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January 5, 2024

Good morning: HB Commissioner and Mayor Holden

I would like to request that the new board of commissioners consider waiting to adopt their proposed 2024 Rules of Procedure until they have attended the training in Wilmington for newly elected commissioners. This would give the public an opportunity to review more thoroughly the new procedures and how they will affect the operation of our town government moving forward. Proposed procedures and how they will affect our community as a whole access.

I have 2 questions regarding these procedures

1. Has our town attorney had an opportunity to review them as they relate to our town charter.
2. Why would we want an executive secretary who would be a board member to have control over the town agenda and basically controlling what we the public are allowed to hear and when we are allowed to be informed of various proposed changes.

Lastly why are all the budget meeting during the day. A lot of our citizens have jobs which make it impossible to attend a 10:00 am meeting week after week after week.

Sincerely

Regina Gobble Martin  
1032 OBW  
Holden Beach NC

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## Heather Finnell

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**From:** Jonathan Austin <ja63197@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 12:01 PM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Tabling the vote of the Changes to Rules and Procedures

Since there is such a large number of changes I am hoping you all will table the vote on any changes. I would also like a list of the proposed changes. I may not be able to fly down this evening to be at the meeting due to weather.

Thank you,  
Jonathan Austin  
106 Burlington

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# Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association

January 5, 2024

Good morning: HB Commissioner and Mayor Holden

We understand block Q is again under discussion in the special meeting called for 12/5/2024 at 6:30. We are hoping the Commissioners will move forward with the development of this property. When completed it will be a great access to our community for both the residents and the many guest that visit our beautiful Island each years. We believe this property is an investment in the future of our Island Community and should be used to provide amenities for both residents and guest.

Lets keep our Family Beach moving in a forward direction by keeping this project moving forward.

Thank you for your service to our community

Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association

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## Heather Finnell

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**From:** C L OWENS <cloagency@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 11:43 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Proposed Rules and Procedures

As a homeowner at Holden Beach, I respectfully request that any change in the Commission's Rules and Procedures be delayed for 30 days. Affected parties must be given adequate time to review changes that could have a major impact on the future of the Beach, particularly on the Pier area.

The Commission must be transparent with changes and consider input from affected parties.

**Cris Owens 704-737-4323**  
**LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE**  
**109 Burlington Street**

## Heather Finnell

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**From:** Sloane Pearce <Sloanepearce@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 11:38 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Motion to Postpone the "Rules and Procedures" Vote

Good afternoon, as a full-time resident at 123 Burlington St W, Holden Beach, I implore the HB Town Commissioners to **postpone** the proposed changes to the town's "Rules and Procedures". After only briefly reviewing these changes, I am very concerned as to the amount and critical nature of the changes that are being proposed, especially in such a short time-span. With the future of our community at stake, I find such pivotal changes irresponsible of our Commissioners. This is not to disrespect anyone, but to simply and honestly say that it would be in the *town's* best interest that this vote be postponed, so the townspeople can, at least, adequately review and understand these changes.

*Hoping this small voice is heard.*

Sloane Pearce  
123 Burlington St W

## Heather Finnell

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**From:** Sylvia Pate <sylviahpate@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 11:31 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Cc:** Alan Holden; tmmymyers56@gmail.com; Rick Smith; tracey thomas; Page Dyer; rpaarfus@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Comments Regarding Agenda Items for Special Meeting--January 5, 2024

Heather:

Please include the below comments with the written comments for the January 5, 2024 Special Meeting:

1. I feel that any action on the proposed 2024 Rules of Procedure for the Town of Holden Beach Board of Commissioners **should at a minimum be delayed** to another meeting for the following reasons:
  - a) There was no comparative provided so the property owners could readily determine proposed changes from current Rules of Procedure to the proposed 2024 Rules of Procedure (document changes should be annotated to reflect what is being deleted, added, etc) in order to provide comments;
  - b) perhaps you should wait until after you attend training to consider some of the changes you are proposing;
  - c) A number of changes appear to usurp the role and responsibility of the Mayor; the charter clearly states that the Mayor votes in instances where there is a tie in voting but in numerous locations, it is indicated that "the Mayor shall have no vote even to break a tie". This document needs to be reviewed by the Attorney to ensure compliance with NC General Statutes;
  - d) Adding an Executive Secretary would appear to be totally unnecessary as that is the role of the Town Clerk and only creates an additional layer in formulating the agenda. The creation of this position for one of the Commissioners who would have a lot of control and discretion should not be decided just by the Commissioners themselves. If the Executive Secretary is unavailable, does everything just stop.
  - e) If a Commissioner wants an item added to the agenda, they should not need to have a their request seconded by another Commissioner or the Town Manager. If a Commissioner wants to bring an item forward, that should be the right as a representative of the residents of the Town of Holden Beach.
- 2) I actually like the idea of the Agenda Topic Cover Sheet.
- 3) I support your attempt at transparency and open communications by adding additional meetings (40+) but everyone that owns property in Holden Beach is not retired, contrary to some opinions. There is no way people can be involved in the number of meetings you have proposed for January-June, especially when most are proposed at 10 am in the morning. If you are at work, you cannot listen to the FaceBook Live presentation, even if you could hear it, and if you want to be actively involved, you would have to take off work to be there. Otherwise you listen to it after the fact, which does nothing to support your ability to participate in the meetings.
- 4) Block Q Contract should continue as approved at the November meeting. It is time to move forward and stop trying to undone everything that has been completed thus far on various projects. You say you want to save the Town money but you are only ultimately spending more, unless you just choose to do nothing on any of the projects. It was out of line in my opinion, for Mr. Parrfus to make direct contact with NCDEQ staff on behalf of the Town of Holden Beach (who directed him to do this?) as this should have been filtered through the Town Manager for additional clarification and input on this issue.

Please give these points some consideration.

Respectfully,

**Sylvia H. Pate**  
**111 Charlotte Street, Holden Beach**

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**Heather Finnell**

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**From:** Roy Michael <rmicl144@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Town meeting

**SUBJECT: Requested Delay on Changes to Rules and Procedures**

Body of email: The large number of proposed changes being brought to a vote tonight are much too serious for the town residents/home owners to not have adequate time to review and ask questions about. The task of going through 20-plus pages of material changes to a second 20-plus page document - a before and after comparison - takes time! The property owners of HB deserve the opportunity to discuss and study what these changes will do to Holden Beach for the immediate and long haul. We should delay the vote tonight and simply discuss.

Regards,

Roy Michael

119 Burlington st w. Holden Beach

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## Heather Finnell

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**From:** David Gaeta <davidgaeta5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Postponing of Rules & Procedures vote

To All Commissioners:

As a full time resident on Holden Beach, the changes that are being proposed to the Town's Rules & Procedures are simply too important to push through tonight without a debate and giving the property owners ample time. Due diligence and analysis is always necessary when dealing with so many people and properties. Discussion and debate is very important before any vote is taken.

Thank you for your transparent and deliberative process on this topic.

David and Anna Gaeta

121 Burlington St.  
Holden Beach, NC



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**Heather Finnell**

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**From:** Patty Allred <pjallred67@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 10:49 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Tonight's vote

**SUBJECT:** Requested Delay on Changes to Rules and Procedures

The large number of proposed changes being brought to a vote tonight are much too serious for the town residents/home owners to not have adequate time to review and ask questions about. The task of going through 20-plus pages of material changes to a second 20-plus page document - a before and after comparison - takes time! The property owners of HB deserve the opportunity to discuss and study what these changes will do to Holden Beach for the immediate and long haul. We should delay the vote tonight and simply discuss.

Regards,

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## Heather Finnell

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**From:** John Pearce <RayCoke@proton.me>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 10:28 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Postponing of Rules & Procedures vote

To All Commissioners:

As a full time resident here, these proposed changes to the Town's Rules & Procedures are simply too important to push through tonight without debate and giving the property owners ample time for study. It may serve some on the Board but it will not serve the town overall without our due diligence. Discussion and reasoning tonight as to how it will benefit everyone is needing before any vote is taken.

Thanks in advance for a more transparent and deliberative process on this topic.

John Pearce

123 Burlington St.  
Holden Beach, NC

Sent from Proton Mail mobile

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**Heather Finnell**

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**From:** Sylvia Kelly <skelly0708@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 10:10 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Please halt the voting at tonight's meeting!!!!!!

Good morning Heather!

I understand there's been a "special" meeting called for tonight by the new regime. I JUST found out there was an email sent out on Wednesday with all the new rules and procedures for the commissioners that the new regime wants to change. As a full-time resident of Holden Beach, neither my husband or I were sent that email. We receive the weekly town newsletters but we did not receive the email in question. I'm quite positive none of our neighbors did either. How in the world can the new board vote on these "revisions" and the public as a whole NOT KNOW WHAT THEY'RE VOTING ON??????

The new regime harped on "transparency issues" regarding the old board of commissioners - talk about the pot calling the kettle black!!!! This new board are already masters of non-transparency!!!!

My husband and I will be at tonight's meeting. PLEASE COUNT US BOTH IN AS OPPOSED TO THE BOARD VOTING ON ANY CHANGES TONIGHT UNTIL THE PUBLIC HAS HAD TIME TO READ - AND DIGEST/UNDERSTAND - THE CHANGES THIS BOARD IS PROPOSING WHICH, IN OUR UNDERSTANDING, WILL FOREVER CHANGE THE WAY THIS WONDERFUL LITTLE TOWN OPERATES. This is all so very sad!!!!

Thank you, Heather!

Sincerely,  
Sylvia S. Kelly / full-time resident  
105 Burlington Street  
Holden Beach, NC

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*Thanks,*  
*~Sylvia Kelly*

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**Heather Finnell**

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**From:** Michael Kelly <mikescust@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 9:53 AM  
**To:** Heather Finnell  
**Subject:** Rules of Procedure for BOC

Heather I would like to say we need to put a hold on the voting for the new proposed Rules of Procedure for the BOC. We have not had nearly enough time to compare the old ones with the new rules with this much change. With the little I have seen, it looks like some changes are not even possible or legal.

Thanks,  
Mike  
105 Burlington St.

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My name is Rick McInturf and I am a full time resident at 122 Frigate. My comments relate to agenda item # 3, Rules and Procedures.

When the agenda and proposed rules document could be viewed, it was evident that this was a very large document. Since no crosswalk to the old document was provided, it took a very long time to compare the two documents and identify the proposed revisions.

Concerns have been noted in several areas, but the three that I would like to call to light include the extensive duties of the proposed Executive Secretary, the revisions in some of the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor, and the reduction in responsibilities of the town clerk.

My request would be to either postpone action on this item, or require a second reading prior to implementation, to allow ample time for public review and comment.

Such a delay would accomplish three things.

Ample time would be allowed to thoroughly review the new procedures to ensure compliance with the UNC Suggested Rules of Procedure for Boards of Commissioners.

A delay would allow our newly elected Commissioners to attend and complete their required training which is scheduled for January 18 and 19.

A delay would also allow ample time for our local attorney to review the rules and assure the general public that they were all in compliance with state and local requirements.

I would also recommend that prior to a final vote and in the interest of full transparency,, a single document be created with the changes from the existing document highlighted in bold, so the general public could easily reference the proposed changes

The request is simple. Either delay final action on the new Rules and Procedures, or require a second reading in February prior to final implementation.

Thank You