



## **RESOLUTION 17-01**

### **RESOLUTION URGING ACTION ON THE FEMA FLOOD MAP PROCESS**

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) and North Carolina Emergency Management (“NCEM”) issued new preliminary flood maps for the Town in August 2014 with the anticipation that final flood plain maps would be available for approval and implementation by the first quarter of 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, It is anticipated that the approval and implementation of the preliminary flood plain map for the Town would benefit a large number of homeowners in the Town by reclassifying their properties to a lower risk category resulting in lower flood insurance premiums for those homeowners and would not adversely affect most other homeowners in the Town; and, as a result, the Town Manager has reported that very few homeowners have appealed their risk category classification; and

**WHEREAS**, It now appears, based upon information furnished by FEMA and NCEMA that the process for the approval and implementation of new flood plain maps for the State and, therefore, for the Town (the “Flood Map Process”) may be substantially delayed due to objections and appeals affecting communities other than the Town and due to procedural considerations beyond the control of the Town, even though the Town has cooperated fully and timely with the Flood Map Process; and

**WHEREAS**, This substantial delay will impose a cost burden on homeowners in the Town who would otherwise realize substantial premium cost savings even though the flood plain maps for the Town are essentially in final form and have not been subject to any material objections or appeals; and

**WHEREAS**, The Board of Commissioners recognizes that, even though the Flood Map Process is not subject to the Town’s jurisdiction and control, the delay of the approval and implementation of the flood plain map for the Town is a matter of great interest and concern for the Town and its homeowners.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach as follows:

- Section 1.** The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach urges FEMA and NCEM to:
- a. Expedite the Flood Map Process so that homeowners in the Town (and other oceanfront communities) can realize the premium savings expected;
  - b. Explore options to expedite the approval and implementation of flood plain maps for the Town and other communities where there are only minimal objections and appeals on a schedule different from communities where more material objections and appeals exist; and
  - c. Communicate the status of the Flood Map Process on a regular schedule so that communities and homeowners can more effectively plan for insurance premium changes.

- Section 2.** The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach urges the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County to:
- a. Take all appropriate actions to urge FEMA and NCEMA to implement the requests set forth in the Resolution, including:

- i. Urging the State and Federal elected representative for homeowners and residents of Brunswick County to intervene with FEMA and NCEMA; and
- ii. Meet with FEMA, NCEM and such representative to explore options to expedite the approval of flood plain maps for the Town and similarly situated communities.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach:

**SECTION 1:** Staff is directed to:

- a. Present these recommendations to the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County;
- b. Coordinate these efforts with other Brunswick County oceanfront towns, including Oak Island, Ocean isle Beach and Sunset Beach;
- c. Cause the Town to provide current information with respect to the FEMA flood map process, including appropriate links and updates on the Town's webpage; and
- d. Provide a monthly status report on the FEMA flood map process at Board of Commissioners meetings.

**SECTION 2:** All interested parties, including homeowners in the Town and homeowners' associations representing those homeowners are asked to contact their Brunswick County, State and Federal elected representatives to urge their cooperation.

This the 21<sup>st</sup> day of February, 2017.

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J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Heather Finnell, Town Clerk