



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DREDGING/ BUDGET WORKSHOP
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach met for a Dredging/ Budget Workshop on Friday, May 16, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Holden Beach Chapel Fellowship Hall. Present for the budget portion of the workshop were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Miller; Commissioners Ray Lehr, Don Glander, Ken Kyser and Gary Staley; Town Manager David Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Planning & Inspections Director Jason Walker; and Tax Collector Margaret Lancaster. Also present was Jim Vithalani, Shane Lippard and Howard Varnam from Right Angle Engineering. Homeowners present were Carmen Lang (HH), Robbie Bryant (HH), Rudy Baxley (HH), Landis Chavis (HB), Ken Ritter (HB), Anne Arnold (HB), Marvin Gold (HB) Sue Gold (HB), Sheila Young, Ron Skubic (HH), Dennis Harrington (HB), Rob Collinson (HB), Nydia Glander (HB), Jerry Baker (HB), and Bill Gettys (HA). (Holden Beach Harbor – HB, Heritage Harbor (HH), Harbor Acres (HA)

DREDGING

Mayor Holden had everyone introduce themselves. He explained that it would be an informal meeting and that everyone should feel free to participate.

Town Manager Hewett gave a brief presentation regarding the development of a master dredging plan. Holden Beach has approximately 25,000 linear feet of canals within the corporate limits. He went over the current situation of each canal system. Right Angle Engineering has been selected as the Town's consulting engineer. Town Manager Hewett went over the legislative authority and SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats).

Mayor Holden reviewed the items of discussion. He explained there will be no comingling of funds unless agreed to by the participating subdivisions. There are no Town funds available for dredging. The Town is currently using assessments as a way of collecting funds for dredging as per the current legislation. Mayor Holden also brought up the possibility of having a long term contract or in house capability of dredging. Mayor Holden asked if any of the representatives from the canal subdivision have any objection to standardizing the method of dredging. Each canal subdivision would like to move forward with establishing a standardized procedure.

The group discussed the method of collecting funds. Suggestions included changing the method of collection to tax; having a collection schedule based on current and future projects; and spreading payments out over a couple of years. There are currently separate bank accounts for each canal system. Bill Gettys stated that the current law only allows you to collect for five years. After that time, the money has to be given back.

The frequency of dredging and the possible mandating of bulkheads were brought up. Planning and Inspections Director Walker explained that in the past the Division of Coastal Management has informed towns that they cannot mandate bulkheads. Howard Varnam suggested seeing if the law can be changed to allow for the collection of funds for 10 years, so if the frequency of dredging is seven to eight years it can be accommodated. He explained that surveying on a regular basis is necessary to determine the frequency needs. There should be a schedule for surveying, even if the survey completed is an informal one. Having the consent agreement with the Corps set up in advance for the disposal areas was mentioned. A major cost of a dredging project is mobilization. If a couple of projects can be scheduled together, it would save money. The pros and cons of scheduling smaller dredging operations more frequently were discussed.

The group discussed individual canal system specifics. Town Manager Hewett will get a copy of the amount spent on Holden Beach Harbor to-date to provide to public.

Having a central reporting place for observations / problems on canal issues was discussed. Having a central committee with members from each canal system was suggested. Representatives from the canal systems should take an active role in the process and should be kept informed. The need to have supervision of the dredge was mentioned. Mayor Holden said the Board has hired Right Angle Engineering as consulting engineer. Town Manager Hewett explained their role, which includes preparation of contract documents, bidding requirements and construction and inspection management. Not paying until the contract is complete was suggested. Engineering expenses will be allocated to each individual subdivision. The Town's new software system was discussed. Representatives from the individual canal systems would like to be kept informed on the amount of money they have in their funds and what has been spent. Distributing the cost of work/ maintenance for the disposal areas between the canal systems was discussed.

Minutes will be distributed so individual groups can review them and share them with their groups. The next meeting will tentatively be held on June 13, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.

The dredging portion of the workshop ended at 10:55 a.m.

BUDGET

Present for the budget portion of the workshop were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Miller; Commissioners Ray Lehr, Don Glander, Ken Kyser and Gary Staley; Town Manager David Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Planning & Inspections Director Jason Walker; Tax Collector Margaret Lancaster; and Chief Layne. The homeowners present at the Budget portion of the workshop were Anne Arnold, Candy Dullaghan, Sheila Young, Sue Kyser and Bill Gettys.

The budget portion of the workshop began at 11:05 a.m.

Town Manager Hewett explained how to read the budget, outlined the budget process and provided basic points on the draft budget. The discussion on the draft budget included water and sewer rates/funds; the cost of gasoline; vehicle expenses; Police Department personnel; COLA/merit raises; request

for donations; salary amounts for the Beach Courtesy Patrol and Cart Rollback Staff; and the cost of individual recycling bins. The Board came to a consensus to separate the water and sewer funds and would like a copy of all salaries to be sent to them. The Board decided they would like to review the material further and then meet again to go over the specifics of the budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Holden adjourned the meeting at 12:35 p.m.