



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DREDGING WORKSHOP
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach met for a Dredging Workshop on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Sandy Miller; Commissioners Ray Lehr and Don Glander; Town Manager David Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Planning & Inspections Director Jason Walker; Tax Collector Margaret Lancaster; and Jim Vithalani from Right Angle Engineering. Commissioner Ken Kyser and Commissioner Gary Staley were unable to attend the meeting. Homeowners present were Rob Collinson (HBH), Dennis Harrington (HBH), John Lytvinenko (HBH), Currie Whitley (HA), Lewis Mitchell (HA), Bill Gettys (HA), Al Yetman (HA), Ron Skubic (HH), Jerry Baker (HBH), Anne Arnold (HBH), Landis Chavis (HBH), Rudy Baxley (HBH & HH), Tom Decker (HBH & HH), Ken Ritter (HBH) and Melissa Bryant (HH). (Holden Beach Harbor – HBH, Heritage Harbor – HH, Harbor Acres – HA)

Mayor Holden called the meeting to order and explained the purpose of the meeting. Town Manager Hewett presented a slideshow on the current situation of dredging. The goal is to dredge all three canal systems in the November 2008 – April 2009 window. Assessment guidelines were established by 2005 Session Law. At last night's meeting, separate dredging assessments were established by resolutions. Assessments must be established by July 1st of each year. Assessments are based on a per lot basis, not per footage. Town Manager Hewett explained that surveying has not been done to determine the quantity to be removed and design has not been set up, so the assessments are approximate. The law says the Town can only assess for the cost of the project. If too much is assessed, there would be a rebate or it would be held in a capital reserve fund for up to five years. Mr. Vithalani suggested if there is excess funds that some be left in the accounts so they will have the funds to monitor the canals. Town Manager Hewett provided handouts on the status of the dredging accounts and explained that the assessments are based on the estimated project cost minus what is currently available in the dredging accounts. The status of the three individual projects was discussed. The Town is working with Right Angle Engineering to move forward on the projects. Preparing hydrographic surveys every six months after the dredging projects are completed to monitor the quantities will determine the timeline for future dredging projects. Each July a determination will need to be made on the amount, if any, that will be assessed to each subdivision. If the canal subdivisions would like to establish capital reserves the assessment amounts would need to be increased. Bill Gettys explained that his people would like to have a capital reserve set-up. The representatives agree that paying into reserve accounts each year in order to avoid a large lump sum is what their people would prefer. Town Manager Hewett explained that establishing a tax district goes by a whole separate set of rules and laws that are different from establishing a fee-supported canal dredging district in response to Anne Arnold's question. Mr. Skubic inquired about obtaining a breakdown on fees for each canal subdivision. Mayor Holden explained that it is the goal of the Town to have immediate accountability of the funds. Mr. Mitchell suggested that a representative video the area before a dredging project in order to prevent potential problems once the project is completed.

Town Manager Hewett explained that part of the engineer's responsibility is oversight and quality control. Putting a dredging timeline together and distributing it to the group was discussed. The goal is to dredge this

winter. The availability of contractors was discussed. Mr. Mitchell would like a handout showing all the steps and fees. Town Manager Hewett went over the line items listed for dredging in the budget. Mayor Holden explained there will be a summary completed on what was done wrong with Holden Beach Harbor. Determining a method for cost sharing between Holden Beach Harbor and Heritage Harbor for the use of the disposal area was discussed.

Town Manager Hewett inquired if the amounts proposed for each subdivision are sufficient amounts to be put in the budget. The amounts will be placed on the tax bills. Town Manager Hewett would like to have the amounts increased by 1/3 in order to build a reserve. The representatives from Harbor Acres are uncomfortable asking homeowners to pay more than \$200 per lot and would like to proceed on that amount. The representatives from Heritage Harbor would like to assess their property owners \$500 per lot. If there is excess money they would like to put it in a reserve fund and then start collecting smaller amounts each year.

A short break was taken.

Mayor Holden gave a brief update on the history and current status of the Holden Beach Harbor project. The costs and payments associated with the project were discussed. Homeowner questions and concerns regarding the project were addressed. The information requested by the bonding company will be submitted by Friday. At that point, we will get a response from the bonding company and go from there. The Town will work with Right Angle Engineering to determine how the description of work for future projects should be put into the contract. After discussing how the figures were calculated, the representatives from Holden Beach Harbor think that \$800 per lot is sufficient at this time.

Town Clerk Finnell announced the assessment per lot agreed upon: Holden Beach Harbor - \$800, Heritage Harbor - \$500 and Harbor Acres - \$200. The Board and the representatives of the three subdivisions came to a consensus to use the numbers announced.

Town Manager Hewett will put together the requested timelines (generalized process and one for upcoming projects). He will also make available to the group the end date of contract and the amount of Alderman's latest invoice. Contract specifications will need to be designed before projects are put out to bid. Mr. Vithalani thinks it will take approximately three months to complete the permitting process. He should have it ready for bids in November.

The next meeting will be held in 4 to 8 weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.