



# TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

(INCORPORATED 1922)

3243 WALNUT DRIVE

Highland Beach, Maryland 21403

Telephone (410) 268-2956

## MAYOR

William H. Sanders III

## COMMISSIONER

Eric Brewington

Michele Fuller

Sheila Jeanne Murchison

Benjamin Secundy

## TREASURER

Sheila Jeanne Murchison

## Board of Commissioners' Meeting

**Date:** September 25, 2021

**Attendees:** Mayor Sanders, Commissioners Murchison, Secundy, and Fuller. The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.

### Citizens' Input

Comments were received from citizens.

### Journal Review and Approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Secundy to approve the journal from August 28, 2021; it was seconded and approved by all.

### Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Murchison gave the Treasurer's report and stated the town is in good standing with \$423,865.58 in checking and savings accounts. Now that summer is over, fewer expenses are expected.

### Mayor's Report

Highland Beach was initially awarded approx. \$93,000 in American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding. Owing to a lack of clear procedures at the state level that number has changed several times with a final allocation of approx. \$66,000. Half of this amount has been disbursed and was deposited last week. The remainder will be disbursed next year. Care must be taken to ensure that the funds are used only for eligible expenditures, as reporting of all uses must be provided to the State. The first report is due October 31<sup>st</sup>. Planned expenditures include air cleaning and Coronavirus deep cleaning for the Town Hall and museum buildings. Research into other potential uses is ongoing. The mayor attended an ARP webinar during which non-profit organizations offered to assist municipalities with projects related to using the ARP funds.

The recent storm significantly impacted the sand levels on the playground and basketball court, delaying the re-opening of those areas. In addition, sand continues to be lost near the hardscape. A living shoreline is a strong consideration for that area. Relocating the swing set to the other side of the playground (or scrapping it and installing a new one) will also be reviewed.

Anne Arundel County is still a high COVID transmission area.

Investigation is ongoing regarding the possibility of burying the electric lines underground. Determination of the cost is a key issue. Other issues include the impact on older homes, which have to be brought up to code in order to connect underground, and securing right-of-way from residents for the installation of transformer boxes in their yards.

Comcast has provided a draft franchise agreement for review. Additional information has been requested. We have not heard from Verizon yet. The current franchise agreement is ongoing.

The Board had a Zoom meeting with representatives from Anne Arundel County regarding the following concerns:

- 1) Issuance of a permit by the county that did not have the approval of Highland Beach.
- 2) Police officers coming into town and not knowing that HB is a municipality, nor knowing the Maryland law regarding threats to elected officials.

The meeting was attended by Matthew Power, Chief Administrative Officer; Police Chief, Amal Awad; Lori Rhodes, Dep. Chief Administrative Officer for Land Use; and Vincent Moulden, Asst. Director for Strategic Engagement.

Mayor Sanders gave a “shout out” to the “basketball crew” for raising the new basketball backboard.

### **Commissioners’ Reports**

Commissioner Secundy had nothing to add to what the mayor had presented regarding the playground.

Commissioner Fuller has started a review of ordinances.

### **Old Business**

There was no old business.

### **New Business**

A reminder was given that the community dumpster would be placed on Wayman Ave. from noon on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> through noon on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>. The old lounge chairs will be left by the dumpster and can be taken by anyone who wants them before they are taken away with the dumpster.

### **Citizens’ Input**

The meeting was again opened for citizens’ input.

**Set next meeting date and adjourn**

The next meeting was set for 11 a.m. on Oct. 23, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Miller Scott, Town Manager