



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach met for a Budget Workshop on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in the Holden Beach Chapel Fellowship Hall. Present 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; Chief Wally Layne; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Planning & Inspections Director Jason Walker; and Tax Collector Margaret Lancaster. Homeowners present were Sheila Young, Sue Kyser, Peggy Schiavone and Buck Breece. Steve Jones from the Sun News was also in attendance.

DISCUSSION OF DRAFT BUDGET

Town Manager Hewett explained that the Board should have received information on the staff's current salaries and on donation requests. He went over some adjustments in line items from the last meeting which included an error in the Local Sales and Use Tax listed under General Fund Revenue that should have been showing as \$222,000; and changing the number for New EOC Debt Service under Governing Body to \$50,400. He distributed a chart that shows the rising prices of gasoline over the past couple of years.

Town Manager Hewett went over the changes to the Operations budget. Public Works Director Clemmons explained the need for new water meters. Approximately half of the meters on the island need to be replaced. Public Works Director Clemmons will research the cost to have a system that automatically reads meters. He explained why a Vactor truck would be beneficial to his department. Changes to the Public Works budget were discussed. Professional Services was increased to \$6,000 to budget for the estimated cost of having a road condition survey completed. The Buildings and Grounds Maintenance increase is the \$20,000 to replace the siding on the Fire Station. Street paving expenses are not plugged in, but the Town has received a petition from the Blockade Runner homeowners. Paving Brunswick Avenue was discussed.

The CAMA Officer's vehicle is at the end of its useful life. If the Board would like to replace the vehicle, the amount would need to be programmed into the budget. The Equipment Purchase listed under Inspections is equipment that goes along with the switch to Genisys. The central processing for the Town's computer systems would be moved off-site if the Town switches to Genisys. The Town does have a proposal from Genisys and costs associated with the switch have been incorporated throughout the budget.

The Board's discussion on the draft budget included: tracking expenses when departments do work outside their daily duties; using the County's old bleachers for the Jordan Boulevard Project; the adjusted tax base; and the cost of finishing the Emergency Operations Center.

Commissioner Lehr proposed putting money in the budget to cover a fitness center in one of the new buildings. There would be benefits on the Town's insurance and to taxpayers and staff. \$20,000 should purchase enough equipment to accommodate 20 people at a time.

Seeing how much revenue would be generated if water rates were increased was suggested. How much revenue the Inspections Department brings in versus how much is spent was discussed. The Inspections Department also provides services for CAMA, zoning and code enforcement. The current permit fees are in line with neighboring municipalities.

Other discussions on the budget included: increasing the amount listed under beach vegetation; combining the line items for Shoreline Monitoring and ATM fees; the money needed for landscaping the Emergency Operations Center; and how to list the Operations and Maintenance for Town owned facilities.

Mayor Holden explained that the original purpose of occupancy tax was to promote and advertise to generate more revenue. What the Town is doing to promote Holden Beach was discussed. Town Manager Hewett will research to see what the Town has done in the past. The Board will have to determine how much money should be transferred into the BPART Fund.

Proposed salary increases for the Public Works Department was distributed. Town Manager Hewett will plug the adjusted numbers into the budget. The pay rate for Beach Patrol will remain at \$10 per hour. Chief Layne explained that he has a couple of Police Officers that are both ready to receive an increase because they are at the end of their probationary period.

The Board would like a list of donations that the Town made last year. They discussed grandfathering the groups who received money last year in so that they would not have to follow the new Donations Policy until the next budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Staley to adjourn at 2:58 p.m.; second by Commissioner Kyser; approved by unanimous vote.

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk