

Last week, commissioners received an email from a resident, alleging negligence and personal liability, for all current and past commissioners, citing neglect of our infrastructure. I asked that the district manager forward the email to the district's attorney, who then assured commissioners that all district and commissioner actions were legal, and appropriate, and within the purview of Arkansas law.

This resident has posted significant allegations and strident demands on social media. I want to assure all property owners, *regardless* of what you read on social media, that Holiday Island provides efficient, effective, safe, and legal community services, all within the constraints of its budget.

Would we like to complete every major maintenance project? Would we like to upgrade water lines? Would we like to repave every road? Would we like to hire additional firemen? Of course, we would. However, just like you and me, Holiday Island has to live within a budget.

In budget sessions last year, after we reviewed fixed, usual, and customary costs, approximately \$400,000 remained for major maintenance projects, yet we faced over \$2 million in needed maintenance and improvement requests.

That was my first year, working with other commissioners, in establishing a budget. I quickly realized the dilemma that current and past boards have faced. There is not enough income to complete all needed projects, and priorities must be set. And those priorities have always been infrastructure and safety. Each year, since 2012, between 70-90% of those few precious extra dollars have been spent on water, sewer, roads, or fire/EMS.

Social media posts advocate that commissioners 'defund' the amenities. As a commissioner, I do not feel that I can vote to abandon any of the amenities. The value of those amenities comprises a portion of the value of your assessment. If the amenities were abandoned...*no golf course, no marina, no swimming pools, no campground...*a new Assessment of Benefits would be required, and which would result in lowered assessments, *because the value of your property would be drastically lowered*. This would mean that even less money would be available to meet the needs of the community.

To the degree possible, it is the board's responsibility to maintain those amenities. Realtors indicate that the amenities are what 'sell' Holiday Island. Without its easy access to boating, fishing, golf, swimming, tennis, its low density of population, and its scenic beauty, Holiday Island would be just another subdivision in just another town. Why would you live here?

Please remember this about those who serve on the board. We are your friends. We are your neighbors. We all made the decision to move to Holiday Island. We all live in Holiday Island. We want the best for Holiday Island. You elected us to serve in this position because you trusted us to use our intelligence, and our common sense, to maintain and improve the community where we all chose to live. We accept that task. We rely on **proven, qualified professionals** who know and understand the Holiday Island infrastructure and its needs. We will do our best for your property values, and for you.