



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

(INCORPORATED 1922)

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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: October 23, 2021

Attendees: Mayor Sanders, Commissioners Brewington, Fuller, Murchison, and Secundy. The meeting was called to order at 11:04 a.m.

Citizens' Input

Comments were received from citizens.

Journal Review and Approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Fuller to approve the journal from September 25, 2021; it was seconded and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Murchison gave the Treasurer's report and stated the treasury continues to look good with \$441,302.80. This is the season where not as much is spent.

Mayor's Report

The reporting deadline for the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds has been moved from October 31st has been moved to February or March of next year. The mayor asked that citizens reach out to him via email with any ideas on potential uses of the ARP funds.

The Highway User Revenue Report has been submitted.

The commissioners were asked for input on the agenda for the upcoming meeting with Senator Elfret, Delegate Henson, and Delegate Jones. Commissioner Fuller recommending discussion of the town's needs around climate change and shoreline issues, as this is a significant part of Senator Elfret's platform and there may be an opportunity to secure

funding. Senator Elfreth stated that they would be interested in making this meeting an annual event.

The 100 Year Incorporation event is coming up next year. Ideas for the program and ways to involve the community were solicited.

The Four Rivers Coordinating Committee meeting is held once a quarter and attended by Mayor Sanders. Meeting journals are available for anyone who is interested. Commissioner Secundy's story was highlighted in the last meeting as a good example of the type of things they're doing.

The mayor completed the FY21 report on town mileage. There was no change.

The mayor did "shout outs" to Nathaniel Johnson, Charles Newton, and Tony Hill. Nathaniel Johnson consistently helps out around town. Charles Newton and Tony Hill helped to remove sand from the basketball court, allowing the playground to be re-opened.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Brewington had no report.

Commissioner Secundy had no report.

Commissioner Fuller gave an extensive report on her attendance at the MML conference, highlighting what she learned about best practices regarding climate change and shore erosion. That report is appended hereto.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Commissioner Fuller recommended adding the broadening of responsibilities of the beach erosion task force for consideration.

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 Nov. 27th, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Miller Scott, Town Manager

Maryland Municipal League (MML) Recap

Presented at the 10/23/21 Board Meeting by Commissioner Michele Fuller

MML is an Annapolis based, nonprofit, nonpartisan association that supports municipal government through advocacy and the development of effective leadership. The organization represents 157 municipal governments and two taxing districts. It is the only statewide organization in Maryland composed solely of municipal officials and devoted to all branches of municipal administration.

They offer a range of programs and resources that enable elected officials to tap into a network of over 1,200 officials to share best practices and exchange ideas. They have 9 regional chapters state-wide and Highland Beach falls within the Southern Maryland Municipal Association, which includes Annapolis and North Beach.

I attended their fall conference in Ellicott City on October 10th and 11th. I had an opportunity to meet our State Senator, Sarah Elfreth, who was a speaker and who reached out after the conference to schedule a meeting with our board to determine how she can support us. Although Mayor Bill requested that the meeting be moved to a future date, I would like us to determine a definitive date and reschedule it before the end of the year.

I attended several workshops and the Southern Region meeting during the conference. The Climate Change & Local Resilience session was the most enlightening and relevant for Highland Beach. The workshop consisted of a panel of three mayors, including mayors from 2 water facing communities - Mayor Mike Benton (North Beach) and Former Mayor James Crudup from Eagle Harbor, which is another historical African-American community in PG County. Here's some key take-aways from their discussion:

- Both Mayors (North Beach & Eagle Harbor) formed environmental advisory committees of citizens to develop a plan to address shoreline erosion and flooding. North Beach also has flood and tree committees.
- Both Mayors advised that developing a plan is critical and a key first step in soliciting grants and other funding.
- Both communities have successfully secured grants and other funding to support their environmental needs.
 - ❖ North Beach secured \$75K from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to secure an engineer to help them develop a flood plan.
 - ❖ Eagle Harbor has received \$6M in grants during the last 10 years. They received \$300K in FEMA grants to assist them in their shoreline erosion efforts during the last 5 years.
- The Mayors cited DNR, FEMA and the BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities) grant programs as resources to seek funding.
- The Mayors also suggested engaging The University of Maryland, which has an environmental studies department and Morgan State University's PEARL (Patuxent

Environmental and Aquatic Research Laboratory) program for free support. They can assist the community in implementing studies and other activities to support their plan.

- Mayor Crudup (Eagle Harbor) said that it's important to establish relationships with your county and other government officials to assist in securing funds.
- During the session, a representative from Senator Van Hollen's office advised that climate change is a key focus of his and that municipalities should reach out to his office for support.
- Also, Senator Sarah Elfreth advised that climate change is a key focus of hers during her speech to the broader group.

Recommendations:

- In addition to the DNR Grants Gateway application that Mayor Bill plans to submit by December and the citizens task force to assist with the project, I suggest the following:
 - ❖ The task force should have broader responsibilities to develop an overall shoreline erosion plan, solicit other grants and other funding on behalf of the town and engage other entities, including other municipalities, the University of Maryland, Morgan State and companies specializing in environmental solutions (per the board's approval).
 - ❖ Form the task force before the end of the year so that they can start the process while waiting for the Gateway grant to be awarded.
 - ❖ Consider hiring a grant writer, if necessary.
 - ❖ Prioritize and schedule the meeting with Senator Sarah Elfreth before the end of November as she requested and establish consistent connections with her annually.