q. Doesn't think anything has been set in stone as opposed to a lot of the interest tonight on decisions already made. They haven't been made yet. Bear with us. Knows everyone wants to see the pier open, but we need to walk before we run. Working hard to make proper decisions and to do the right thing for handicap compliance. Keep in mind it is still in the planning stages.

#### Commissioner Murdock

- Thanked everyone for coming out and everyone listening. We do listen, whether you think so or not.
- Thanked staff, they continue to work hard on the myriad of things going on. It's a lot. This Town has grown at least twofold since he has been here. It's moving towards island-wide capacity. As we do that it creates problems. Problems need to be dealt with. You can't finish a task before you start it. The quicker we get some of this stuff moving, the better.
- Reiterated Commissioner Dyer's comment. We do not have plans solidified for Block Q or the pier properties at this time. Trying to recruit firms that have knowledge and experience to put together a plan that will be the best for the Town and the people who live and visit here. For Block Q it could be a parking lot, it could be a green space. Will look at all possibilities. Appears we are very close to having enough parking spaces without adding more. We said at first that some of the parking spaces we have may be eliminated in the future for a better opportunity somewhere else. It all started with FEMA and Corps' regulations where you need to have island-wide parking spread out. Looking at the big picture. Don't have a plan yet. When we get a plan, it will be shared.
- Continues to see people enjoy the beach. Sees a lot of traffic. It is a nice beach. Best time of year. Everyone needs to get out and catch a flounder while you can.

#### Commissioner Kwiatkowski

- Appreciates everybody coming. Wishes more people would stay to the end and take the opportunity to talk during the second public comment period. You don't have to be tied to the agenda. You could just share some of your wishes or dissatisfaction on things not being talked about at the meeting. Encouraged people to take the opportunity to take the second comment period to give information. They want to hear things people are thinking about.
- Thanked Public Works Director Clemmons for putting stormwater on the agenda. Has been on the list of priorities for a couple of years. The sooner it starts, the sooner we can get things in place, the sooner we could look for funding opportunities and start solving some of the worst problem areas on the island. Will be more things coming. Can look at Boards' objectives this year. Just need to take a look at it and see the ones that received 18/17/16 points. Those are the kinds of things we need to be attacking this year. Have to get them going so it can all start happening. Expects there will be a few more things before the end of the fiscal year that we will be starting.

**CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11(A)(6), PERSONNEL, NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11(A)(3), CONSULT WITH THE ATTORNEY AND NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 143-318.11(A)(1), TO PREVENT THE DISCLOSURE OF PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**

Town Clerk Finnell read the reason for Closed Session.

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith to go into Executive Session at 7:28 p.m.; second by Commissioner Murdock; approved by unanimous vote.*

**OPEN SESSION**

The Board went back into Open Session at 8:15 p.m. No action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Smith at 8:15 p.m.; second by Commissioner Kwiatkowski; approved by unanimous vote.*

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk