Thursday, April 17, will be the Highlands Town Board of Commissioners meeting. It will begin at 7 pm at the Highlands Community Building next to the ball field, which will probably be filled with T ball or little league players.

As always public comment will be first of the agenda. The agenda for the meeting is rather long.

The board will hear a report from Hotwire Communications, which leases the town's fiber network. We also anticipate the Highlands Chamber of Commerce being prepared to enter a lease for the Visit Highlands building, which the town owns.

There will be a review of the Windship Partners Subdivision Plat. At a previous meeting, questions arose concerning septic fields and repair areas. County public health officials have reviewed the issues and now indicate all requirements are met.

The board will also hear a final plan for converting some diagonal parking on South 4th Street to parallel parking. This plan improves both pedestrian and vehicular safety in that area. The state has approved the plan. Staff also asked the state if parking could be installed in an area down the Street where NC 28 makes a curve into the business district. They rejected that concept.

The board will also hear a proposal for the Mountaintop Arts and Crafts Show to do a ticketed sip and stroll event on the Saturday evening of the show. Currently, the Mountaintop Rotary Club has blanket approval to put on two art shows in the park that are fully open to the public. Since this would be a ticketed event involving the sale of alcohol, the town board will have to decide whether to approve this new event.

Other items on the agenda include the approval of securing an environmental report concerning the condition of the Playhouse and making appointments to the Highlands Planning Board. Board members nominate applicants to serve. Folks receiving the most nominations are selected.

The agenda also includes a discussion of the Mirror Lake dredging project. Last week, the board heard a presentation by McGill Engineering on their initial report on how to proceed with dredging areas of the lake. They presented multiple options for consideration. During this agenda item, I will open the floor for questions that residents may have concerning the project phases. Board members, staff, and I will respond to the questions if the information is available. If we cannot respond, we will make every effort to obtain the information. I will continue to answer any questions at my community coffee, which is scheduled at the Hudson Library on Friday, April 25.

The board will go into close session to discuss and advise our attorneys involve with the suits on how to proceed. The first case is the Huff v Town of Highlands. The second case is a newly filed lawsuit by a resident appealing the decision of the Highlands Zoning Board of Adjustment concerning a property on Carolina Way. Our attorney will also review legal issues concerning the Town’s Outdoor Recreation Polices.

If you cannot attend tonight's meeting, it can be accessed by way of the YouTube link on the town website.