

1) **Beach Renourishment:** If we assume that the Federal Government will no longer participate in funding and providing beach renourishment programs that have not yet been authorized, what do you think Holden Beach should do concerning beach renourishment?

Don Glander: The lack of Government funding does not lessen the vital need for, nor should it lessen our local efforts in, implementing a beach re-nourishment program. Over the past two years the Shoreline Protection Committee has not been the spearhead group for re-nourishment that it once was. This important organization needs to be restructured and reinstated to continue the important work it once performed. This, in conjunction with working with state agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers and working with other beach communities in sharing information and locating sand sources, must be carried out in an aggressive manner.

John Hancock: We must continue to contribute to the beach renourishment fund as we have in the past. We now have over four million dollars in the fund which is more than other Brunswick County beach towns.

John Heimlich: Private firms can execute such a beach renourishment project. One such has already been interviewed in depth. This direction means the Town might have to bear the total cost burden--currently estimated in the \$15 million range for significant renourishment. Funding would require a referendum and bond issue. Funds on hand would partially cover this but additional cost per tax parcel would be on the order of \$3,000 plus interest.

Alan Holden: Holden Beach should own its sand source on the mainland, build the "sand fund" every year. Be active in organizations with other governments trying to solve the same problem and never stop looking for alternatives.

Ken Kyser: First we need to develop a long-term beach management strategy. We will need to put as much money as possible into the sand fund.

Ray Lehr: Holden Beach must renourish and manage the beach--with or without the Government.

Norman Meares: We should continue our current schedule of beach nourishment and continue to explore other sand-related projects annually. The federal government is not participating in our current sand projects, so we need to keep our BPART Fund strong. In 2005, it was \$3.1 million and now it has increased to almost \$5 million.

Sandy Miller: I have been a member of the Board of the Brunswick Beaches Consortium (BBC) for four years. The BBC is composed of members from Caswell, Oak Island, Holden Beach, Ocean Isle, Sunset beach, and Bald Head and Brunswick County. We must not give up on Federal funding but also be making future plans for beach renourishment by all of us working together.

Pat Sandifer: We should not make that assumption. We should aggressively pursue federal funding with literature distributed to renters, as well as residents, and continue our lobbying efforts, as we are doing.

Peggy Schiavone: We are currently exploring all available and compatible sand sites for Holden Beach. We must continue to fund our Beach Renourishment Fund so that when suitable and compatible sand is found, we are able to act and have some of this sand placed on our beach on our most fragile and erosion prone sites.

Gary Staley: We are very fortunate here at Holden Beach to have a steady stream of income from our Occupancy tax collections to keep our fund growing. We will need to continue to do as many projects as we can as long as we have beach compatible sand available. The town placed about \$70,000 from your property taxes in the sand fund each year for the last 2 years in addition to the occupancy monies collected. If there is to ever be a large tax increase solely for the purpose of placing it into the BPART fund, that has a current balance of nearly 5 million dollars already, I would not support it unless it was passed by a vote of the residents in a referendum.

Sheila Young: If the Federal Government no longer participates in funding for beach renourishment, Holden Beach needs to continue to use a large portion of the occupancy tax for such purpose as well as working with Federal Agencies and neighboring beaches through the BBC (Brunswick Beach Consortium) to find sources and solutions. Our Sand Committee, a committee under the direction of the Town Council, should be reactivated since it has worked for years on beach related topics and members have a working knowledge of our situation and the ability to make wise decisions.

2) **Beach Renourishment: Should the beach renourishment fund be supplemented by using ad valorem tax funds?**

Don Glander: We are an island. Our life's blood is sand. At this moment, if we were to experience a major loss, we have neither the sand nor the dollars to replenish that loss. Even if FEMA money were to become available after an exceptional loss, if we want to maintain this island as we know it, the need for an ad valorem tax is within the realm of possibility.

John Hancock: The beach renourishment fund is already being supplemented by ad valorem taxes. I would be against an increase of general taxes going to further supplement the beach renourishment fund at this time without some sort of a disaster. In the case of a major hurricane resulting in severe damages, I would be open to considering an increase in the tax supplement from the general funds. As I see it, the major problem in the event of disaster is that dwellings, especially those on the ocean front and 2nd row, would decrease in value not only from a property tax value, but also a rental income value. Like it or not, when these values drop, tax revenues drop. We would then need to look at all avenues to restore our beach back to pre-disaster status.

John Heimlich: I would support using ad valorem taxes to some extent once the if/when/how of such a project is determined.

Alan Holden: Not under the present terms and conditions but possibly in a crisis.

Ken Kyser: At this time I would not be in favor of this. We should look into reactivating the Holden Beach Renourishment Association. If an emergency situation arises this may be one of the only options that is available.

Ray Lehr: Only if agreed to by the tax payers and funds are available. We need to establish other sources-such as the Holden Beach Renourishment Assoc.

Norman Meares: I think when ad valorem taxes are available within the budget, they should be used; however, not if we have BPART funding available.

Sandy Miller: Never say never; however, if we had a dire emergency, I would listen to the opinions of our property owners before making such a decision.

Pat Sandifer: If that is unsuccessful, we should continue to fund our beach nourishment as we are doing. Holden Beach has a sand fund that is now larger than Bald Head, Caswell, Oak Island, and Ocean Isle combined. If it becomes necessary in the future, as the result of a hurricane, ad-valorum tax cannot be ruled out.

Peggy Schiavone: We already earmark one cent of this tax for our sand fund. If we feel that further money is needed in this fund, we should consider doing this, depending on what else is happening in the town and our ability to find a suitable sand site.

Gary Staley: As I just mentioned above, we are already using tax dollars to supplement our beach fund. Voters in other towns along the coast have soundly defeated the idea of large tax increases to nourish beaches. Even towns who attempted to create districts with varying rates in relation to where you lived were not successful in referendums. The amount we are currently using of our tax money is within the budget, without raising taxes. The number one goal this board expressed at a January workshop was maintaining a revenue neutral tax rate. One commissioner repeatedly calls for more money in the beach fund, but goes silent when asked how would we do that. The only answer would be to raise taxes, which I do not support at this time.

Sheila Young: At times the beach renourishment fund may need to be supplemented by use of our ad valorem tax funds. Since we have no crystal ball, we cannot predict what may come in the future.

3) Beach Renourishment: How would you develop and implement an aggressive beach renourishment plan?

Don Glander: A major step in the right direction would be to reinstate the Shoreline Protection Committee, a group of knowledgeable, concerned and dedicated residents/property owners who would work closely with the Board of Commissioners and town officials in developing a plan that would be aggressive, realistic and one that would be implemented.

John Hancock: It is generally accepted that there are three ways to renourish the beach; hard stabilization, retreat programs and soft stabilization. Hard stabilization is currently not allowed in North Carolina and retreat programs just will not work in populated areas. Therefore, our only option at this time would be soft stabilization. This technique utilizes mechanical or hydraulic methods to replace beach sand. Bulldozing and dune creation including sea grass planting, are required to reshape the beach back to a recreational status. We obviously would work with other beach communities, the Corp of Engineers, CAMA, etc. to gain expertise and knowledge from those with prior experience and training with this method.

John Heimlich: The current emphasis must be on bringing the "50-year" project plan to successful conclusion. The Brunswick Beach Consortium with our participation must continue to lobby the Corps of Engineers aggressively. This is certainly our best avenue even if the local cost share of the project is increased--we must try to obtain some level of funding participation at the County, State and Federal level. I wrote a position paper in some depth in August 2007 presenting the various facets of beach renourishment.

Alan Holden: The degree of aggressiveness depends on the degree of urgency. A plan should outline how to determine the need and its urgency. The plan should also provide a reasonable solution for the specific condition. The cost of the solution would then determine the method of payment for the work required.

Ken Kyser: We need to partner with other beach communities and work with the Army Corp of Engineers to find new sand sources and where possible secure them. We should look into reactivating the Holden Beach Renourishment Association, using more sand fencing and planting more vegetation. We should look into partnering with Southeast Brunswick Conservancy on dredging Galloway Flats on Lockwood Folly if this sand is determined to be beach quality.

Ray Lehr: Update present plans of adding sand, fencing and vegetation. Explore best sources of sand and secure availability.

Norman Meares: I don't believe an aggressive beach nourishment plan is possible without first locating large quantities of beach-compatible sand that meets the Corps. of Engineers and CAMA standards. That is the first step in any long term nourishment plan. Smaller projects are the only way to ensure that all of the beach receives sand, and that the projects are still affordable for the Town.

Sandy Miller: We need to reactivate the Holden Beach Renourishment Association so they can solicit donations again and contact other organizations like the Turtle Patrol that could possibly make donations.

Pat Sandifer: A very aggressive effort should be made to locate and prequalify sand and nourishment should be a normal activity, rather than a reaction to an event.

Peggy Schiavone: I would like to see the "Beach Renourishment Committee" formed again to explore our options regarding sand renourishment, suitable sand sites, and funding of same.

Gary Staley: Beyond trucking of sand, as we have been doing, and investigating all private sources of nourishment brought to our attention, the best hope we have at the moment is to continue to pursue, and pressure the Corps of Engineers to begin the fifty year project as soon as possible. The current funding breakdown that we are aware of, could mean we will be paying less than 10 cents on the dollar for this project.

Sheila Young: In order to develop and implement an aggressive beach renourishment plan, the Holden Beach Renourishment Association needs to become active again.

4) Hard Structures in Inlets: If state law is changed to allow hard structures in the inlets to help control sand movement, what, if anything, should Holden Beach do?

Don Glander: It's my understanding that the state law is not likely to change soon, but when and if it does, Holden Beach should be an active participant in the construction of hard inlet structures. (Most likely be in the form of rock jetties.)

John Hancock: For many years, the use of hard structures was the preferred method to control beach erosion. Breakwaters and groins are effective in retaining sand and reducing beach erosion. When hard structures are used, there can be problems with adjacent down drift beaches. I would be in favor of hard structures such as jetties on our inlets (similar to the Little River inlet) and any innovative technology or design consistent with generally accepted standards. I would want to talk with other beach communities on the east coast who may have had some successes with these hard structures before reaching a final conclusion. I would certainly want public input.

John Heimlich: The Town should support the overtures now in the State Legislature for hard inlet groins to mitigate beach erosion. Again, the Brunswick Beach Consortium is lobbying hard for such and I have met with them and their President to support such. Holden Beach should pay a fair share if such a project could be secured for Lockwoods Folly inlet.

Alan Holden: The engineers have maintained for years that a jetty in the Lockwood Folly inlet would solve our problems. Even the sand bag groins tested here in the 1970's proved to be very helpful. Holden Beach should work together with officials to try to be creative in getting regulations changed that would allow stabilization to work.

Ken Kyser: We should determine the cost and the benefit and if positive we should pursue ways to pay for it.

Ray Lehr: It is not likely to happen soon. If it does we should be a part of the program. It is the better long term program.

Norman Meares: I think the Town should have an engineer look at our Lockwood Folly Inlet and recommend to the Town if a hardened structure would be effective to reduce erosion and where it would be the most effective. Hardened structures are very expensive, and without the appropriate guidance and recommendations, we really would not know how to proceed.

Sandy Miller: The chance for the state allowing hardened structures is a long way in the future. The chance for participating in an experiment for sand groins is a more definite possibility. Bald Head is already using them and Ocean Isle has legislation before the General Assembly. We are working with Ocean Isle to have Holden Beach included.

Pat Sandifer: We should first in line for an engineered Corp. of Engineers jetty on the east end of Holden Beach. The Corp. has, for years, stated that this would stabilize our erosion problem.

Peggy Schiavone: Obviously at the time this comes to pass, we would have to explore what this would or could mean to Holden Beach. Other states allow hard structures in the inlets and we would have to study the pros and cons of what this has done for their beaches and inlets.

Gary Staley: The subject of hard structures on beaches and inlets is very controversial. Some swear by them as good for building up the sand on beaches, and others contend they take away sand from other areas to compensate, thus causing more problems than they solve. I am all for anything that is true and tested that would tend to help us in any way. Hard structures including groins, are expensive to construct. I have heard that if the state moves in that direction and begins to loosen up on the ban of these structures, they might try a couple of test areas to see what the results are. If that occurs, we should discuss applying to be one of those test areas.

Sheila Young: If and when state law is changed to allow hard structures (jetties or groins) in the inlets to help control sand movement, Holden Beach needs to research the pros and cons of use of these structures. Other beaches throughout the country have dealt with similar situations and have had various results. Using their expertise could save us time, effort and money.

5) **Hard Structures in Inlets: How should such structures be paid for?**

Don Glander: If once approved, the financial aspect would involve multiple financial sources including state and federal agencies and adjacent islands. What our share would be is a completely unknown factor at this time, but when the bell rings, we will need to come up with our share.

John Hancock: First, the board should meet and get public input in determining the direction to proceed. We will need to seek and apply for government grants, matching funds, etc. to help pay for these structures. Most importantly, if the decision is made to construct these devices, the tax payers of Holden Beach need to understand that this could incur a huge tax burden for all of us. I would be against increasing taxes of any kind unless it is first proven that the benefit would justify an increase and even then, only reluctantly.

John Heimlich: The Town should support the overtures now in the State Legislature for hard inlet groins to mitigate beach erosion. Again, the Brunswick Beach Consortium is lobbying hard for such and I have met with them and their President to support such. Holden Beach should pay a fair share if such a project could be secured for Lockwoods Folly inlet.

Alan Holden: These programs should be paid for in partnership with local, state, and US government agencies.

Ken Kyser: The hard structures should be paid for the same way that the dredging of the inlets is being done since this will reduce the dredging requirements on the inlets. The Federal Government should pay some, the county should pay some and we should pay some. We should consider using some sand funds since this structure will help to control sand movement and should reduce erosion thus reducing the need for renourishment of the beach.

Ray Lehr: This should be a county program.

Norman Meares: The structures would definitely be a beach preservation function, which is the purpose for collecting BPART Fund occupancy taxes. Great efforts would have to be made to obtain grants or receive matching funds.

Sandy Miller: The localities directly impacted by these groins should bear a good portion of the cost.

Pat Sandifer: The monies being spent to continually nourish our beaches could then be used to pay the debt on such a structure.

Peggy Schiavone: I think we are jumping the gun even talking about this. At the time this plan would be implemented for the State, we would have to see where we are as a town regarding money and feasibility of building hard structures.

Gary Staley: The beaches and inlets belong to everyone. They are enjoyed by folks in Western North Carolina, and all over the country. Local property owners should not have to bear the brunt of the cost of a project to protect such a national treasure. We are certainly willing to pay our share, but maximum efforts should be made to secure county, state and federal help in any projects such as this.

Sheila Young: The question of how such structures should be paid for is too hypothetical at this point in time.

6) **Terms of Town Commissioners and Mayor: What is your position on changing the terms of Town Commissioners to four years in length, with staggered terms; and having the Mayor's term remain at two years?**

Don Glander: After chatting with several people about this, it appears to me that feelings are pretty much divided on this subject. It's my understanding that staggered terms were tried several years ago, didn't work and were changed back to the current system. I personally feel that the current system serves us well.

John Hancock: I think it could have a positive effect; it may even make the board stronger. I'm not sure future candidates would want to commit to four year terms. Attrition and other circumstances could create midterm vacancies to fill which could be a little disruptive. In general, I would be OK with four year terms but in reality, it works fine the way it is.

John Heimlich: There are pros and cons for 4-year terms. All things considered, staggered longer terms would better assure continuity of government.

Alan Holden: I was in favor of staggered terms years ago. Holden Beach changed to allow this. Then the voters changed it back to the original way and it is that way today.

Ken Kyser: I think that what we have now works. This has been tried in the past and was changed back by the citizens. The state does not allow yearly elections so we would have to have four-year terms with half being elected every two years. I don't oppose it but it should be left up to the public and election board to determine if it is something that they want.

Ray Lehr: I agree with the present program.

Norman Meares: I agree with this policy – the Town has many different projects going on, and with 2-year terms much of the first year is spent learning about the different town functions and happenings. Four-year terms would increase the stability of the Board.

Sandy Miller: State law prohibits staggered term for Commissioners unless the terms are four years. This was tried at Holden Beach many years ago and then the voters elected to return to two year terms. I see no reason to change it again.

Pat Sandifer: Although, personally, it would be more difficult to commit to a four year term, it needs to happen for continuity of government. Two year terms result in a strong staff and a weak board. I would have no problems with the office of mayor being contested every two years.

Peggy Schiavone: I would like to see staggered terms of two and three years, rather than four years. I think it is difficult enough to get up to speed when you are totally new, let alone have a totally new board. This way there would always be someone or two who remain on the board and hopefully election time would not be quite a traumatic as it is now. I believe that it is fine to keep the Mayor's term to two years.

Gary Staley: From an emotional standpoint, some people think there is merit in being able to "throw the bums out" sooner rather than later. As a first term commissioner, I realize the learning curve takes much of the first 2 years, and if we have a complete change every 2 years, it puts the governing body in a weak position, without a good working knowledge of what's going on. Staggered terms for the Board of Commissioners should be considered.

Sheila Young: Changing the length of terms and staggered terms have been tried at Holden Beach in the past without success.

7) **Bicycle Paths: The Town of Holden Beach has so far been unsuccessful in securing State grants to help build bike paths. What is your position on how Holden Beach should proceed without State funding?**

Don Glander: I'm in absolute favor of a bike path. It's not only a recreational issue, but more importantly, a safety issue. How we should proceed in funding a bike path, without a grant, is for me, difficult to answer. Please understand that in the preceding questions, we've been asked about funding for beach re-nourishment and hard structures for the inlets, both vital issues to the survival of the island as we know it and both *extremely* (multi million dollar) expensive necessities without state and/or federal funding. As of this writing it is most likely a fact that we'll be building a multi million dollar Town Hall and an off island Emergency Operation Center. We don't know the actual cost, but we'll be borrowing a huge amount over the next twenty/twenty-five years. This in addition to the astronomical costs of the sewer system. We will be about borrowed out. So, how are we going to pay for all this other stuff that's important to us? There are only three ways that I'm aware of...borrow more money (from here on out, extremely difficult to do), increase taxes, or reduce expenses. Recent decisions are going to financially strap us and leave us little flexibility. When all is said and done I think certain projects will come down to a public referendum. That might well be the case for the bike path if there is not grant money available.

John Hancock: Without some sort of funding, the only source of paying for anything is the taxpayers. As I said before, I would be against any tax increases. This is certainly one of those areas where we should survey property owners to determine the level of support for a bike path. Assuming we have support, the next question is location. I have had a couple of people tell me that since there is a sidewalk on the north side of Ocean Blvd., perhaps we could have a bike path on the south side. We may look at soliciting funds from the HB Merchants Assoc., and other groups.

John Heimlich: I am a twice daily bike rider and support any possible improvements. The south side of Ocean Blvd. is a candidate and I have supported it in the past but safety, storm water mitigation and utility access present problems.

Alan Holden: I have no problem with supporting bike path construction and being flexible in the methods of payment. The most obvious is the occupancy tax funds.

Ken Kyser: We need to determine who got the grant money and determine why they were selected over us. This would allow us to reapply hopefully with a better grant request so that we get selected. Also if the state decides to pave Ocean Boulevard we should see if they would widen the road so that a bike path could be created at little or no cost to us at the same time that the paving occurs.

Ray Lehr: Pursue it more vigorously. Should be part of the state road.

Norman Meares: Again, I think the Town should commit funds to hire an appropriate firm to plan bicycle paths with estimated costs, and make a long-term commitment to having parts of the path constructed every year as part of the budget.

Sandy Miller: We have applied for a grant to hire a planner for a bike path several times and are applying again. If funds are not granted and there is enough community support, we could form an ad hoc committee to see if the property owners are willing to support a bike path with their donations.

Pat Sandifer: While bike paths are desirable, I would be hesitant to spend taxpayers' money creating them. I would continue to seek both D.O.T. and State Parks & Rec. grants to fund them. Bicycles appear to be a seasonal problem, and in the interim, we just need to slow down and relax. Let's enjoy our slower pace of life, not change it!!

Peggy Schiavone: We have recently formed a "Bike Path Committee", of which I am a member, to explore our options with regard to this subject. We have elicited the help of Don Eggert, a Transportation Planner, to help us with this process. There is grant money available at an 80/20 ratio (the 20 is Holden Beach matching funds) for bike paths. We are exploring the feasibility of having a bike path on Holden Beach and must determine whether we are able to use Ocean Boulevard for this path. We are a long way from having definitive answers, but we know that there is money available for this project.

Gary Staley: I recently met with a representative of the Cape Fear Council of Government and others, including 2 island residents who are avid bikers and discussed this very subject. It is obvious that a lot of planning will be required for a bike path. Where to place this path so it would make sense and the cost of such a project will require much research. I am not sure we would be able to proceed without state funding. This could be something to consider for the next budget period and fund over a number of years.

Sheila Young: Holden Beach should seek input from taxpayers in regards to building a bike path since no State grants have been secured to date.

8) **Boat Trailer Parking: What do you think should be the Town's approach to boat trailer parking near the boat landing access under the bridge?**

Don Glander: Talk about a rock and a hard place! With the incredible escalation in property values on both sides of the Waterway, obtaining additional parking space at anything resembling a reasonable price just isn't going to happen. It's been suggested that a ramp and parking lot be built on the other side to alleviate the pressure on Holden Beach. Again, property owners on the other side can make a great deal more from their land than by parking boat trailers. Our dollars have to be prioritized. With limited funds, where does boat trailer parking fit in relationship to beach re-nourishment, possible hard structures for the inlets and a bike path?

John Hancock: I think the parking we have now is adequate except perhaps July 4th week and fishing tournaments. We may want to encourage nearby property owners to allow parking.

John Heimlich: Boat trailer parking will become a major problem in the near future (if not now) as private property is developed. We cannot create something out of nothing in this regard. The ideal solution is for the State to develop an additional facility on the mainland side. Unfortunately, strict parking enforcement might be necessary.

Alan Holden: Planning and designating areas can help this situation. Grading and retaining walls can allow more area to be used.

Ken Kyser: The boat ramp is a Department of Wild Life boat ramp. They should be providing space for parking. Since the majority of the boats come across the bridge I think that the Department of Wild Life should look to the mainland for a solution to this issue. Another possibility would be to check with the owners of the vacant lots close to the boat ramp to see if they would be willing to lease the land so that it could be used for parking. A fee could be charged for parking that would cover the cost of leasing the property.

Ray Lehr: Island real estate is too expensive to park boat trailers. The solution to this must be on the mainland.

Norman Meares: The Town should approach the owner of the property along South Shore Drive and Carolina Avenue to discuss purchasing this property and see if the State would agree to provide some funds toward the purchase of the property. The State built the ramp and maintains it, so it seems appropriate they should provide necessary parking.

Sandy Miller: First we need to enforce the current boat trailer parking regulations. This problem will only get worse in the future. We need to convince the proper state agencies to find land on the mainland for trailer parking.

Pat Sandifer: A second ramp needs to be built on the mainland where there could be adequate parking. With very limited land available under the bridge, there is no on-site solution.

Peggy Schiavone: This is a difficult problem that has been addressed (unsuccessfully) for many years. The property near the boat landing for the most part is private property. The parking is usually on a first come, first serve basis. I believe we should explore all our parking options and see what, if any, solutions can be reached on this matter.

Gary Staley: The simple fact is there are a limited number of places to park boat trailers in the landing access area. There is some available, privately owned property nearby, but with the price of lots these days, I do not see any way the town could even consider purchasing it at this time. I doubt there would be any grant money available for this purpose. To me, the better alternative would be for the state to build a 2nd boat launching area over on the mainland, which would alleviate the crowding here on the beach. Thankfully, this problem is not constant, and only happens a few times a year.

Sheila Young: The Town's approach to boat trailer parking near the boat landing access under the bridge should be to enforce the current laws.

9) **Day Visitor Parking: What, if anything, do you contend that the Town should do concerning additional day visitor parking spaces?**

Don Glander: Nothing. We have the space we have. There isn't any more. Other than operating a shuttle back and forth from mainland locations, we are limited.

John Hancock: I would like to see the board encourage home owners to help us by letting them know that the town is willing to accept responsibility if they have vacant land to be used for parking or beach access. New building projects should be encouraged to provide beach access if possible. Of course, any private shuttle service with off island parking should be supported.

John Heimlich: Again, There is no way to create meaningful additional parking. This is going to be a considerable pressure point with all the mainland development.

Alan Holden: The parking is not being used 100% now. The town has been expanding day parking for years and I believe is meeting the average demand.

Ken Kyser: We will need to continue to look for land that can be used for parking and beach access but again I am not in favor of spending millions of our tax dollars to provide parking to people that are day trippers. We should think about having paid parking.

Ray Lehr: Needs further study. The town should not have to bear the total expense for visitor parking.

Norman Meares: I think the only times there are problems with parking are during the major holidays, and I do not like to allocate dollars to a problem that only exists a few days a year. My suggestion would be to examine our existing parking to determine if there are any additional spaces available within the property we already own. Also, if we actually move forward with the other phases of the Jordan Boulevard Project, additional spaces would be created at that time.

Sandy Miller: Most of the time there are enough parking spaces available, especially if they use the sites off Ocean Boulevard. Hopefully, the shuttle bus will bring more people over to the island. I am not in favor of creating more parking on the beach.

Pat Sandifer: We have more visitors each year, and that will not change. In our parking areas for off island visitors, we should have parking meters so that a portion of the cost associated with accommodating visitors can be recouped.

Peggy Schiavone: Day visitors have a reasonable amount of parking. We do not have parking meters nor do we charge day visitors to come to Holden Beach. We are looking into increasing the number of parking spaces that we currently have, but we must remember we only have so much land available for parking. With the current Jordan Boulevard project underway, we hope to increase parking somewhat under the bridge and on the boulevard.

Gary Staley: I have asked the planning and zoning board to look into, and study the entire parking situation on the island, and make recommendations to the board accordingly. The town should continue to seek donations of lots from owners for tax purposes as we have in the past. I am of the opinion we should step up enforcement of the parking regulations we have on the books. While we must provide adequate parking for the public to stay out of jeopardy with CAMA, it must be in a controlled and organized way. Hopefully P&Z will come up with ideas to better use the space we have.

Sheila Young: The Town should explore a shuttle service or paid parking if there is a perceived need for additional day visitor parking spaces.

10) Town Spending: What, if anything, would you do to stabilize or reduce town spending?

Don Glander: STOP SPENDING. Only those expenditures deemed NECESSARY and ESSENTIAL to the safety and well being of this island and its residents/property owners should be considered.

John Hancock: As you know, town spending is already stabilized, the town has maintained our taxes about neutral so even with the new projects already underway, we should not expect to see any tax increases. If past "do nothing boards" had completed the sewer system in prior years, we would have had our sewer system at a fraction of today's cost. Any good business owner knows that you must invest back into the business or you will not stay in business very long. Any town must be progressive to keep up with today's demands. As I said before, I would be against any tax increases.

John Heimlich: The Town tax rate has been extremely stable over several years. I can think of no better way to control spending.

Alan Holden: The windfall the town enjoyed recently due to all the new construction has come to a halt. Until the results from the new tax values and reduced construction are realized in conjunction with the cost and operation of the sewer system is determined, I feel the town should be very cautious with its spending. The cost of building and operating these new building is unknown. "Let's get a grip". Almost all of us will agree that we need new town facilities, but the timing and size is the issue.

Ken Kyser: We need to manage any projects in progress to prevent cost overruns. We need to prioritize town needs so that we get what is needed the most to ensure quality service to the island residents. Sometimes we will need to say no. In other words spend the money like it was mine not like I was spending someone else's money.

Ray Lehr: Evaluate operational cost of facilities and programs and make them as efficient as possible.

Norman Meares: I think we have done a wonderful job with our spending. We are close to Revenue Neutral, while funding several different, much needed projects. Our budget process is very detailed and our spending is definitely not out of control, as some would want you to believe.

Sandy Miller: I am as frugal about spending the taxpayers' money as I am my own. There are numerous ways that we can reduce town spending: cutting back on overtime unless it is an emergency; scrutinizing cost overruns and change orders in the renovation of town hall; progressing slowing in the adoption of new projects are just a few ideas.

Pat Sandifer: There are six beach communities in Brunswick County and our tax rate is the lowest of these towns. We have done this without neglecting the needs of our town. We must continue to wisely budget and choose only needed expenditures. Wants and needs should and do have different priorities. This must continue!

Peggy Schiavone: We are very concerned at the moment with town spending as the permanent residents and property owners have been asked to add the exorbitant cost of sewer, a recent county tax evaluation escalation, and now a town hall to their tax bills. The town hall is much needed and will impact our tax bills only slightly. I believe that the commissioners are very concerned and aware, as I am, of the tax burden on residents and property owners, and will continue to keep town costs as low as is possible.

Gary Staley: During every budget period, we do a line item study of every expenditure one at the time. The discussion gets right down to whether or not any new purchase being considered, large or small, is truly needed. The spending under the current board has been very stable, which is evidenced by the fact we have THE lowest tax rate of any surrounding beach town. It was estimated that at least 67% of the tax bills to be mailed to property owners would be less than was paid last year. The great majority of all debt service for the new proposed facility projects is already in the current budget of 6.9 cents, and I do not anticipate a need for any tax increase next year.

Sheila Young: In order to stabilize or reduce town spending, a long-range plan should be prepared AFTER a needs assessment has been done with taxpayer input.

11) **Goals for the next two years:** What are your goals for the Town over the next two years?

Don Glander: Please refer to question #13.

John Hancock: I want to see us complete the town hall and police department, and finalize the off island emergency operations center and maintenance facility. We must complete the Jordan Blvd. project for all to enjoy. I would like to see further repairs to Brunswick Ave. I would also like to see increased police patrols especially along our side streets. We must support beach renourishment projects and funding. Beach access, parking and Beach Clubs will need further review in the upcoming terms.

John Heimlich: Much has been initiated over the past two years--these projects must be seen through. I would like to see continued emphasis upon public areas in terms of functionality, amenities and aesthetics--a look to the Town we can be proud of.

Alan Holden: Do a better job with public relations. Previously Holden Beach was receiving national recognition for all the right reasons. During the past two years our own N.C. newspapers were referring to Holden Beach as among the states worst beaches with glass and asphalt on the strand. Relations between the town, property owners, and citizens, needs to improve greatly.

Ken Kyser: Creating a friendly responsive town government with improved communications so that everyone feels that they have the ability to provide input. Closely manage a large and increasing town debt. Develop a wiser beach management strategy. Research grant funding for a well needed bike path. Create a sound plan for how to handle ever growing amount of daytime visitors.

Ray Lehr: Complete committed projects--Create a more friendly town government--Control spending and cost.--Determine the best beach management.

Norman Meares: Goals for the Town over the next two years are: to complete the off-island project, to continue to work on the Jordan Boulevard Project with as much grant money as possible, to complete the Town Hall project, to continue the Beach Nourishment Project, to make sure all of the zoning and building codes are constantly reviewed to keep our island unchanged, and to continue to keep our tax rate the lowest of any surrounding beach.

Sandy Miller: I hope the next two years will focus on slowly developing the remaining lots, keeping taxes down and finding new sources for sand.

Pat Sandifer: I believe that we have good government that is responsive to the needs of Holden Beach. We have taken on problems that have existed for many years. We must continue to work on our beach nourishment, storm water, beach clubs, adequate facilities for our police department, our town hall, and our off island maintenance/emergency site. Some are not popular, but all are necessary.

Peggy Schiavone: I would like to see us continue to be a "family beach" with a welcome and friendly atmosphere for all residents and visitors alike. As chairman of Planning and Zoning, I have tried to concern myself with issues that were important to Holden Beach: Club Houses in the residential area, signage on the island, trash problems, and other zoning issues that have arisen I believe have been successfully addressed. Keeping Holden Beach's height limit at 35 feet is of course a top priority.

Gary Staley: My main goals for the next two years will be to see the new town hall project completed, continue to grow the sand fund as has been the case for the last 2 years, do as many nourishments as possible, all the while planning for future ones, and to make sure we do all we can to see that there is NO tax increase over the 6.9 cent rate.

Sheila Young: My goals for the Town over the next two years are to follow through on current projects (without adding new ones), to watch income and spending through financial reports and to do a staff utilization study. Reports should be made public and subject to questions and input.

12) **Critical Issues: What do you feel are the most critical issues facing Holden Beach?**

Don Glander:

- Improve communications between the town government and the resident/property owners. The resident/property owners need and deserve a greater voice in the conduct of the town's affairs.
- An aggressive beach re-nourishment program.
- Financial accountability and responsibility by the town government.

John Hancock: I would like for town hall to encourage property owners to attend more meetings so that we all are able to stay abreast of activities affecting our daily lives.

- Completion of town hall and police department including the off island project.
- Completion of the Jordan Blvd. project.
- Keeping the beach renourishment fund active and vital.

John Heimlich: Beach renourishment will continue to be our greatest challenge.

Alan Holden: Help unify the island and its people. Promote the town's people and what makes this place great. Take a voice to Raleigh and Washington to our representatives on a personal level benefiting the town and its people.

Ken Kyser:

- We need to "Welcome back the public again". Greatly improve communications with the public so that they feel a part of the system bringing the people of Holden Beach back together as a family again!
- We need to complete the new Town Hall, Police Station and off island building on or under budget, while controlling spending so as to not increase the town debt load excessively.
- We need to develop a wiser beach management strategy while maintaining a healthy renourishment fund.
- We need to secure grant money for a safe bike path

Ray Lehr: Reunite the town. Keep the beach affordable.-Have a new town hall that serves it's people.

Norman Meares: I think we are addressing the need for the much-needed new facilities right now. After these much-needed projects are complete, the main issue is to continue to look at ways to protect the beach by maintaining it the way it is, and avoid becoming a Myrtle Beach. We need to continue to pursue our inclusion in the 50-Year Plan for Beach Nourishment.

Sandy Miller: Returning unity to Holden Beach, controlling the debt service and making everyone feel they have input in major decisions.

Pat Sandifer: The island wide sewer system was needed and long overdue, but with that comes development pressures. We must realize that there are those who would turn Holden Beach into a Myrtle Beach! We must be pro-active with our zoning and code enforcement to prevent this! Visitors from our mainland subdivisions will increase greatly in the coming years and we must find a way for this segment of the population to pay their way. The residents of our island should not be saddled with the cost!

Peggy Schiavone: Trying to remain a "family beach" and also to encourage our small town to come together and work together toward our common goals. I love this town and intend to continue to work hard to make this island a place where we can live, enjoy our beautiful beach, and work in harmony.

Gary Staley: All of the above mentioned issues are very critical, but I would add to that list, making sure we maintain an open and honest government, and make sure all decisions made contain absolutely NO personal agenda's.

Sheila Young: The most critical issues facing Holden Beach are:

- Communications between elected officials and taxpayers
- Beach Preservation
- Rising costs - tax bills and insurances, long-term loans for sewer and town hall/police department renovation, construction of off-island emergency center, dredging of canals

13) **The Future: How do you envision Holden Beach five, ten, and fifteen years from now? What actions do you think will be required for this vision to become a reality?**

Don Glander: Whether it be two, five, ten or fifteen years, my “vision” for Holden Beach is simple....we remain as we are. The word *vision* implies the need for great change. Certainly some things will come along that we’d like to do such as the bike path, which again, I consider a safety issue. But we have been a destination island for thousands of families over the years because of what we are, nothing more and nothing less. We resident/property owners love this place and many have made Holden Beach their home for what it is. Let’s not mess with it anymore than we already have.

John Hancock: Obviously, we want to keep Holden Beach a family beach where residents, property owners, and tourist alike can enjoy our little part of heaven. We will need to:

- Conserve and manage our wet lands, shorelines and public trust areas.
- Review and further develop regulations and policies to help protect and enhance the water quality of our marsh areas and ocean system.
- Manage the town’s growth and development, and support and promote tourism as an essential economic activity.
- Maintain building height below 35 feet.

John Heimlich: The primary difference down the road will be larger houses. Our zoning currently is very strict but we must adjust as need arises to place additional controls.

Alan Holden: The same visions I have always had, being a restricted family beach with values and common sense. I plan to vote the same as I always have in the 1970’s, 1980’s 1990’s and the 2000’s while serving on the Planning and Zoning board, Board of Adjustments, the town board, and other committees.

Ken Kyser: I envision the town being much the same as it is now with the big difference being that there will be almost no vacant lots left. To keep our town the same we need to keep the taxes down so those on fixed incomes can continue to live here and call Holden Beach there home.

Ray Lehr: About the same as now--but with less rentals, bigger houses, and no expansion of commercial areas.

Norman Meares: Hopefully, it will be remain exactly as it is now. I also hope it remains a “Family Beach” and the place everyone still loves to live or visit. This can be accomplished by taking all the actions necessary to ensure those values are protected in the Code of Ordinances.

Sandy Miller: Five, ten and fifteen years from now, I still see Holden Beach as a family oriented beach that welcomes visitors in the summer and is mainly residential. I believe we will have more permanent residents. We must not expand the commercial area and keep the 35 foot height restriction and the 30% lot coverage.

Pat Sandifer: Visit all the islands between Florida and Maine, and you will realize that Holden Beach is very special. Among the things that make us special are that we are predominantly residential, predominantly single family, and have no high rises that create high density. As we border the Atlantic Ocean, we will always be a “resort.” However, we are more than that. We’re a hometown to many, and that number grows each year. We must always make decisions based on our residents, our hometown, and our family beach!! Growth and prosperity must take a back seat to quality of life. This is my home and I will fight to maintain our way of life that we enjoy today!!

Peggy Schiavone: The town residents must become more involved and interested in our town. We must work together toward common goals that we all have. If we can do this, I do not see a lot of change happening over the years with regard to large commercial growth, etc. If we continue to be involved with the decisions that are made for our town, we will probably be able to preserve this wonderful life and island that we have today.

Gary Staley: Changes will take place regardless of the best efforts of some to prevent them. It is important to me we maintain the low rise, residential integrity of our island. We must protect our residents from clubhouses, high rises or anything else that would tend to undermine our quiet, family like atmosphere. We can not stop residential growth, because others want to be a part of the paradise we all enjoy as well. We can make sure the growth is organized, and meets all codes and ordinances. If we are diligent, and maintain this mindset, I think we will see our town much as it is now in the years to come.

Sheila Young: I envision the future of Holden Beach remaining an affordable family beach by keeping the 35 ft. height restriction, keeping property values up, preserving our beautiful, well nourished beach and keeping our community pride. This can be accomplished by strict enforcement of current ordinances and by long-range planning, including good financial planning, with taxpayer involvement.

14) Additional Question for Mayoral Candidates: What would you like to accomplish in your two-year term as Mayor of Holden Beach?

Alan Holden: Get the canals dredged properly. Improve the roads, stabilize the beach strand and continue to increase the “sand money”, unify the people of Holden Beach, get the town’s emergency program back to full staff in case of an emergency. Work for some kind of “homestead” tax protection for senior citizen’s, put the town meetings on the town cable channel for town residents to hear what is going on at the meetings.

Norman Meares: I would like to complete the Jordan Boulevard project and the Town Hall and off-island projects without any increase in taxes, put more sand on the beach, and keep Holden Beach a great place to live and visit. I am on the beach almost daily and I am not employed by anyone other than the Town; therefore, I am always available when needed by either the Town officials or residents of Holden Beach.

15) Additional Question for Mayoral Candidates: In addition to the statutory duties and responsibilities of Mayor, what do you contend are the duties and obligations of the Mayor of Holden Beach?

Alan Holden: The mayor is the leader of the organization responsible for setting the tone, and the mood of the meetings. Conducting hearings, ceremonies, meetings, etc. are critically important. The mayor must have a extremely vast knowledge of the town, the town history, the town functions, the wants and desires of its people must be represented by the mayor. The mayor should without hesitation, be able to speak with knowledge and confidence to the news media, government assemblies, all public gatherings small and large as needed to represent Holden Beach in a positive, professional manner. The mayor is the image the voters want representing them in the time of celebration and in times of emergency situations. If a hurricane is about to hit Holden Beach, who do you want to be your mayor? One with national and state emergency training and 58 years of experience on Holden Beach.

Norman Meares: The duties and obligations of the Mayor are to be honest, truthful, and of the highest integrity – as I can proudly say I have been for the past four years. I will not tolerate dishonesty or unethical behavior. As the Mayor, I consider myself an ambassador to represent my Town of Holden Beach. I have a close working relationship with Congressman McIntyre, the Corps. Of Engineers, CAMA, Brunswick County, DOT, and other necessary state and federal agencies.