

## Marshall Labadie

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 2:20 PM  
**To:** Terisha Cuebas  
**Subject:** Save Our Town



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## THEY WORK FOR YOU - KEEP THEM IN LINE!

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### Announcements:

#### Community Events:

**Library Events:** Check out the wonderful events available at the Highland Beach

**Library:** <https://highlandbeach.us/departments/library/>

**Interested in the Rotary:** <https://www.bocasunsetrotary.org/> or call John Ross, 561-266-3700

**Interested in the Shrine:** Contact Bernard Featherman: 561-330-3522.

**St. Lucy Church:** For Mass Schedule, other events, details, contact information: <https://stlucycommunity.com/index.html>  
(561) 278-1280

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

**Planning Board Meeting, Thursday, November 14, 9:30, Town Hall**

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## WHAT IS COMMISSIONER PEGGY UP TO?

Hint – This is a good thing.

Commissioner Peggy Gossett-Seidman has been spending her time getting things done for the Town. Things like actually getting the long-awaited crosswalk lighting installed, and getting the swales renewed in the FDOT right-of-way. Things we need. Things we've been willing to pay for. Things that seem on endless hold.

FDOT actually wanted to dig out the swales (a swale is defined as: "a low or hollow place, especially a marshy depression between ridges). They are the EPA's preferred method of removing/controlling casual water. The water goes into the swale – instead of the street, and then both evaporates and sinks into the ground. FDOT identified some 57 swales that had filled in over the years, and actually started digging them out. Then the two referendums came, along with the idea that we should engage in the paving over of our green roadside strip, and use artificial means to dump the resultant polluted scum into the Intracoastal. So, we twice told FDOT to back off.

In the case of the crosswalk lighting, the Town allocated the funds from the Penny tax to fund them. Then, in the most cynical action to pass any governmental entity, referendum proponents concocted a scheme to hold the implementation of the crosswalks hostage unless we voted for the \$45M boondoggle. Never mind that the money was allocated, or that residents were likely to get killed, no referendum, no crosswalks.

We were left with an intransigent FDOT waiting for our clown car of a Government to finally make up its mind, or skid entirely off the rails.

So, what has Commissioner Peggy done? Sick and tired of the cynicism and sloth, she has gone to the Florida Legislature to enable, and PAY FOR, these long-needed improvements. She met with House Rep. Caruso, and his staff, and he has introduced legislation. She has tirelessly lobbied BOTH parties in our interests. She refused to accept defeat.

Rep. Mike Caruso is an interesting politician. Rather than trying to use vital issues like the swales and the crosswalks to advance his own agenda, he embraced them in a totally non-partisan manner as soon as Commissioner Peggy brought them to his attention. He actually read the mountains of material that she gave him, and even took the time to come to Highland Beach during a monsoon like storm to stand out in the rain and observe how, and where, the water collected. He fashioned reasonable, and passionate arguments to present to the various committees and sub-committees that our bills

will have to navigate to become real. This from a guy whose District runs all the way to Vero Beach! (Ed. Note: I am a lifelong Democrat. I voted against Mike Caruso. I am an VP of our local Democratic Club. I am blown away by Caruso's selfless support of our Town's needs. He has approached this thinking only of the needs of the citizens of our Town, without thought of personal political benefit. I will vote for him next time out!)

House Bill 2159 appropriates \$750,000 for the drainage fix. It PASSED (That's right) the subcommittee UNANIMOUSLY (that's right again!).

House Bill 2185 commits \$200,000 for the crosswalk project. It goes to sub-committee Wednesday.

Thursday at 9:30, Town Manger Marshall Labadie will discuss the crosswalk project at the Planning Board Meeting at Town Hall.

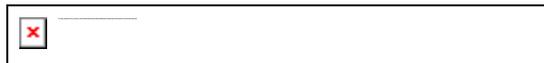
What was too hard for successive Commissions, Peggy and Caruso are actually doing. We need to show our support. Send a note to CSHB showing why this is important, and why we support Rep. Caruso's efforts in our behalf. We will be sure that your feelings wind up in the right hands,

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**The Committee To Save Highland Beach: 734 members strong.**

**Forward this email to your contacts!**

**TO GODZILLA: Don't Come Back!**



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**Joining is as easy as 1,2:**

· Step 1: Send an email to [cshb@cshbfla.com](mailto:cshb@cshbfla.com) with the words: "Count me in". You don't need to identify yourself by name, or address, unless you wish to. We understand that some folks believe taking a stand against this Commission could lead to personal consequences. We will protect your anonymity if you so desire.

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Let us know what you think in an email, and we may publish it in a future post.

Save our Town  
Vote No!

The Committee To Save Highland Beach

CSHB@cshbfla.com

The Committee to Save Highland Beach | 3450 S. Ocean Blvd., apt. 806, highland beach, FL 33487

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## Marshall Labadie

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
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**Subject:** Save Our Town



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(561) 278-1280

**“ALL ARE WELCOME”**

**Town Commission Regular Meeting– November 19, 2019 – 1:30 PM**  
Town Hall.

**Light Up the Holidays and the 70th Town Anniversary Event -**  
December 5, 2019, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

**St. Lucy Catholic Church Christmas Boutique** December 7 and 8,  
2019. More Information: 561-278-1280

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## **LOOK UP! Top of the page! There's a lot going on in the Town.**

**CSHB publishes upcoming events, as well as opportunities for you to get involved in various activities, in every post. You ought to take a gander. We all have busy lives, but this time of year is a good opportunity to get out of the house and mingle with neighbors outside of your Condo. Here a few highlights!**

**There will be a presentation on the Process of Impeachment by FAU Prof. Dr. Timothy Lenz next Wednesday (pretty good timing!) , along with State Sen. Lori Berman speaking about her priorities in the coming session, among which, we hope, will be Commissioner Peggy's Bills to have the State help pay for crosswalk lighting and swale renewal. The Highland Beach Democratic Club is sponsoring this event beginning 5:00 in the Library.**

**The Town is turning 70 and will be hosting a birthday party as well as the annual Light up the Holiday's celebration on December 5 at 6:30. There will be terrific entertainment, music, and (I hope) a cake,**

**St. Lucy Catholic Church will be having its annual Christmas Boutique on December 7 and 8. This annual event has a wonderful selection of gift and fashion items for your Holiday needs. And, it is a great way to support the wonderful charitable mission of the St. Lucy Community. (Full confession, I am not a Christian, nor a shopper, and the word "boutique" scares me to death, but I will be there to at least look around and maybe buy a few things.)**

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## **TWO FOR TWO!!!**

**Yesterday, the State House Subcommittee UNANIMOUSLY passed HB 2185. This Bill helps to fund the long awaited, and much anticipated, crosswalk lighting project. This falls on the heels of the unanimous support of HB 2159 which funds the drainage measures that we need to deal with the water ponding on A1A. The Bills, introduced by Rep. Mike Caruso (we will get Rep. Caruso to Town in person to thank him for his support as soon as possible). These Bills were created at, at the urging of our own Commissioner Peggy, and meet two desperately needed, but long ignored, improvements along the State's road.**

Manager Marshall appeared before the Planning Board this morning to go over the status of the crosswalk project. Very simple: we are being jerked around by FDOT. Every time Marshall thinks he's given FDOT everything they could possibly need, they ask him for something else.

That's where we come in!

The Bills still have to be approved by the full Committees, and then the House itself, as well as State Senate Subcommittees, Senate Committees, and the full Senate, and then signed by the Governor.

Commissioner Peggy can not do this alone. The entire Community needs to show her, and the State Government – including FDOT – that we are united behind Commissioner Peggy and Rep. Caruso. It's very easy to do! Just reply to this post with your support. We will get those messages to the right people. The dozens of CSHB letters that you sent us in the last few days were very helpful in garnering support for the Crosswalk Bill.

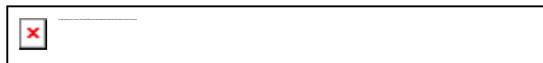
Trust us on this: FDOT is paying attention to what's happening both here and in Tallahassee. SO, lets show them know how we feel!

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**The Committee To Save Highland Beach: 1040 members strong.**

**Forward this email to your contacts!**

**TO GODZILLA: Don't Come Back!**



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**Marshall Labadie**

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach Corp. <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2020 2:34 PM  
**To:** Terisha Cuebas  
**Subject:** Save Our Town



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**Government Public Meetings:**

**Town Commission Regular Meeting January 21, 2020 - 01:30 PM**

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**Announcements:**

**Community Events:**

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**St. Lucy Church: For Mass Schedule, other events, details, contact information: <https://stlucycommunity.com/index.html> (561) 278-1280. Be sure to check the St. Lucy Website for Mass times and other events around Christmas**

**“ALL ARE WELCOME”**

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## **Commissioner Peggy Reports on Progress in Tallahassee:**

First, it is amazing that all the way in Tallahassee, Highland Beach was known for two things: the Baby Jesus stolen from St. Lucy Church, and how we own the No. 1 best reverse osmosis water plant in the State. Dozens of people chattered to me about both topics. So while we may be a small town, our news still travels 438 miles to Tallahassee.

**PURPOSE OF TRIP:** To meet with heads and members of the Senate and House Appropriations Committee, meet with Sen. Kevin Rader and Rep. Mike Caruso , and make our presence known to other key players regarding our bills. Also I will meet with League of Cities Officials and attend their functions. The trip is not an expense to taxpayers except for photocopies.

**HISTORY:** The Highland Beach Appropriations Requests were submitted to the Florida State House of Representatives in October by State Representative Mike Caruso. HB2159 for Drainage improvements requests \$750,000. It passed the Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee. HB2189 for Crosswalks requesting \$201,523 passed the House Dept. of Transportation and Tourism Subcommittee. Both bills passed with unanimous votes, and were sent to the House Appropriations Committee.

Meanwhile, our Florida State Senator, Kevin Rader (District 29), filed the same Appropriations Requests in the Senate, and both were published extremely quickly. At the Senate, that is said to be a sign of a fully viable bill.

On the Opening Day of the Legislative Session 2020, both bills were formally introduced to the House. Bill HJ137, for Drainage Improvements, would be funded through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Bill HJ138 (for Crosswalks) was set for one-time funding through the Department of Transportation (FDOT).

In the next step, the bills will be heard by both the Senate and the House Appropriations Committees: sometime between now and mid-to late-February. If the bills pass, they must be signed into law by Gov. DeSantis. The session ends mid-March.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY:** The key reason to attend was to meet with as many members of the two Appropriations Committees as possible. I prepared reports for each containing the bills' summary, photos of

flooding, crosswalk plans, and background on the town. I met with 14 Senators and Representatives on Appropriations, and made contact with another 4. Sometimes it was fortuitous to find them in their offices. Other times I made appointments and waited for their return from Committee work or other meetings. Plus I met with key people in government, personal contacts who are key players and assisted me from both the Republican and Democratic sides. Partisan politics plays somewhat of a role in Tallahassee, but so far we have had positive feedback and support from both sides.

**REASONS WE HAVE VERY GOOD CHANCES AT SUCCESS FOR BOTH BILLS:**

**1. Gov. DeSantis:** He lists top issues in this legislative session as the environment, sea-level rise and climate change. Our Drainage bill falls into this category, we explained how we have a dire need to improve our resilience now. The Governor has set aside a \$6 million grant program for local governments battling sea-level rise. That would be an obvious fit for our request. In conjunction, he is seeking higher standards for nutrient runoffs into waterways from agriculture, and reduced septic tank seepage. These indirectly affect Highland Beach by eventual runoff into the waters that surround us. Crosswalks are pure safety of citizens!

**2. Return on Investment:** The more we work now to improve our roadway, the less we will have to seek from the State in future fiscal years. We will have better crosswalks, more resistance to storms, safer evacuations in hurricanes, and less emergency assistance or road improvements required later.

**3. Tourist Industry:** The Delray Sands parking lot is totally flooded during king tides and unusable many other days. A1A is sometimes difficult to drive through. This hurts tourism. Keeping our roadway clear and safe to traffic is necessary to maintain business at our only hotel. For our motorist, bicyclist and pedestrian safety: poorly marked crosswalks are accidents waiting to happen. Upgraded crosswalks combined with drained streets improves safety and the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

It's as simple as that.

**4. Representation:** Rep. Caruso, and Sen. Rader are working closely with each other. They are from different sides of the aisle, and represent bipartisan support for our Bills.

**WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?** I am awaiting a meeting in person with Senate Pres. Galvano in mid-Feb. if approved during League of Cities Legislative Action Days. I will meet with other appropriations Committee members and key persons on both sides. That includes Speaker of the House Jose Oliva of Miami, whose district is well aware and already taking action on sea-level rise.

Also, the word is out. Before I even met with Senator Thurston (D-33) Ft. Lauderdale, he said, "No, no never mind, I got the memo. We got you, we know about you and you are preaching to the choir." Also Sen. Audrey Gibson, Democratic chimed in, also unexpectedly positive.

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## **Street Parking Debacle:**

**Ed. Note:** Our Commission has been debating side street parking seemingly since the beginning of time. Some time ago, they asked Manager Marshall and Chief of Police for recommendations, which they began debating, yet again, last week. This will end when the Commission realizes (for example) that parking rules are not like plans to rebuild the streets. Once you start digging up the street, you are committed to a long-term investment. Parking rules can be changed anytime by buying a few signs.

But the Commission keeps going on forever about this. The meetings are absurd. Or as our friend Geoff describes:

" During the last commission meeting, on the topic of side street parking we heard conflicting statements from our Commissioners:

Commissioner "A" said that most people that live on a side street favor a total ban on street parking.

Commissioner "B" said that most people who live on a side street are in favor of the current code that allows on street parking.

Commissioner "C" gave her own opinion that parking should continue to be allowed on side streets.

Commissioner "D" said let's just get this over with, whatever, I agree to anything.

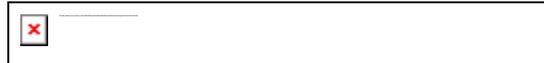
Commissioner "E " spoke about Mahjong. "

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**TO GODZILLA: Don't Come Back!**



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Save our Town

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The Committee To Save Highland Beach	CSHB@cshbfla.com
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## Marshall Labadie

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach Corp. <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:05 PM  
**To:** Terisha Cuebas  
**Subject:** Save Our Town



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## THEY WORK FOR YOU - KEEP THEM IN LINE!

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### Government Public Meetings:

Commission Special Meeting March 24, 2020 - 01:30 PM . Maybe public, maybe not. Everyone's gone nuts, but as of now, the NEW Commission will be sworn in on schedule.

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### Announcements:

#### Community Events:

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Be sure to check the [St. Lucy Website](#) for Mass times, Fr. Horgan's YOUTUBE feed, and all events.

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

[Visit St. Lucy website](#)

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## Shabbat Services here in Highland Beach:

Everyone is accepted, respected and connected with Rabbi David. There are no dues or memberships. Services are conducted the second Friday of each month. For location and to RSVP:

[Visit Come to the Tent website](#)

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## Dear CSHB World:

So, we're all stuck in for awhile. It would be good to share. Please write to us and let us know how you're getting along, feeling, what's funny, what's not. Tips. Tricks. Recipes (especially useful for millennials who have never seen a stove actually work). Whatever. We will share with the community; as always keeping your identity private.

Try it - it's something to do. It's therapy; Better than looking at each other endlessly.

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## Corona Virus Notes - Day 5:

[Corona Advice From CSHB](#)

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## A Day Off:

**Here at CSHB, we have been relentless in our criticism of the Town Commission. Given the current crisis, and the imminent replacement of Barry and Rhoda by sane individuals, we thought that this would be a good time to show our softer, more magnanimous side.**

**Unfortunately, we couldn't bring ourselves to do it.**

**Count on our good friend Ricky to step up and do it for us:**

As usual, in your last few communications, you made multiple cogent points. Certainly, our government is a Town Manager system in which the Commission should hire/fire the Town Manager and be involved in policy, high level oversight, exercise fiduciary responsibility and adopt strategic plans. Operations and action plans should be under the purview of the Town Manager and Staff. The Commission should resist the very human temptation to micromanage, particularly as they are unlikely to be subject matter experts on many topics that may come before them. I agree with you.

However, I wouldn't be so harsh. At the last Commission meeting in February Mayor Zelniker publicly recognized the Town Manager approach and how the Commission should continue to work towards it. In fairness, we must also consider that it takes time to build trust. Mr. Labadie was appointed during a period of turmoil. To be kind, he was not asked to assume command of a well oiled machine. He was more handed a bucket and advised to start bailing and caulking. We have witnessed turnover on the Commission and a very divisive referendum. Significant distrust in all directions was a result. (As an active critic of the referendum misadventure, I am not about to defend the Commission on that one).

However, the Commission has since worked very diligently (if not necessarily efficiently) on long neglected issues such as crosswalks, building codes, parking, enforcement, advisory board processes while investigating a host of others including beach re-nourishment, plantings, cleanup, storm drains, A1A drainage, water quality etc. etc. While doing so the Commission (in particular the Mayor) has been extremely solicitous of public feelings and comment. It's a very long list of items—probably too long for the size of the Town staff and leadership bench strength to manage completely. Even so, at the last meeting we heard that the yearly financial report was cited for excellence and that our finances are in great shape. We also learned that for the first time, Commissioner Seidman working with Rep. Caruso has a good chance of securing state funding for public safety improvements (including crosswalks) along A1A.

Yes, there have been setbacks. I tend to cringe whenever I hear we may acquire or contract for something without first going through a RFP or other competitive, professional review process. It bothers me when we tout great progress and then seem to step back to outsourcing in our Building Department (although that has since been remedied). The recent bidding on the long contemplated crosswalks project coming in at 100% over estimates is discouraging and raises multiple questions about process.

Nevertheless, while I agree that as concerned residents we should remain alert and participatory, it is also time to commend the Commission, Town Manager and staff for their hard work and achievements.

Is there room to get better—of course. That's why performance improvement and quality processes need to be part of the culture of every organization. I look forward to the Town being run more like an efficient business. I look forward to seeing a strategic plan and tracking dashboards as we move to the future. I look forward to more presentations and plans presented to the Commission by the Town Manager and relevant staff after having been reviewed by appropriate advisory boards. Proposals for voting shouldn't reach the Commission until they represent the Town Manager's best recommendations for approval. This to be followed by thoughtful Commission review accompanied by less dithering over details. While efficient governance is clearly still a work in progress. I choose to be watchful, but optimistic.

In the 20 months or so that I have been regularly attending meetings, I see improvement. We are fortunate to have a myriad of dedicated people. Are we where we want to be. Not yet. Are we better off from a governance standpoint now compared to a year or two ago? I vote a definite yes.

Highland Beach—a very nice place to live.

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## **Yesterday's Commission Special Meeting:**

**Yesterday the Commission passed a Declaration of Emergency. It details changes in services that might effect you. Follow this link read the declaration in its entirety:**

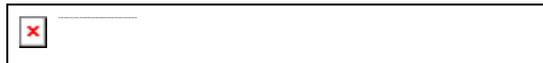
## Declaration of Emergency

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**Marshall Labadie**

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach Corp. <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 10, 2020 12:00 PM  
**To:** Terisha Cuebas  
**Subject:** Save Our Town



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**Government:**

06/16/2020 - 1:30pm Virtual Commission Meeting  
06/11/2020 - 2:00pm Virtual Planning Board Regular Meeting

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**Announcements:**

**Community Events:**

Rotary is virtual. The Shriner's are closed.

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**St. Lucy Catholic Church:**

In-person Mass has returned. For Mass Schedules and other announcements please visit the St. Lucy website by clicking below.

[Visit St. Lucy website](#)

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**Shabbat Services here in Highland Beach:**

Are cancelled until further notice. Please check the website below for updates.

Visit Come to the Tent website

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## Gallows Humor:



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## WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE #2

**We're going to drop this topic for awhile. It's not that it's a boring or bad topic. it's just that budget season is coming fast, and the Town budget will likely occupy us for a good long time.**

**However, the Town Commission had better do something about water that they have been very bad at doing in the past: create a plan that is comprehensive, measurable and that actually gets implemented. What usually happens is pontification tempered with arrogance followed by.....nothing.**

**During their last meeting the Commission listened to an expert, and began talking about beaches, dredging, the Intracoastal and street water. They threw out possible steps like meeting regularly with the Mayors of Boca and Delray to forge a unified approach to dredging, and enacting the passive measures to deal with street ponding.**

**Now, the Commission has to enact a real project plan to get this done - not an item on a white board. A project plan is a detailed set of time-boxed tasks to get project steps done before the dredging starts again.**

**The good news: We've got about four years to get everything done. . The bad news: if we are unable to install a crosswalk lighting after a year of trying, planning and execution of a comprehensive water project in four years may be impossible.**

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## Easy Idea to Help with Street Ponding from Joe:

**Serious rain last week resulted in very large lakes along A1A. Driving down the street I saw several condos - and one private house - running their sprinklers in the middle of a monsoon.**

**If the Commission was serious about handling street water, why don't they pass an ordinance requiring that automatic sprinkler systems be required to install moisture sensors so that they do not turn on during pouring rain. Such devices will lower the amount of water on the streets during storms, cost less than \$50, would lower water bills, and would help keep greenery healthy.**

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## **Ricky Weighs In:**

*Occasional Correspondent Ricky(who writes far better than we do)weighs in with comments on our recent posts:*

**Very newsy report. Very consistent view of our beach in the expert presentations—some parts better, some a little worse, all subject to change with storms but, in direct conflict with the alarmists, no major change over at least a generation.**

**It's critical that as Marshall settles in to his position he develops good personal and working relationships with managers of neighboring communities. The beach is a good start. Milani Park and the county planners is another. It's getting closer to budget time with the same big ticket items.**

**I'm happy with our water, but did we ever figure out what a gallon of water costs us compared to other communities?**

**Has anyone approached Boca to see if there is any potential interest in providing Fire/Rescue services.(We tried 8 years ago and there was no interest but that no longer suffices as a current answer.) Delray has been fine, but at a high cost. No emergency, but trying for an alternative wouldn't hurt. Something Marshall could broach as he develops relationships with the decision makers.**

**The drainage issue with select houses and condos is presumably a work in progress as originally defined by Jeff Massie. I have no idea of that ongoing project's status since his departure.**

**Happy about our improved governance.**

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**The Committee To Save Highland Beach: 1061 emails strong.**

**Forward this email to your contacts!**

**TO GODZILLA: Don't Come Back!**



## Joining is as easy as 1,2:

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Save our Town



The Committee To Save Highland Beach	CSHB@cshbfla.com
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**Marshall Labadie**

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach Corp. <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 1:50 PM  
**To:** Terisha Cuebas  
**Subject:** Save Our Town



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**THEY WORK FOR YOU - KEEP THEM IN LINE!**

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**Government:**

07/01/2020 - 9:30am Virtual Natural Resources Preservation Advisory Board Regular Meeting  
07/07/2020 - 1:30pm Commission Meeting  
07/09/2020 - 9:30am Virtual Planning Board Regular Meeting  
07/09/2020 - 2:00pm Financial Advisory Board Regular Meeting

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**Announcements:**

**Community Events:**

Rotary is virtual. The Shriner's are closed.

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**St. Lucy Catholic Church:**

In-person Mass has returned. For Mass Schedules and other announcements please visit the St. Lucy website by clicking below.

[Visit St. Lucy website](#)

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**Shabbat Services here in Highland Beach:**

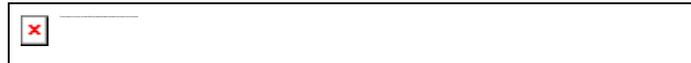
Are cancelled until further notice. Please check the website below for updates.

Visit Come to the Tent website

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## Gallows Humor:



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## FIRE FIASCO:

Every year we get an estimate of what our costs will be of our Fire and Rescue contract from Delray. Last year we were astounded by the amount of the projected increase that forced the Commission to increase our tax rate for the first time in years (Turns out Delray was wrong about the math, and we actually didn't need the increase. Water under the bridge).

When we received the notice this year, we were more than astounded, we were in shock. Delray wants to increase our costs by adding 4 additional personnel to the Highland Beach Station at our expense. That would raise our costs by over 10% next year in spite of a 75% offset from a Grant. That Grant will shrink to a 35% offset in 2021 and shrink to nothing from then on. Oh, we almost forgot! Delray hasn't negotiated a new contract with their firefighters, and that will be many dollars that we have to pony up.

When the grant disappears, all things being equal, Highland Beach will pay for about 15% of Delray's fire budget. Highland Beach's population is about 5% of Delray's. That cost is becoming too much for us to afford, and we could be sending Delray 50% of our total budget by 2022.

**WAIT JUST A MINUTE, John. WE DON'T REMEMBER APPLYING FOR ANY GRANT. What's UP?**

- The reason that you never heard of Delray F&R applying for a Grant is that they never told us.
- But they did tell the Delray Commission which voted 3-2 to approve the scheme.
- The decision to add the extra staff was made entirely by Delray.

- **Delray thinks that the Highland Beach fire station belongs to them.**
- **Highland Beach pays all of the bills.**

**The extra staff will add two firefighters, and two EMTs to Highland Beach's current complement of staffing . You would think that this addition would be desperately needed to meet Highland Beach's needs. Nope. By any measure, the current staffing level is more than enough for HB's needs. (What did we have, like two fires last year?). Response time is great, the staff is great.**

**Manager Marshall was shocked and dismayed when he saw that Delray F&R wanted to add the extra personnel. You'd think that at least one of Delray's Commissioners would ask: "Is Highland Beach good with this?" Surprise, surprise the answer is that none of them did in spite of the fact that we would be eating the cost.**

**But there's one saving grace: Delray needs us to agree to amend our contract with them in order for us to pick up the tab. That contract specifies that Highland Beach will pay for 22.5 full time staff. So, in order for Delray F&R to get what they want, Highland Beach would have to agree to amend our contract.**

**Manager Marshall went over to Delray to talk to the Fire Department. Said it was unlikely that our Commission would vote to add the extra staff considering that we don't need them and can't afford them.**

**They said: "OK, then we will terminate the contract" (or words to that effect).**

**They could give us notice, but they couldn't void the contract without THREE YEARS NOTICE! In that time, we could build our own Fire Dep't. and EMT service. Hell, we could do that in a year with no trouble, and probably save \$1M/yr at least. Delray would lose the use of our fire station, the fire truck, the ambulance. And they would lose about \$5M/yr.**

**Additionally, they would have to figure out how to respond to the roughly 50% of the calls that the Highland Beach Fire and Rescue Department answers yearly in Delray Beach and Gulf Stream, but that are paid for totally by Highland Beach. (Speaking of Gulfstream: they are also serviced by Delray, but they are not being asked to pay for any of the increased staff. That bill is just for us.)**

**When all of this went to our Commission, there was unanimous outrage. There seems to be a growing consensus that our marriage with Delray Fire and Rescue is going to end badly. Mayor Hillman called the Delray letter "unacceptable". If they want to pay for four extra staff to be stationed in our firehouse, fine. If Delray has the money to pay for this unneeded staff, great. If Delray wants to waste its citizens money, fine, but they are not allowed to waste our money.**

**Delray Fire and Rescue seem to be under the impression that they – not our Town Commission, make policy for Highland Beach, and that they, not us, are in charge of our budget and spending. That may be true in Delray – but NOT IN HIGHLAND BEACH! CSHB believes that a termination of the contract is inevitable, and should be explored now. We respect our Commission (even if we give them a hard time). Delray apparently thinks that our Commission are patsy’s. They’ll learn.**

**Our Commission decided to send Vice Mayor Babij to speak to the three Delray Commissioners that voted for this deal. Maybe he can talk some sense into them, or at least ask where they got the jurisdiction to raise our taxes. We’d love to get the answer to that.**

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## **WHAT TO DO ABOUT WATER, THE BEACH, A1A WATER, AND THE INTRACOASTAL:**

**Commissioner Peggy presented a wide-ranging description of the impact of dredging on the reef ecosystem and shoreline along our Coast. She, and vice-mayor Babij, suggested the need to have an environmental lawyer look at the problems and suggest alternatives. Other Commissioners noted that suing either the Federal Government and/or Boca would be a fruitless and expensive proposition.**

**At the end of her presentation, Peggy was assigned the job of finding out the feelings of surrounding jurisdictions, and fomenting a movement to save the sand before it gets stolen again, and Commissioner Peggy, and many residents, make a convincing case that the erosion of Highland Beach has reached a critical stage. Further, there are a wide range of problems with water across the Town. The Natural Resources Board meets on July 1 and will deal with lots of the erosion/water issues.**

**What we need is a plan dealing with all of our water issues: beach erosion, the reservoir of Beach Compatible Sand (BCS), Boca stealing our BCS, the rising Intracoastal and seawalls, the swales, and the runoff from inadequate passive drainage along A1A. These need to be put into a project plan with key milestones so that we can measure progress, budget funds, make decisions, and solve each problem. This is doable if the Commissioners, the Board, and Manager Marshall take coordinated action.**

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## OTHER COMMISSION MATTERS:

The Highland Beach seal will be modernized, but you probably won't notice the difference. New fonts, less colors, simplified content. It's better. Look for it; coming soon to a water tower near you.

[Click here to see the seal](#)

The Town has a new ordinance for docks on vacant property. Our long nightmare is over.

Highland Beach has a new water main reaming company.

And, Manager Marshall will take the Town's TO-DO list off of his white board so that the Commission can set priorities.

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**Forward this email to your contacts!**

**TO GODZILLA: Don't Come Back!**



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**Marshall Labadie**

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**From:** The Committee to Save Highland Beach Corp. <cshb@cshbfla.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 1:07 PM  
**To:** Terisha Cuebas  
**Subject:** Save Our Town



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**Government:**

**09/01/2020 - 1:30pm Virtual Town Commission Meeting**

**09/08/2020 - 5:01pm Virtual Commission Special First Public Hearing Budget Meeting**

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**Announcements:**

Rotary is virtual. The Shriner's are closed.

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**St. Lucy Catholic Church:**

**The Church has re-opened for Mass. Please follow the link below, or call the Church at 561-278-1280 for updates and Mass schedule.**

[Visit St. Lucy website](#)

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## Gallows Humor:

**My goal was to lose  
15 pounds this year.  
Only 20 to go**

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### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

OK, we're making progress. Astounding.

The Commission realized that they had put more on Manager Marshall's desk than he and his staff could possibly do all at once. So, in a stroke of pure genius, the Commission asked him write down everything that he had on his "to do" list, and they would go over each item, and rank them. He did, and they started in. This exercise will spread over two meetings to give everybody a chance to review the items, do preliminary rankings, and revise.

There are several criteria that you could apply to rankings like this. What has to be done because the consequences of not doing something are too dire to contemplate (fix the sewers?). What needs to be done because the residents demand that we do it (crosswalk lighting?). What is already underway, and we don't want to let it languish (The Town's new administrative computer system?). You get the idea.

CASHB, always seeks to inform and get input from the public. **THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO WEIGH IN!** Following are the spreadsheets that came out of the meeting. What do you think should be the highest priorities? Where did the Commission go wrong? What's left out? What should have been left out?

It's up to you. Explain what needs to be changed, and we'll publish. We know that the Commissioners read what you send us, so feel free. If you want to see the Commission's discussion (maybe to answer the question "...what are they

thinking?) just go to the Highland Beach website and watch the video. It's right at the beginning.

## **Master List of Projects & Initiative**

### **Commenced:**

- 1.PBA Collective Bargaining Agreement (30 days)**
- 2.FOP Collective Bargaining/General Employees (60 days)**
- 3.Undertake Sanitary Sewer Collection System Evaluation -- CCTV (60 days)**
- 4.Maintain 5-year Capital Improvement Projects Program (60 days)**
- 5.FY 2020-2025 Water & Sewer Rate Study (30 days)**
- 6.Crosswalk Enhancement Project (120 days)**
- 7. Fire Rescue Services Contract Audit (180 days)**
- 8. Study Alternate Fire Rescue Service Models (180 days)**
- 9. Install ERP IT System: BS&A Modules Permitting, GL, Fixed Assets, Cash Receipting, AP/AR, PO, Utility Billing (210 Days)**
- 10. Collaborate with Palm Beach County on Cam Milani Park Development (365 days)**
- 11. Develop a Communication Plan (300 days)**
- 12. Maintain participation in Southeast Palm Beach County Coastal Resiliency Partnership & Climate Vulnerability Assessment (180 days)**

### **Planned:**

- 1. Draft Right-of-Way (ROW) Disruption Ordinance**
- 2. Maintain & Refine 5-year Financial Forecast Model**
- 3 A1A Drainage/Flooding Issues**
- 4 Continue Strategic Budget Process**
- 5 Charter Review Process**

- 6 Establish Condominium/HOA/Commission Partnership Forum**
- 7 Create Fund Balance Guidelines & Financial Benchmarking Process (FAB)**
- 8 Implement 2020 FIRM Flood Maps/Ordinance Revision**
- 9 Update Building Administrative Code Section -- 7th Edition of Florida Building Code**
- 10 Complete Salary Table & Job Description Update**
- 11 Develop Community Survey & Engagement Process**
- 12 Dune Management & Restoration**
- 13 Define Purchasing/AP/AR Process, Roles & Responsibilities**
- 14 Define Human Resource/Personnel Roles & Responsibilities**
- 15 Systematic Update of the Town Code of Ordinances**
- 16 Implement Geographic Information System (GIS) & Expand Capacity**
- 17 Engage in FDOT RRR Project Design & Construction**
- 18. Public Record Digitization & Management Project**
- 19. Improve Recycling and Waste Reduction Rates**

**Emerging Issues:**

- 1. Address Aging/Under-built Infrastructure, Facilities & Structures**
- 2. Climate Change/Sea Level Rise effect upon Intercoastal Waterways**
- 3. Outdated Management Systems**
- 4. Demand Web-based and Alternative Library Materials & Resources**

**Also on the agenda was a proposed ordinance to require contractors to get a permit from the Town before blocking the streets to do work. The Commission figured that might be a nice thing to know about in advance.**

**Several eagle-eyed residents were concerned that this might be an attempt by the Commission to railroad a new ordinance through without public participation. Some were also concerned by potential over regulation.**

**Fear not, the Commission kicked it around some, and then referred it to Committee to evaluate. So, you all have plenty of opportunity to weigh in.**

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