



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Special Meeting on Friday, May 1, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Page Dyer; Commissioners Sylvia Pate and Keith Smith; Town Manager Bryan Chadwick; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Inspections Director Tim Evans; Finance Director Daniel McRainey; Public Works Director Chris Benton; Police Chief Steve Barger and Lieutenant Frank Dilworth. Commissioner Tom Myers and Assistant Town Manager Christy Ferguson attended via telephone.

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Carlton Pittman would like the Board to move forward with a fire station as soon as possible.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson reviewed the budget calendar, the Board's goals and budget priority areas. The tax rate is proposed to stay the same at 14 cents per hundred dollars of valuation. Challenges include unknown assistance from other levels of government and inflation. The budget aligns with the Board's outlined priority areas.

Highlights for the General Fund include stormwater design, permitting and construction, police vehicles and body cameras, additional certifications for personnel, street paving and a backhoe.

The Water & Sewer Fund is shown as balanced. Highlights include a cooling solution for lift station 1, water system repair parts at \$120,000 and new tap construction at \$70,000.

In Fund 31, staff has done some work with the county on the BioSolids Project. Staff is suggesting that the Town expend \$2.8 million upfront. That would be an advance payment based on flow. It is a hybrid option where the Town would still be paying in advance for flow, but the county is taking into account 3% interest so that it doesn't harm the other municipalities participating in the system.

Fund 35 is remaining for now, but we have completed all obligations and have closed out with the federal and state government so we anticipate it will be closed out prior to the next budget.

In BPART, there is \$761,654 that the Board can decide how they would like to spend. Highlights include completing the Block Q Master Plan; upgrading the PAR course; funding for Block Q projects as available; annual maintenance activities for the beach; bathroom and trash concerns being addressed; and a \$500,000 transfer to the Beach Inlet Capital Reserve Fund.

The canal dredging budget remains shovel ready. We believe that we will need to entertain Scotch Bonnet as a location for dredge spoils, as well as continuing to research use of DA 292 for the upcoming dredge event.

Assistant Town Manager Ferguson provided information on the funds in the capital reserve funds.

Since the slides were prepared, staff met with the Corps and McGill. Based on the timeline and discussion, we believe by June 30, 2027 we will only spend \$1.5 million in next year's budget, instead of \$2.4 million. That would bring the General Fund delta to \$300,122. Staff is recommending that come from fund balance. The other change is that for the McGill Master Plan for Block Q, \$31,000 more needs to be carried forward based on timing.

For the BPART Fund if the Board chooses, they could take what is available and spend \$200,000 - \$300,000 for fire station design; \$250,000 in the pier line which would allow work to be finished on the underwater study and either engineering or demolition depending on the results of the study; and put the maximum allowed for available to appropriate. How to appropriate the \$761,654 of BPART funds was discussed.

The consensus is to go with staff's recommendations.

Town Manager Chadwick said the Water & Sewer Fund is balanced. There is nothing available to put away for the future. The sewer capital fee is going down to \$218 from \$422. You could increase rates a little within that amount. Capital needs have been identified. A new water tower and water lines were discussed. Options for increasing rates to prepare for capital needs in the future were reviewed, to include increasing the base charge or doing away with the free 2,000 gallons. Looking at numbers for providing 1,000 gallons was suggested. Keeping it revenue neutral was discussed. Staff will look at the numbers and share options with the Board in the budget message. Any revisions can be made by the Board at the June meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Dyer to adjourn at 1:47 p.m.; second by Commissioner Pate; approved by unanimous vote.*

ATTEST:

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk