

# Holden Beach Property Owners Association

## MINUTES

### Easter Membership Meeting

April 20, 2019 10:00AM

### Holden Beach Town Hall Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 by the President. A quorum was present.

#### **Town Manager David Hewett gave an update on the Town:**

- We lost over a million cubic yards (CY) of sand on the engineered beach, which runs from Blockade Runner to 800 OBW during Florence and Michael last fall. That area qualifies for FEMA reimbursement. Almost \$25,000,000 has been signed off on. FEMA process will take time but he estimates that in the winter of 2021 there will be a major dredge project similar in size to the Central Reach project. He is hoping FEMA will expedite the process.
- The Town is also looking at re-doing the "Eastern Reach" project using sand from the Lockwood Folly crossing and placing it from Amazing Grace to the west. It would be 150,000 -200,000 CY and occur in the winter of 19-20. Bids will be out early to mid-summer.
- Canal dredging has wrapped up. The process has greatly improved. We were the beneficiary of \$1,000,000 grant depending on reimbursement. The Town used the area of the dog park for a spoils area. It is temporary until it dries out, but it is unknown how long that will take. The mud is still soupy. The Town is looking at other options and locations.
- Tax revaluations occurred this year. The budget process is underway. The plan is to continue the \$0.22 tax rate. Values are up.
- The Solid Waste recycling schedule is changing to weekly. This is a subscription service. Additional trash can requirements have changed for rentals, you can substitute a recycling container if desired. Island-wide rollback will be started the last six weeks of Fiscal Year. Demand for the service justified doing it.
- The Splash Pad will not open until Memorial Day – in conjunction with concert series.
- The Easter Egg hunt is tonight.
- Sewer Lift Station 4 is complete. It is operational, they are finishing clean-up work. Next, they are moving on to upgrading Lift Station 3 at the 800 OBW block, which is part of a multi-year project to mitigate hazards. Construction to start in the Fall/Winter.
- The Town has been working on the Community Rating System (CRS) rating which has an impact on the insurance. They will put that forward this coming week.
- Hurricanes decals were sent in the March water bills. Start looking for them.
- In response to a question about the submerged boat in waterway: There is new legislation that everyone is trying to figure out.
- In response to a question about the criteria for determining the CRS: There are many factors including an evaluation of Inspections Department, public safety, and other components. Commissioner Pat Kwiatkowski suggested googling CRS.
- In response to a question about the proposed Inlet Hazard Area changes: The Town does not concur with the methodology used to set the areas. The Coastal Resources Commission is engaged on it. Inspector Evans was in Manteo this week to discuss it.

#### **Police Chief Jeremy Dixon gave an update:**

- Since November two officers have retired, Officer Hamilton and Chief Layne.
- He is in the process of hiring two officers, Tony Robinson has been hired.

- Crime-wise the Town had a very good winter.
- Regarding the Brock Murder – Officers worked with state and other offices. He can't give a lot of details at this point. The subject is in jail and not a danger to community. The case has been turned over to the DA.
- Break-ins are way down. More homeowners are getting alarms and cameras, which are a great tool to have. Sometimes they will help cut your insurance rates.
- Feel free to come by and introduce yourself at the Police Station.
- The speed limit has been reduced past the pier for summer.
- In response to a question about cameras, most require an internet connection but lots of people turn off internet in the winter.

### **Mayor Alan Holden gave an update:**

- He reminded everyone of hurricanes and the storms last night – he hopes you received communications the Town sent about the storms last night. Sign up for the Town's email blast. That is the official way they put out information. Some houses had shingles blown off and some water came in under doors.
- The Easter Egg hunt is tonight. Overflow crowds are expected.
- Regarding the loss of the Dog Park – the town is looking for a replacement.
- We have a new Police Chief – thanks to all the officers for what they do.
- He has never seen all the activity currently happening on the island and expects by June that the island is going to look its best ever. People are taking more pride. It is indicative of the economy being strong. People have money to spend and values are creeping up. Not a single ocean front lot sold last year. They were selling for \$1.1M, now lots are struggling to get \$450,000. Bargains are out there.
- Of all the projects, he has had very few complaints about the canal dredging project.
- Beach Strand status – March storms are worse than hurricanes. Strand conditions will begin to improve as summer is when they build up sand.
- Get your home prepared for hurricane season. Put together your storm plan. The overall condition and mood of the island is upbeat.
- He has had hundreds of calls and complaints about the trash can issue that was being proposed.
- The Inlet is in good shape. Sand-wise we have a lot of work to do. There is not a lot of County, State or Federal money to help.
- In response to a question about the submerged boat in waterway: he spoke with County Commissioner Marty Cooke last week. The outrigger is now in the channel and the Coast Guard has been made aware. It is pending to see what they do about it and it is extremely dangerous. So far it is not marked.
- In response to a question about the bridge: there are two projects, one is underneath the bridge. They are X-raying, sounding and chipping to determine if the steel is deteriorating. They are chipping out and replacing metal and concrete. It is estimated to be complete next fall. The boat ramp under bridge belongs to NC Wildlife and the Town has no control over it. Parking is very limited. The contractor stores supplies there. The ramp will be open most of the time but parking will be an issue. Their temporary guard rail is in place. He has seen the same guard rail in other places. You can still see through as you drive, and while it is not as clear, it looks better than he thought it would. This part of the project will have a quicker completion than the underneath work. The view will still be good as it is four feet high from the bridge surface. It is being added for safety. The railing cost \$1M. Expect intermittent lane closures all summer.
- In response to a question - will the construction impact the festivals? DOT says that they will work with us, but it might impact us.
- Commissioner John Fletcher: The Commissioners have been advised by the Town Attorney that they can't ask questions. John appreciates input from HBPOA members.

### **Business Meeting**

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**President Tom Myers reported:**

- Newsletter: Check the newsletter on your dues status – it is printed above the address and will let you know what our records show.
- We will be doing a survey this summer and Candidates' Night again this fall.
- Rip Currents: We received a letter from a member about rip currents and what could be done to help with safety. Flags were determined not to be a good solution for several reasons. We are ordering magnets and they are available. Also, there are signs on public walkways, but private walkways don't always have them. If you own a walkway and would like a sign we will provide one. We will help in any way we can to help prevent drownings. We will have the magnets at the next meeting. If you won't be here contact us and we will mail one to you.
- There is an open Director spot on the Board – please contact us if interested. We know most people don't live here and that is not a problem to serve on the Board.
- We are working on our Membership drive – we lose people when they move and/or sell so we are trying to reach the new property owners.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Woody Tyner reviewed the financial report. We are in very good shape. The Balance is \$68,431.27.

**Old Business:**

Woody reviewed the proposed budget. There is a new expense of \$4000 for Member Packets to be sent to new and prospective members. There was a motion to approve the proposed budget and a second. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business:**

John Fletcher, as an HBPOA member, discussed how Ocean Blvd. house numbers are hard to see. The Fire Department will give you street numbers for \$10. Numbers are also needed on the beach side. The Turtle Patrol will sponsor putting them on the beach side. A motion was made to work with Turtle Patrol president Tony Marwitz with regards to the best way to put signs on the houses. HBPOA could buy posts to mount the numbers. The question was asked why with GPS on everyone's smart phones, how can they not find a home? Some members don't want the additional posts because it looks junky and adds to the visual clutter – they have numbers on their mailbox. The Town has not enforced the house number ordinance on the books and it varies where the numbers are placed on the oceanfront side of homes, making them hard to spot. Some homes are so far back from the strand that numbers on the homes are not effective. A motion to investigate and report back at the Memorial Day Meeting passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Y. Myers  
Volunteer Secretary