



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: February 19, 2022

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

Citizens' Input

Comments were received from citizens.

Journal Review and Approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Murchison to approve the journal from January 29, 2022. The motioned was seconded and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Murchison gave the Treasurer's report, stating that the treasury balance across all accounts is over \$440,028.55. Expenses are expected to increase as we approach the spring/summer season.

Mayor's Report

Boundary Survey Submitted – The annual boundary survey has been submitted. There were no changes to the town's boundaries.

Drainage Study Update – The drainage study for storm water management and runoff has been started. The company conducting the study has walked the grounds and will come out again within the next two weeks to complete the onsite work. A report is expected shortly thereafter.

Power Lines Underground – BGE has provided an estimate of \$1.55M plus approx. \$3K per homeowner to underground all primary and secondary services. Additional large electrical

boxes would have to be installed in some of the yards and some homeowners would incur additional costs to upgrade their electrical service in order to be compatible with the underground system. Of the nine outages recorded in the last three years, having the power lines underground would only have prevented four, so it does not appear to be a cost effective solution. The mayor will be presenting to the board some new technologies that homeowners can use to provide power to their individual homes when the grid goes out.

American Rescue Plan Webinar – Mayor Sanders attended a webinar hosted by the Maryland Municipal League to help communities understand what can and cannot be done with the ARP funds. One thing discussed was the Revenue Loss Provision Standard Allowance, which allows up to \$10M in revenue losses related to COVID to be claimed without demonstrating what that loss is. The money can be spent for general government services. The mayor is still trying get answers on what expenditures are allowable before moving forward. One proposed initiative is to replace the gas generators and tanks at the town hall and with solar battery backups (at the town hall and the museum). More information on that will be forthcoming.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant – The application process for the NFWF grant for the Living Shoreline project is about to commence. Applications are due in April. Since this grant maxes out at \$500K it would not cover the entire cost of the project, but would be a backup to the grant application that has already been submitted.

Pavilion – The mayor gave a presentation to the state budget committee requesting funding for the Dr. Mary Church Terrell Pavilion project. The hope is that the project will be approved by the reviewing committee and subsequently make it into the state's general operating budget. Once the state completes its budget we will know whether the project has been approved.

Living Shoreline Webinar – The mayor attended a 3.5-hour webinar that looked at living shorelines installed in this and other areas. Presenters included experts from the state of Maryland, and attendees were able to ask questions. A recording of the webinar will be posted online. Anyone who is interested can contact the mayor for a link.

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Fuller – Reached out to the Maryland Dept. of Legislative Services to find out how other municipalities organize and store their ordinances. It was advised that the ordinances be codified, which entails organizing them in sequential order, and provides for a lawyer to review them to ensure that they conform to state law. Commissioner Fuller was referred to several companies that do this type of work and reached out for cost estimates. All the ordinances are currently located in one place, but are in several different formats and are not in any particular order. The Dept. of Legislative Services contact also indicated that any charter or annexation amendments should be filed, and the last charter amendment on file was in 2000. There appears to be an amendment that occurred in 2019 which apparently has not been filed.

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 a.m. on March 19, 2022

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Miller Scott, Town Manager