



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

August 28, 2021

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

Citizens' Input

The meeting was opened for citizens' input.

Journal Review and Approval

A motion was made by Commissioner Secundy to approve the journal from July 24, 2021. It was seconded and approved by all.

Treasurer's Report

Commissioner Murchison gave the Treasurer's report and stated that the finances look good and financial reports for last month had been distributed. Treasury balance is \$404,210.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sanders expressed appreciation to Eric Baugh for 4 years of service as a Commissioner, and welcomed new commissioners, Jeanne Murchison and Michelle Fuller.

Mayor Sanders appointed commission leaders:

Planning and Zoning - Benjamin Secundy

Finance and Treasurer – Jeanne Murchison

Public Works – Eric Brewington

Governmental – Michele Fuller

Mayor Sanders nominated Commissioner Ben Secundy to serve as Vice Mayor. Jeanne Murchison moved to accept the nomination. It was seconded and approved by all.

Mayor Sanders assigned Eric Baugh [Correction, the mayor misspoke, and meant to say Commissioner Fuller] to lead the effort to review the town ordinances and determine whether the ordinance booklet needed to be updated.

The Maryland Municipal League's annual conference will be held in Ellicott City this year. Board members were asked if they were interested in attending.

Many people expressed a willingness to serve on the Highland Beach Volunteer Safety Patrol. Duties of the safety patrol are to monitor assigned areas and report safety issues. Persons selected to fill the 4 slots will be announced later. A 5th slot was added for a citizen particularly well qualified to serve as the safety patrol report manager.

An ambitious list of major initiatives is planned for this fiscal year, the feasibility of which is currently being evaluated.

Due to the skyrocketing cost of lumber during COVID, the replacement of timber groins has been placed on hold and will be revisited in November. If costs are lower at that time, the project will be brought back to the Board for approval.

Because Anne Arundel County has been reported to have a high COVID-19 transmission rate and only 50% of residents are fully vaccinated, it is unclear when Highland Beach facilities will reopen.

We are awaiting final approval of funds applied for from the American Rescue Fund (ARP) to install equipment in the town hall and museum. Additional legitimate ways to use the funds are also being considered.

The decision has been made not to change auditing firms.

Mayor Sanders gave a 'shout out' to 3 town residents:

Nathaniel Johnson – for putting up the backboard for the basketball court.

Charles Newton – for consistently cleaning up the beach

Zora Lathan – for creating the Highland Beach FAQ document

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Secundy reported that playground repairs are ongoing and should be complete in a couple of weeks.

Commissioner Brewington reported that a different approach to replacing the basketball court will be taken than previously considered. Dumpsters will be placed on Wayman Ave. on Sept. 27th for 24 hours. For liability reasons, security personnel should not transport people to the beach. Due to weather, the security company has missed 3 days of the contracted season. It is recommended that those days be added to the end of the season, which technically ends on Labor Day.

Commissioner Fuller stated that she had previously submitted a report to Mayor Sanders regarding foxes.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Commissioner Secundy recommended that jellyfish nets be installed for the summer of 2022.

Commissioner Fuller proposed replacing the beach chairs in 2022.

Citizens' Input

The meeting was again opened for citizens' input.

Set next meeting date and adjourn

The next meeting was set for 11 am on September 25, 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Miller Scott, Town Manager