



**TOWN OF HOLDEN BEACH
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011, 7:00PM**

The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Holden Beach, North Carolina met for a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Public Assembly. Present were Mayor J. Alan Holden; Mayor Pro Tem Don Glander; Commissioners Ray Lehr, Sandy Miller and Sheila Young; Commissioner-Elect Dennis Harrington; Town Manager David W. Hewett; Town Clerk Heather Finnell; Police Chief Wally Layne; Public Works Director Chris Clemmons; Building Official Tim Evans; Zoning Official Rhonda Wooten; Fire Chief Doug Todd; and Town Attorney Mac Tyson.

Mayor Holden presented the invocation and then called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA APPROVAL

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Young to approve the consent agenda - Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 8, 2011 and Executive Minutes (Approve and Open - August 10, 2010, October 12, 2010, November 9, 2010, February 8, 2011) Approve and Seal Until the Purpose is No Longer Frustrated – December 17, 2010, March 8, 2011, March 8, 2011, April 12, 2011); second by Commissioner Miller; approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No comments were made.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Fire Chief Doug Todd thanked the other fire departments that assisted, the Public Works Department, the Police Department and the residents in the area. He provided demographics on the Tri-Beach Fire Department. Chief Todd explained staffing and response procedures for his department. He quoted North Carolina Fire Code 104.11 that grants them jurisdiction over a fire or anything that has the potential to be a fire. They also work under the National Incident Management System (NIMS) which is used to coordinate emergency response. In this situation, the Fire Department was in charge. NFPA 1720 sets recommended standards for fire service. Chief Todd went over the timeline for the fire. There were 23 firefighters from his station on scene, plus the firefighters from other stations. 115 Starfish is where the original fire was at, 113 is the second house involved and 111 is the one that has water damage. Chief Todd explained that the hydrants on Ocean Boulevard allow them to pump 1,500 gallons per minute; the one on Starfish that they didn't use only would supply 960 gallons per minute. It would take about 2,200 gallons of water per minute to control the fire at 115 Starfish and 600 gallons per minute at 113 Starfish due to the level of involvement and the size of the structures. That doesn't even include the water needed for the boats involved. Chief Todd explained the road was shut down due to the need of multiple hydrants to control the fire. They do have a hose ramp that can be used, but since they needed to use the two hydrants, there was no way to utilize it. The other problem is that small vehicles cannot pass over the ramps because of the height of the ramps. He said they could not run the risk of cutting the lines. Chief Todd provided people with fire protection tips.

Dorothy Guy asked if water could be pumped out of the canals. Chief Todd replied yes, but you need to have access to it. Ron Skubic stated it is a challenge because the pressure in the beginning wasn't high and if you went further down the street it would be less. He stated it would be a bigger problem in the summer. Tony Marwitz asked if there is a solution to provide access over the hoses and inquired what would happen in an emergency. Chief Todd stated if it was an emergency they would do what they need to do. He stated there are ramps, but they are steep. Once the hoses are set down you do not move them because of the weight. Bill Cohen asked if the cause of the fire has been determined. Chief Todd explained they could not determine the cause at this point. Mr. Marwitz stated it seemed to burn rapidly. Chief Todd stated in his opinion the fire burned for a long time before it was discovered. Sue Kyser thanked the Fire Department.

Police Chief Layne stated the fire investigation was turned over to the Police Department. They have notified the SBI, who are working with them in order to make a determination as to what caused the fire. Chief Layne stated hopefully everyone has seen the email blast about the recent break-ins. They have all been oceanfront and have involved flat screen televisions disappearing. Call immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

Public Works Director Clemmons explained in response to the question earlier about the water pressure that the way the water system is laid out is there are two feeds on the island. There is one under the bridge that is a 12" feed and the other is on the end of Sea Gull that is an 8" feed. In the winter months, the Town turns the feed at the bridge off for peak efficiency. Public Works Director Clemmons stated the Town can look into putting a system in where it would automatically turn on or off. Ken Kyser asked if a policy can be made to make sure both feeds are turned on for a fire. Public Works Director Clemmons stated that he has spoken with Chief Layne and will train the Police Department so they will be able to assist with this in an emergency situation. He added that people should also keep in mind that when someone's house is burning down, it is no time to hook up ramps so cars can drive over the hose.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO OUTGOING BOARD BY TOWN MANAGER HEWETT

Town Manager Hewett presented a plaque to the Board of 2009 – 2011 (Mayor J. Alan Holden, Mayor Pro Tem Don Glander, Commissioners Ray Lehr, Ken Kyser, Sandy Miller and Sheila Young).

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE TO KEN KYSER BY MAYOR HOLDEN

Mayor Holden presented a plaque to Ken Kyser for serving the Town from 2007 – 2011.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OATH OF OFFICE PRESENTED – THE HONORABLE JUDGE FETZER MILLS

The Honorable Judge Fetzer Mills administered the oath of office to Mayor J. Alan Holden and Commissioners Sheila Young, Don Glander, Dennis Harrington, Sandy Miller and Ray Lehr.

ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Mayor Holden stated there are three former mayor pro tems in this room – him, along with Sandy Miller and Don Glander. He read from the section of the Town's Code of Ordinances that discusses the position of mayor pro tem.

Motion by Commissioner Miller to nominate Commissioner Don Glander.

Motion by Commissioner Harrington to nominate Commissioner Sheila Young.

The Board voted by voice, but for clarification voted by hand. Commissioner Glander was selected to serve as mayor pro tem by a 3 – 2 vote (Commissioners Glander, Miller and Lehr voted for Commissioner Glander, Commissioners Young and Harrington voted for Commissioner Young).

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' 2012 MEETING SCHEDULE

Motion by Commissioner Miller to approve the Board of Commissioners' 2012 Meeting schedule; second by Mayor Pro Tem Glander; approved by unanimous vote.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Thanked the seasonal decoration committee led by Carol Lehr of the Beautification Club for making the Town Hall look so spiffy.
- Submitted the application to CAMA in draft form for the Town's large scale beach nourishment project last week. The unofficial feedback is that it looks good.
- The Request for Qualifications for an environmental engineer to perform an Environmental Impact Study for the Town on the shore protection project known as a terminal groin was released. The solicitation went out yesterday and is due December 23rd. The Board will see a recommendation in January.
- In reference to the Inlet Crossing Dredging Maintenance project that will probably put about 30,000 yards of sand on our east end - Southwind has a dredge in the Shallotte Inlet. Once they finish in about 2-3 weeks they will move to the Shallotte River Crossing. We are expecting them here in the Lockwood Folly Crossing the first week of January.
- Public Works is out taking care of sand fence repair.
- The Holiday Flotilla is scheduled for December 30th. Get your application in if you are interested.
- Encourages the Board to be thinking about their goals for the upcoming year. Will need to hold a goals setting workshop so we can start getting ready for the budget.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Thanked everyone for being here. Remember our military people for keeping everyone safe. Wished everyone a happy holiday season and hopes everyone's family will stay safe.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Glander

- Congratulated and welcomed Commissioner Harrington to the Board. It will be interesting and challenging. Over the next two years the Board will tackle some pretty serious issues. Feels based on previous years and with everyone's participation, the Board can get the job done. Thanked everyone for their support over the last four years and for their support during the election. Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Young

- Thanked everyone for coming tonight. Appreciates everyone for their support and input. Happy holidays to everyone.

Commissioner Harrington

- Very humbled and honored for the outpouring of support received during his campaign. So many people took the time and effort to write in his name. Will do his best to uphold the people's trust and to represent their ideas and suggestions. Campaigned as a conservative supporter of the Town. Will do his best to keep the cost of living on the island affordable for all. Tonight is the beginning of what he hopes will not be a divided Board, but a Board that seeks out and finds solutions to the many problems he is sure they will encounter. Happy holidays.

Commissioner Miller

- Welcomed Commissioner Harrington. Thinks they have a very good Board and looks forward to working with everyone over the next two years. Thanked everyone for coming tonight. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Commissioner Lehr

- Welcomed Commissioner Harrington. Looks forward to working together with everyone.
- Was impressed by the work of the fire chief and firefighters. Thinks they did a very good job. In times of a disaster like that asks people to treat it as a disaster and be compassionate and lenient to allow these people to do their jobs. Thinks everyone can take a few hours to be inconvenienced if our neighbor's house is burning down.
- Have a happy holiday season.

Mayor Holden thanked Town staff for their help with the fire. Staff, elected officials and residents all offered help. It is great to live in a place like this.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GENERAL ITEMS

Dolly Mitchell reminded everyone about the open house on Dec 22nd. Town Manager Hewett added that the open house will be from 11:00 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mayor Holden stated that Gay Atkins also served as mayor and mayor pro tem. Gay Atkins stated that by tradition the mayor pro tem has been the highest vote getter and this is the first time she knows of that the highest vote getter wasn't elected. Mayor Holden stated that information is wrong and the rules do not require that.

Mayor Holden invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

ADJOURNMENT

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

J. Alan Holden, Mayor

ATTEST:

Heather Finnell, Town Clerk