



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008**

The Holden Beach Board of Commissioners held their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Miller; Commissioners Ray Lehr, Don Glander and Gary Staley; Town Manager David Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Planning & Inspections Director Jason Walker; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; and Police Chief Wally Layne. Commissioner Ken Kyser was unable to attend the meeting.

Mayor Holden asked for a moment of silence in honor of Commissioner Kyser's father who recently passed away.

CALL TO ORDER/ WELCOME

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

Town Manager Hewett requested that the Board add Report by Jim Stewart of Stewart Cooper Newell Architects as item 6a.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Miller to approve the agenda as amended; seconded by Commissioner Staley; approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Glander to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 24, 2008 as written; second by Mayor Pro Tem Miller; approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller requested that on page 7, line 39, the name Landis be corrected to Gettys.

Motion by Commissioner Lehr to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop of June 25, 2008 as amended; second by Mayor Pro Tem Miller; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments on agenda items.

REPORT BY JIM STEWART OF STEWART COOPER NEWELL

Mr. Stewart explained that at the Emergency Operations Center everything is pretty well done besides the overhead doors. Delivery is anticipated around the 18th and then it will take a week to install. Basically all there is left to do is paint. Power should be working on Thursday. Town Manager Hewett explained that the parking lot, septic tank, audio visual and furniture are still on the Town's to do list.

Mr. Stewart explained that the Town Hall/ Police Department will have all trusses on the upper section of the roof completed shortly. They are currently working on the HVAC. The masonry is coming along real well.

Curbing and guttering is included in the contract. The parking area will be gravel in order to comply with the Town ordinance.

POLICE REPORT – CHIEF WALLY LAYNE

- The fireworks were fairly awesome. There is quite a collection at the Police Department. There were no major incidents over the 4th. They conducted the traffic reroute the Saturday before the 4th. It didn't work as well as it did during the Memorial Day weekend because the traffic volume is different. It was their intent to do the reroute on the 4th and the 5th, but it was cancelled on both days. Thinks the reroute will work fine on Labor Day and Memorial Day, but not on July 4th.
- First Call Network – showed a demonstration on the website. You need to use a Holden Beach address to sign up, but you can use any telephone number. Commissioner Staley asked if it would attempt to call one number and then move to the next or call all numbers. Chief Layne will get an answer from the County. Commissioner Staley explained that the County is broken down into sections so only the areas affected will be contacted.
- No crime sprees to report. Some bikes and yard ornaments were taken, but no major incidents.
- We are watching Bertha, but we should be okay.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO PAST PLANNING & ZONING, BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mayor Holden presented certificates of appreciation to past board and committee members.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Coastal Resources Commission hearing on changes to oceanfront setback rules will be held on Monday, July 14th at the Brunswick County Association of Realtors Meeting Facility. The Division of Coastal Management is giving a presentation at 5:00 p.m. The public hearing will be at 6:00 p.m. The proposed changes would increase the setback distance for large-scale oceanfront structures; would develop separate management strategies for beaches that receive ongoing long-term, large-scale beach fill than for those that do not; and may allow limited development when a community has a long-term beach fill program in place. A complete text of the proposed changes is available on the division's website.
- Off-site computer systems transition is proceeding as planned.
- Public Works is working on an initiative to handle backflow prevention devices in mass.
- Received the CAMA permit for Greensboro Street today. Will proceed as soon as possible for odor control measures.
- Received a heads-up from US Fish and Wildlife that beach vitex was found at three sites on Holden Beach.
- Brunswick County issued the notice to proceed on July 2nd to Coastal Science and Engineering regarding the Lower Lockwood Folly River Aquatic Restoration Project.
- There will be a change of command at the Wilmington District Corps' Office on July 17th.
- New Town Hall/ Police Department expenditures to-date - \$964,838.20.
- New Emergency Operations Total expenditures to-date - \$1,007,928.37.
- Will probably be out of the office on Friday July 11th and the week of 14th – 18th due to conferences.
- Encouraged everyone to sign up for the Town's newsletter.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Made a call to County Commissioner Cooke asked about the Causeway which was to be on the County's meeting agenda. Commissioner Cooke provided copies to the Board regarding a study that will be taking place by the Department of Transportation on the Causeway. He spoke with Leslie Bell and right now they are only doing an assessment of the situation.
- Someone pointed out that Bertha became a hurricane on the same day as the last Bertha. It looks like we will be spared from this one. Has heard questions about if Holden Beach is ready if a storm hits. The Town has an emergency plan on record that we would follow in an emergency situation. The EOC is not ready for occupation at this time. We were hoping the current plan would be updated to incorporate the new building in it. For now, we will follow the existing plan and modify it when the EOC is complete.
- Recently went from the Lockwood Folly Inlet to the Shallotte Inlet. There were some spots that he was amazed that got hit as much as they did. Overall, the beach is in good shape. Never seen so much sand in Lockwood Folly Inlet. There is enough sand to take care of our beach. A spot in the west end has been identified as a nesting bird site and has been marked off with tape.
- The 4th of July crowd was probably the largest he has seen on the beach strand. Traffic pattern – the officers took a lot of grief, but all of the problems were not to blame on the reroute.
- Concerts - lots of good feedback. There will be a Friday night show added this week.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Lehr

- Did not hear any complaints about odor at the concert this week.
- If you have a question of concern, start at Town Hall with Town Manager Hewett. Letters to the Editor never give an answer. There is a new format for doing the budget, the structure changed. You will not see all the same items in the same place as they were. Asked a Commissioner from the previous Board how the amount to put into the sand fund was determined and was advised that they used the amount from the year before. This year, the amount will be determined in September. Encourages everyone to go into Town Hall with questions. Commissioner Staley stated that he believes the Beacon article was in regard to previous Boards dedicating ad valorem tax money to the sand fund, and this Board not doing that.

Mayor Pro Tem Miller

- Thanked all who served on the boards and those who are currently serving on Boards.
- Made a suggestion at the last meeting to look into having only one regularly scheduled meeting per month. Based on community input she thinks we should keep it at two, so she is withdrawing her suggestion.
- Received good feedback about the newsletter blast. Planning & Inspections Director Walker went over how to sign up for the service.

Commissioner Glander

- Asked if meeting cancellations and miscellaneous information can be sent via the email blast since a lot of people who own property do not live here.
- Had more people comment that they would prefer one meeting, but a sufficient amount that wanted to continue at two, so he thinks it should be kept at two meetings also.

Commissioner Staley

- There is a Causeway Committee. Cecilia Weston has been working tirelessly for the effort. It is a big planning process. Now the County is aware and gave their blessings to the Planning Department. The Merchants Association should be thanked for giving time to the project. The status of sewer on the Causeway was discussed.

Mayor Holden stated that the Town is anxious to have volunteers for the emergency program and thanked Public Works Director Clemmons for adding asphalt. The trash cans on the beach have been inventoried and the old ones have been replaced. We now have the greatest number we ever had on the beach. The Causeway issue has been ongoing for years. One of the biggest disadvantages we have is that we don't control the Causeway

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Edward Gruenberg asked why overhead power lines were installed at Greensboro Street. Planning & Inspections Director Walker explained it is a temporary situation.

Rob Collinson stated the Public Area Improvement Committee is still selling t-shirts for \$15 each.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Miller at 8:01 p.m.; second by Commissioner Glander; approved by unanimous vote.