

Town of North Topsail Beach

Daniel Tuman, Mayor
Joann M. McDermon, Mayor Pro Tem
Aldermen:
Mike Benson
Jeremy Grove
Tom Leonard
Richard Peters



Bryan Chadwick, MPA
Town Manager

Laura Oxley, JD, MPA
Town Clerk

Nature's Tranquil Beauty

Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 6, 2019 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Tuman; Aldermen Benson, Grove, Leonard and Peters; Town Manager Chadwick; Town Clerk Oxley; Town Attorney Edes

I. Call to Order

The Mayor called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. Invocation

Alderman Leonard delivered the Invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Tuman led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Alderman Peters made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Alderman Grove seconded. The Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

V. Public Presentations and Hearings

A. Presentation of Appreciation for North Shore Golf Course

Town Manager Chadwick presented the Resolution of Appreciation to North Shore's representative. Not only did North Shore assist the Town during the Hurricane, it extended an invitation for use of their facilities for meetings. The Board expressed its appreciation by supporting the Resolution.

B. The Greater Topsail Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce Board Chairman Kevin Yow presented an update to the Board of Aldermen. He reported growth at about 35% from this time last year. The Chamber is working on an app to help visitors and locals better search for area activities. As of the date of Mr. Yow's presentation, they have attended 14 ribbon cuttings for the year.

C. Update on Beach Projects

Fran Way presented to the Board:

- FEMA is a rigorous process. It requires surveys, pre/post storm studies and other data. Recovery is slow. Mr. Way compares notes with other engineering firms to ensure best practices.
 - For the category g project (engineered beach), which is Phase 5 and part of Phase 4, the estimated cost is approximately \$17 million. As for the "Matthew" portion of the project, the plan is for a truck haul this winter. Its projected cost is \$7 million.
 - As for the "natural" category b project for dune restoration for Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4, excluding portions categorized as g, it is projected to cost approximately \$4 million. Mr. Way believes a dredge is the best approach. The plan calls for an ocean dredge this winter. ATM will modify permits next month to facilitate the project. Mr. Way acknowledged that dredging is a specialty skill, but he doesn't anticipate problems obtaining a company to complete the project in the tight timeframe.
 - Cumulatively, the estimated cost for the Category G ("engineered beach") and FEMA Category B (dune restoration on natural beach) Florence mitigation projects is \$21 million.
- Mr. Way is building a proposal based on the Town's current projects.
- The Board asked how CBRA will impact plans. Mr. Way explained that the Town has been upfront with FEMA on the issue. He alluded to precedents the Town can cite for support. FEMA will not approve any action that encourages development, but it will allow for protection.
- Terminal Groin: Brian Edes will write a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers that will ensure them that no conflicts of interests exist.

VI. Manager's Report

Town Manager Chadwick presented his report. It is attached.

VII. Open Forum- 3 minute limit

Mr. Mark Barefoot came forward. He expressed his opinion that the Town does not need another bike path. He warned the Board that the public may not be able to “digest” a tax increase.

Alderman Grove stated that the surrounding areas are at a similar rate if not higher tax rate.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. Department Head Reports

1. Finance Department
2. Fire Department
3. Inspections Department
4. Planning Department
5. Police Department

B. Committee Reports

1. Planning Board
2. Board of Adjustment
3. TISPC (Topsail Island Shoreline Protection Commission)
4. ONWASA (Onslow Water and Sewer Authority)- Not Available

C. Motor Vehicle Tax Refund

Alderman Peters made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Alderman Benson seconded. The Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

IX. Continuing Business

A. Revetment Committee Update

Alderman Benson reported that the Committee is still waiting on a contract from the selected engineer, Mr. Greene.

Town Attorney Edes reminded everyone that this is not a Town Committee. Litigants are to present an engineer to the Board. This happened. If the Committee would like to select a different engineer, this recommendation should come before the Board of Aldermen.

The Board asked Alderman Benson if he could request the Committee’s minutes for the benefit of the Aldermen to review.

B. Discuss FY 2019-2020 Budget

Finance Officer Brothers & Town Manager Chadwick provided a budget overview to the Board of Aldermen, who previously received and discussed the staff's proposed draft.

The Board discussed the proposed tax increase from staff. The proposal needed to be ratified in order to set the hearing. Alderman Grove made a motion to set the new tax rate to \$.41, with \$.3832 going to balance the budget and the remaining amount to go into a capital fund. Alderman Leonard seconded for purposes of discussion. The Finance Officer was available for questions. The Motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

X. New Business

A. Set Hearing for FY 2019-2020 Budget

The Finance Officer & Town Manager suggested the public hearing be set for the 20th at the Sneads Ferry Library at 6:00 PM. Alderman Leonard made a motion to set the date as recommended by staff. Alderman Grove seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

XI. Open Forum

Mr. Jeff Sale asked:

1. Since the Hurricane, what actions have been taken to improve communication?
2. Why do we not have trash bins on the beach?
3. Why is water pressure low, especially around holidays?
4. Will the website improve communication?

The Mayor informed Mr. Sale that he should talk to ONWASA regarding water pressure and the Town Manager for remaining issues.

Mr. Paul Woodby felt there was a change in the Town's policy as it related to post storm berm pushes. The Town Manager stated he will follow-up.

XII. Attorney's Report

No report.

XIII. Mayor's Report

Mayor Tuman stated that Senator Brown was instrumental in helping ONWASA obtain a grant to help build a wastewater treatment facility in Richlands.

XIV. Aldermen's Report

Alderman Leonard appreciated the attendees and participants. He stated that a tax increase is necessary and in-line with surrounding areas. He wants the Town to be better prepared for future storms. He also thanked first responders for their work during Memorial Day weekend.

Alderman Grove thanked the attendees. Regarding tax increases, things have been neglected. The Board needs to think long term.

Alderman Peters thanked the attendees. He thanked staff for helping the Town get through the holiday and move to the new townhall location.

Alderman Benson voted against the previous budget. He applauded this Board for being forward thinking. He also applauded the first responders for their work over the holiday weekend.

XV. Closed Session to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged

Alderman Leonard made a motion to go into closed session for the reasons stated in the Agenda. Alderman Peters seconded. The Motion passed, 4-0.

Alderman Leonard made a motion to come out of closed session. Alderman Benson seconded. The Motion passed, 4-0.

In open session, the Mayor announced that no decisions were made during the Closed Session.

XVI. Adjournment

Alderman Leonard made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Grove seconded. The Motion passed, 4-0.

APPROVED:

Town of North Topsail Beach
Regular Board of Aldermen Meeting

Daniel Tuman
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura Oxley, JD, MPA
Town Clerk

Approved: 08/01/2019

Manager's Report – June Meeting

Phase 5 Matthew Project

I talked with Chris Gibson to discuss the project previously approved by FEMA. We are still set to have a project start date sometime in November.

Beach Renourishment

The Shoreline Protection Workgroup has been working with ATM and Fran. He has recently completed his report for FEMA and needs for sand lost during the Florence. Bob Glassen, the FEMA site inspector for the beach, is working with Fran if there are any questions and is in turn working on his report for FEMA.

Our goal is to let out bids for the Florence related projects by July or early August. This can help ensure we can get ahead of the curve for any nourishments performed this fall in other areas of the coast. This includes the rest of the Phase 5 project damaged by Florence.

We are also pursuing funding from the State Beach Inlet Management Plan (BIMP) for funding projects in Phases 2 through 4. Our plan is to also utilize funding from the \$1.6 million coming to us from the State for Hurricane Florence damage (once it is approved by the legislature).

There have been recent questions concerning the beach nourishment project being planned by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) this fall. This project is being funded and completed by the USACE. I want to remind you that the estimated amount of 250,000 cu/yds of sand is from the ICW crossing, the Cedar Bush cut and the channel to Jacksonville. The Corps will only pipe it so far to dispose of it. It is not the most beach compatible sand, but it is free and it's the least cost disposal option for the Corps by placing it on the north end beach and reason for not piping it further south.

As mentioned above, the Shoreline Protection Workgroup and Town staff continues to work with the appropriate stakeholders in planning, pursuing, and developing funding strategies to complete these tasks and incorporate new tasks as needs present themselves.

So, as it currently stands, this fall we will be getting 250,000 cu/yds of sand at the north end from the Army Corps as they clean out the ICW/New River channel, we're working on plans for restoration of Phase 5 area from Hurricane Matthew FEMA funds also this fall, and we are working with FEMA on the restoration of all of the town's Hurricane Florence affected dunes. No areas of the town are being overlooked, passed by, or otherwise left out.

CBRA Mapping Bills

We were informed by our lobbyists that Senators Tillis and Burr introduced a North Topsail Beach CBRA Mapping Bill on May 9th (S.1406). Congressman Rouzer introduced the companion bill in the House on May 17th (H.R. 2834). H.R. 2834 has been referred to the House Natural Resources Committee.

We want to thank our Congressional delegation. Senators Tills and Burr have continually supported this change. With the death of Congressman Jones, Congressman Rouzer took this even though we are not constituents in his district. He knows how important it is to us (and the area) and that Congressman Jones supported it and had previously proposed legislation.

Town Hall and Town Park Repairs

The company has started the gutting and mold remediation to town hall. They are slated to be completed by the end of the month. At that point, FEMA will come to assess the damages. We also continue working with Stewart, Cooper, and Newell concerning the renovation of the facility.

Engineering will soon be completed on the town park repairs.

Temporary Town Hall

Last week we completed the move to our new temporary facility. This facility more adequately meets the needs of the administration including moving the police department back with administration. It is also less expensive as we repair town hall.

The new address is 1000 Hwy 210, Sneads Ferry, NC.

It is next to the Subway.

We have also set up a “substation” at the South End Fire Station. This has a computer for officers and allows officers doing shift change to stay on the island during peak times.

As you know, the Regular Board Meetings will be at the North Shore Club for the rest of the year. This is to keep the times of the meeting the same.

The Planning Board and Board of Adjustment will meet at the Sneads Ferry Library. They have changed their meeting times to 5:30pm.

Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund

We had a meeting last week with representatives of the Golden Leaf Foundation. As you will recall, we submitted a grant for the engineering and designs to repair the town park. The grant was for \$50,200. They wanted to see the damages to the park based on our grant application.

We also spoke to them concerning another funding request for architectural and engineering work for town hall. They are interested in that project as well. Once we have more specific information for that project, we will submit that grant.

I just learned that the US House of Representatives passed the \$19 billion disaster aid package Monday evening by a vote of 354-58. President Trump is expected to sign the bill into law. Importantly, the bill also provides an extension of the National Flood Insurance Program through September 30, 2019, so the Program does not lapse on June 14.

FEMA Reimbursement

Within the next 2 weeks, we should be receiving a check from the State for FEMA reimbursement for our Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for \$207,000. This is for overtime and expenses associated with our EOC operations.

We also received word from FEMA that our debris removal expenses of \$1.6 million had been approved for reimbursement. This takes longer because anything over \$1 million must be approved by Congress.

We have prepared two grants for reimbursement of fees associated with architectural/engineering for town hall and the town park. These are for the Golden Leaf Foundation.

Jeffery's Lease

I received an email from Randy Pittman last week concerning the lease. The Jefferies Family is interested in extending the lease for one year until the family decides if they will be doing anything differently with the property.

We will continue conversations to see what can transpire over the coming year.

Shoreline Protection Working Group

Our meetings have also entailed conversations with our Coastal Engineer dealing with Hurricane Florence.

We have also completed the latest "newsletter" concerning shoreline protection.

Ocean City Jazz Festival

As you know, the Ocean City Jazz Festival will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary this year. The festival will last from July 4th through July 7th with events every evening. We have been in contact with the directors to coordinate activities in which the Town will help. We have police, fire and public works staff that will be involved.

The Festival has also been nominated to be best in the state for Best Festival as part of the 2019 Carolina's Finest Awards, presented by Carolina Country magazine. They are taking votes now. Go to www.carolinacountry.com/finest to vote for them to be the best.

I want to encourage everyone to go to the Jazz Festival. It helps emphasize the importance of the Ocean City community and is a highlight for our Town. If anyone would like information on the events, they can go to www.oceancityjazzfest.com for more information.

Four Town Meeting

We will be hosting the Four Town Meeting on June 27th. It will be at the Villa Cappriani. We will have Jacksonville Mayor Pro Tem and North Carolina League of Municipalities Immediate Past President Michael Lazzara as our guest speaker.

Meeting with Four Town Managers

The managers of Holly Ridge, Surf City, Topsail Beach and I will be meeting on Friday. We are trying to continue this every other month to keep conversations open of what is happening in other towns. We also continue to see where we can collaborate together on various items that affects multiple towns.

Web Site Redesign

We talked with Rusty Hook about the progress of the redesign. They are putting the finishing touches on the web page. We believe we have enough pictures but if anyone has electronic pictures of Town they feel would be beneficial, we ask that they be sent to Town Hall for possible additions to the site. We will give credit to the contributor on our site.

The web site should be completed and online around the June 17th.