



# TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

(INCORPORATED 1922)

3243 WALNUT DRIVE

Highland Beach, Maryland 21403

Telephone (410) 268-2956

## MAYOR

William H. Sanders III

## TREASURER

Sheila Jeanne Murchison

## COMMISSIONER

Eric Brewington

Michele Fuller

Sheila Jeanne Murchison

Benjamin Secundy

## Board of Commissioners Meeting

**Date:** December 18, 2021

**Attendees:** Mayor Sanders, Commissioners Brewington, Fuller, Murchison, and Secundy. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 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 November 27, 2021. The motioned was seconded and approved by all.

### Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Murchison gave the Treasurer's report, stating that there is a little over \$461,000 across all accounts and there have been very few expenses.

### Mayor's Report

Board of Commissioners' Meeting with the County Executive. Mayor Sanders, Commissioner Secundy, and Voluntary Environmental Consultant Zora Lathan met with County Executive, Stuart Pittman and Police Chief Awad, and county staff members, using basically the same agenda that was discussed with the state delegation last month. The county officials were very excited about the town's plans for storm water management and beach erosion control and recommended contacts at the county. They also suggested applying for the county's upcoming grant.

An updated Memorandum of Understanding with the county was signed. The MOU, which was last signed in 1993, states that there will be an agreement across all county departmental

agencies that any applications from Highland Beach residents must have planning and zoning approval from the Town of Highland Beach before the county will act upon it.

Erosion Control Grants. The state grant application has been submitted with letters of support and/or partnership from the state delegation (Sen. Elfreth, Del. Henson, and Del. Jones), Anne Arundel County Executive, Dept. of Public Works, Chesapeake Ecology Center, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Four Rivers Coordinating Committee, and the Town of Venice Beach.

On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> the county hosted a webinar on their upcoming grant which Highland Beach will apply for in addition to the state grant. This grant will be capped at \$300,000.

A third grant opportunity that will be pursued is an upcoming solicitation from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation which is anticipated to provide approx. \$20MM for the Chesapeake Bay area. The Infrastructure Act represents a fourth grant opportunity. The strategy is to cobble together funding from as many funding sources as possible to make sure the living shoreline project will be successful.

Sol Systems Contract. A new contract has been signed for solar renewable energy credits. Due to legislative changes, the income from that program is not as significant as it once was, but there is still some money coming in.

American Recovery Plan (ARP) Webinar. Webinar was held on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> and attended by the mayor and town manager. It covered key elements of the program, selection of contractors, and recommendations for expending the money. Initial reporting on expenditures has been pushed back to February. Some funds have been spent, but there are still opportunities for additional projects.

Status of 100 Year Incorporation Program. State proclamation will occur on April 13, 2022.

Community Drainage Assessment Proposal. Two engineers were invited to walk the town to discuss a study addressing nuisance flooding and other drainage issues. They provided a proposal, which would provide a map and an analysis of drainage issues in the community and recommendations of what might be done to address those issues. They are also looking to do a stormwater retention design proposal for the corner of Bay Highlands Dr. and Walnut Dr. Included would be recommendations for what the town can do differently with regard to the rain gardens and nuisance flooding, as well as what residents can do. It was noted that the engineers did not believe that further investigation of underground structures was warranted.

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Commissioner Secundy moved to approve the community drainage assessment proposal from Bay Highlands Consultants in the amount of \$9,750. The motion was seconded and approved by all.

### **Commissioners' Reports**

Commissioner Brewington reported that repair of the large pier will be completed in two stages. The first will be the replacement of missing planks and securing of existing planks with screws. A barrier will be erected closing off access to the stand. Work may begin as soon as next week. The second stage will be the replacement of the stand, which will require a boat and jack. A recommendation is being provided for a contractor to complete this stage. The table is also expected to be replaced and secured with bolts. Total cost is estimated at \$1600-\$1800.

The Bruce St. pier is in good stead. There is no plan to install a rail. There was never a rail there because the pier was constructed for the purpose of floating kayaks and boats. A rail would impede that purpose. The plan is to leave the design as-is, and as it has been insured with that design, the lack of a rail is not seen as a liability. Commissioner Fuller suggested consulting an attorney regarding the potential liability of not having a rail.

Commissioner Secundy reported that no new zoning applications have come in since the last meeting.

Commissioner Fuller had no report.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Citizens' Input**

The meeting was again opened for citizens' input.

**Set next meeting date and adjourn**

The next meeting was set for 11:00 a.m. on Jan. 29, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Miller Scott, Town Manager