



TOWN OF HIGHLAND BEACH

(INCORPORATED 1922)

3243 WALNUT DRIVE

Highland Beach, Maryland 21403

Telephone (443) 837-5184

MAYOR

Crystal Chissell

COMMISSIONER

Michele Fuller

G. William Hunter

Sheila Jeanne Murchison

Linda Holmes Newton

TREASURER

Ronald L. Stokes, Sr.

Board of Commissioners

Monday, February 10, 2025

Virtual via Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm.

In attendance: Mayor Chissell, Vice Mayor Fuller, Commissioners Hunter, Murchison, Newton, Treasurer Stokes.

Review Agenda – The Commissioners reviewed the agenda. Mayor Chissell added the following to the agenda:

- AAHPP grant
- Federal funding

Public Comment – there were no comments.

Review Journal - Motion to approve the January 13, 2025 Journal made by Commissioner Hunter, seconded by Commissioner Newton. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Ronald Stokes presented the Treasurer's Report for January 2025 for the period from January 1 through January 31, 2024. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with date corrections made by Commissioner Fuller, seconded by Commissioner Murchison. Approved unanimously.

Old Business

- Status Updates –
 - Commissioner Newton reminded citizens to check with Anne Arundel County before doing any tree trimming or tree removal.
 - Commissioner Newton reported that she is working on a replacement for the welcome sign at the entrance to the community. The current sign is beyond repair.
 - Commissioner Newton reported that Donald Brown has accepted a contract position as maintenance manager for the town. Donald was a former facilities manager for Howard University and has a background in roofing and other related skills. He has done previous work for the community. Commissioner Murchison said Donald is very knowledgeable, honest and prompt, and has done work for a number of Highland Beach citizens.
 - Commissioner Newton reported that she has ordered coyotes replicas for the purpose of deterring geese on the beach. They will be installed on the beach in March prior to geese nesting.

- Regarding funding that might be affected by the Trump Administration, Mayor Chissell said that the town has seen no direct impacts as of today. However, it remains to be seen how future funding, especially for disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation, will be affected.
- Mayor Chissell reported that the AA County Hazard Mitigation Plan – draft plan is complete. Mayor Chissell will attend an in-person workshop that will be facilitated by the HMP Planning Consultant to identify the mitigation actions and projects to include in the HMP 2025 update. Eligibility of future grant funding is based on the types of mitigation projects and actions that are identified and included in the HMP 2025 update.
- Mayor Chissell reported that the town will need to sign an AAHPP Grant Agreement and Preservation Easement in order to accept a \$106,000 grant from the Maryland Historical Trust. Specifics of the grant and easement conditions will be discussed at the March meeting.
- Security Cameras – the Commissioners discussed the specifics of a proposal to install security cameras at the entrance to the town. The scope of the proposed security camera contract includes the following:
 - Camera plus license plate recognition camera
 - Camera configured to trigger recordings when a person or vehicle crosses the entrance
 - Cameras record on motion 24 hours per day with an average of two weeks of storage
 - Cameras replaced if they stop working
 - Video provided upon request for footage.
 - No monitoring of camera footage by provider
 - Line crossing analytics to count vehicles and pedestrians

Privacy concerns:

- Cameras will be placed in a public area where there is no right to privacy.
- No audio recording.
- No monitoring.
- Footage is provided / reviewed only when requested by authorized person.
- License plate camera does not connect to any government system.
- Can block out views of private residences as needed.

Cost:

- 24 month term
- \$360 per month
- \$4,320 annually
- No upfront installation or equipment costs

Citizen questions:

- Will there be a sign near the camera announcing it is there? Yes.
- How soon can the footage be accessed? Within hours.
- Will cell service be a problem? The system can be set up with Verizon service.
- What is the estimated amount of electricity required? Unknown.
- Camera a camera be installed at the beachfront? It's possible.

Motion to proceed with installing surveillance cameras at the entrance to the town made by Commissioner Hunter and seconded by Commissioner Murchison. Approved unanimously.

New Business

Mayor Chissell appointed John McGuire to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. The Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment.

Public Comment

- What is the status of the Bruce Ave pier? The Commissioners have had difficulty identifying a contractor to do the work, and have only been able to receive one proposal. The one contractor who has responded is booked through 2025.
- What is the status of replacing lower level of Wayman Ave pier? There are no current plans to replace the lower level of the Wayman Ave pier.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.