

At the June 27th meeting, Commissioner Stamps, in his board comments, stated that “what this board is doing is destroying the community of Holiday Island” and “assessments are out of hand.” He then went on to assert that Holiday Island had \$1.5 million profit in 2021.

I find these allegations highly offensive, and I suspect the remainder of the board does, as well. Most of this board has worked positively with district staff to understand our financial position, assure the financial stability of the district, and maintain a level of service that positively impacts property values. Mr. Stamp’s statements are based on a lie. The district did not make \$1.5 million in profit in 2021.

In his year on the board, Mr. Stamps has maligned the administrative staff by declaring in an open meeting that ‘no one knows what they are doing.’ This is the same staff that receives compliments from the independent auditor for the accuracy and completeness of their documentation. Mr. Stamps has railed about the accounting system. This is the same accounting system that is used by many Arkansas municipalities, as well as other cities nationwide, and is considered a premier software for small cities. And yet Mr. Stamps has not availed himself of daily opportunities to talk with staff to understand the accounting system, either through conversations with the office staff, the district manager, the accountant, or the auditor.

Mr. Stamps has yet to offer a positive suggestion. He wants to cut costs, but won’t say where or when. He sat through the entire budget development process, and hopefully observed the impossibility of meeting major maintenance issues with our current income. Perhaps he remembers the deteriorating pool decking that could not be funded, the upgrades to the computerized water systems that we could not afford, the boat docks that are sorely needed and yet out of our reach, the air conditioners that need replacing...\$2.2 million in maintenance and upkeep requests...and we could only fund \$400,000.

An effective board member takes the time to learn the systems of the organization, understand the reasons for routines and processes, and reviews all information provided to him. Mr. Presley regularly and effectively keeps all board members aware of ongoing projects and problems. He provides the board with easily understandable bar graphs and other charts to track income/expense and assessment collections. He is available at any time to answer questions.

Mr. Stamps frequently declares ‘we must be good stewards of the property owners’ money.’ This board, and this staff, are good stewards of the property owners’ money. I challenge him to work with us.