



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2008**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at 7:00 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 W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Planning & Inspections Director Jason Walker; and Chief Wally Layne.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Mayor Holden requested that Item 7 be omitted because the architect, Jim Stewart is sick and unable to attend the meeting. Commissioner Glander asked for update from the Town Manager. Town Manager Hewett will address that during his comments.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Kyser to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 25, 2008 as written; second by Mayor Pro Tem Miller; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2009

Mayor Holden explained that Town staff prepared different options for next year's meeting dates. Town Manager Hewett explained that page 7 is a repeat of the current schedule, page 8 shows meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, page 9 is for the 4th Tuesday of each month and page 10 is for the 2nd Thursday of each month. The pages were prepared in anticipation that the Board may be inclined to go to a single monthly meeting. Mayor Holden asked if the Board had a problem with allowing the public to comment on the proposed schedules. There were no problems with the request. Town Manager Hewett explained that after working here for 10 months he doesn't think the Town needs two meetings each month. We have a council/manager form of government and policy issues are not being set twice a month. Some of the staff time used to get ready for the second meeting could be more effectively engaged in other issues in the interim. Mayor Pro Tem Miller stated she thinks if the Town goes to one meeting a month it would be better to do the first meeting (2nd Tuesday of each month) and if we see something that needs to be addressed we can schedule another meeting. Commissioner Staley stated we had this discussion before and he thinks the public desired to keep two meetings. He stated that he feels like sometimes communication isn't always great and if we don't come to two meetings a month we don't get to talk about a lot of things. Commissioner Staley thinks the Town should have two meetings. Commissioner Glander stated that the first time this was brought up there was apprehension. He

stated that this Board campaigned on having excellent communication and he thinks they delivered on that promise. Commissioner Glander thinks that the meetings look like Town meetings and everyone to his knowledge has been able to give their opinions. He thinks it is evident that the Town has really pushed and stretched to make two agendas each month. Commissioner Glander thinks that it has gotten to the point that we can schedule one meeting a month and if we need another one it can be added with no problem. Commissioner Lehr stated that his approach during the last discussion was to have one business meeting each month where they can focus on conducting Town's business and if we need additional meetings we can schedule them. Commissioner Lehr stated that the other thing he would like to see accomplished is to have the new committees report to the Board and to the public on an as needed basis, maybe quarterly. He stated he is in favor of approving the meeting schedule for the 2nd or 4th Tuesday of the month and adding more meetings if they are needed. Commissioner Staley stated that most of the people who wanted two meetings are not here tonight and no one knew that changing the meeting days would be discussed from looking at the agenda so he doesn't feel it is really seeking public input. Commissioner Glander stated that the attendance over the past several months is an indication that we don't need two meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Miller suggested trying once a month and if they see the public doesn't approve it can be changed. Commissioner Kyser stated he would not be in favor of having meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month because the meetings would be near Thanksgiving and Christmas. He stated that attendance and the amount of material on the agenda are going down. Commissioner Kyser stated he is not opposed to having meetings once a month and if we need more, we will have more. Mayor Holden suggested the option of meeting the first Tuesday in January and asking the committee chairs to meet so they can provide their input on their availability. The Board can also give whoever else wants to attend another opportunity for comment. Mayor Holden stated the agenda gets thinner and thinner, but when it comes closer to storm season and more meetings are needed, more will be added. Mayor Holden stated that he has received criticism on his availability, but he dropped off of a bunch of his boards so can be available for the Town.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Miller to approve the schedule of meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month; second by Commissioner Lehr.

Commissioner Staley believes that in the past we went to one meeting a month and it didn't work so they went back to two meetings per month. Commissioner Lehr stated that if it doesn't work, we can always go back to two meetings each month.

The motion was approved by a 4 – 1 vote with Mayor Pro Tem Miller, Commissioner Lehr, Commissioner Glander and Commissioner Kyser voting for the motion and Commissioner Staley voting in the negative.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Gave a presentation on terminal groins that showed a couple of examples of terminal groins. Currently the only tools available to municipalities in North Carolina as ways for stabilizing the beach are doing nothing, placing sandbags or to manipulate the channel by dredging. A terminal groin is similar to a jetty, but not used for the same purpose. His aunt used the analogy that it is like a girdle and just holds it in place on one side. He explained how it would work on the Brunswick County Beaches. The terminal groins would be constructed on the south sides of the inlets and the accretion would go around it. A terminal groin is not a navigation structure; it just holds the sand at the shoulders of the beaches so it is a shore protection structure. For places that have beach nourishment projects, terminal groins have the potential to lengthen the renourishment schedules, therefore reducing the costs and environmental impacts. The construction

material is usually large boulders. Hopes this presentation serves as an introduction. There will be a request for funding in order to secure a lobbyist. Sheila Young from the Shoreline Protection Committee added that one of the discussions at the meeting they attended was about a bill that had positive response in the Senate, but it died when it got to the House. She explained that the idea this year is to get more support on the topic and they feel it may be more beneficial to start the bill in the House this time. Town Manager Hewett explained that Dare County already contributed \$20,000 and another municipality contributed \$5,000. There were no county representatives from Brunswick County at the meeting, only municipality representation. Town Manager Hewett explained that most of the coastal communities had representatives. Mayor Holden stated that to our knowledge there are no counties opposed to the proposed legislation. Town Manager Hewett explained that putting sand bags down requires a special use permit, which is easy to obtain, but it comes with a lot of baggage. Mayor Holden asked if there was any opposition to adding it to the next agenda.

- Canal dredging project- contracts are in hand. For the folks on High Point and Greensboro look to be inconvenienced sometime at the end of this week by having the shore pipe being deployed, diffused and assembled. The dredge is scheduled to be in water mid next week. Has a pre-construction meeting with the Town's engineer, quality insurance evaluator and the contractor Monday. The dredger will start in Canal I (Greensboro). The working group of canal representatives is scheduled to meet Thursday afternoon to discuss scheduling to coordinate vessel movement.
- Believes we were able to explain and answer all questions on sewer and dredging charges on the tax bills.
- The architect is saying Town Hall should be ready the last week in January, but the job superintendent is saying the contract date. The project is on schedule per contract. Thinks the furniture may be the hold-up. Leary of starting up computers while there is still dust in the air. EOC- CO was issued three weeks ago. We have the bids in for construction of the parking lot, but wants to go through it with the engineer.
- Vactor truck is in. It is being housed in the new building. The training will begin tomorrow.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Good to see Chief Layne back. Sorry about (the death of) his mother-in-law. Wishes his family the best.
- Christmas tree lighting was successful. Had more children than adults. Thought went extremely well. Hopes it is the beginning of an annual event.
- Thanked staff and public for getting through 2008 and looks forward to 2009.
- Happy holidays.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Miller

- Asked if Town Manager Hewett got the information from Harry Simmons regarding sending a letter to President Elect Obama in reference to protecting our shoreline. Asked Town Manager Hewett to send out an email blast on the topic.
- Tree lighting was great. It was lots of fun.
- Hopes everyone has a Merry Christmas or happy holidays.

Commissioner Lehr

- Thinks the Shoreline Protection Committee will have a big role in the future. Thinks the Town's main challenge to work on is protecting the beach. Thinks we need to have a handle on the source of sand and funding. Thinks this committee can go a long way in helping get a handle on that.

- Christmas tree lighting was great. Thinks it will be bigger next year.
- Wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Glander

- Nydia and he would like to thank everyone for the letters, calls and condolences (regarding the death of Nydia's mother).

Commissioner Kyser

- Crowd at the tree lighting was much larger than anticipated. Shocked at the number of people there.
- This is the one year anniversary of when the Board took office. Hopes everyone feels they accomplished a lot in the year, he feels like they have and have addressed a lot of issues.
- Wished everyone happy holidays.

Commissioner Staley

- Thanked everyone involved in the tree lighting. It was a lot of fun.
- Asked about the audit report status. We are halfway through our fiscal year, but we haven't received the report from last year. Town Manager Hewett stated that the audit firm hasn't completed it yet. It was due on October 31st. They changed out auditors so we had to engage in education of the new person. Believes last time he talked to them, they were about a week out from completing the report. It will go to the Audit Committee first.
- Would like to see year-to-date numbers.
- Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Lewis Mitchell said he is pleased that he will only have to make the effort once a month instead of twice to attend the meetings. Appreciates the bulkhead repair by the Town.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Mayor Pro Tem Miller at 7:59 p.m.; second by Commissioner Staley; approved by unanimous vote.