

Town of North Topsail Beach

Daniel Tuman, Mayor
Michael Yawn, Mayor Pro Tem
Aldermen:
Richard Farley
Deborah Lanci
Dick Macartney
Robert Swantek



Steven H. Foster
Town Manager

Carin Z. Faulkner, MPA
Town Clerk

Board of Aldermen Special Meeting Tuesday, May 4, 2010 9:00 A.M

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Michael Yawn, Aldermen Richard Farley, Robert Swantek, Dick Macartney, Town Manager Steve Foster and Town Clerk Carin Faulkner.

NOT PRESENT: Mayor Daniel Tuman and Alderman Deborah Lanci

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro Tem Yawn called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the North Topsail Beach meeting room.
- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
 - Alderman Swantek made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- III. **DISCUSSION ON TOWN'S INSURANCE:**
 - Mr. Foster reported that as a result of the NC League of Municipalities Board of Directors' decision to renew the Town's insurance the following is required of the Town:
 - Our current deductible will go from \$50, 00 to \$250, 00 (this will decrease \$50,000 a year over 6 years).
 - Come into compliance with the LGC's recommendation of increased fund balance to one year reserve of operating revenue.
 - Summary of the amount of staff and board training (including appointed boards).
 - Continuance of monthly mitigation aversion meetings with our attorney with minutes forwarded to the claims department.
 - Copies of the Town Manager's employment contract and Town policy on employee retention.
 - Appointment of a safety officer (done).
 - List of any potentially litigious matters that the Town has to its knowledge (already in minutes of monthly mitigation aversion meetings).
 - There was discussion regarding providing minutes of the mitigation aversion meetings and whether this conflicts with attorney client privilege. Mr. Foster said he would look into it and that maybe an agenda of the meeting would be sufficient.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Yawn indicated that he would like the requirements to be

provided to the Town in writing. He is concerned about the fund balance requirement.

IV. **PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRESENTATION & WORKSHOP:**

- Mr. Foster did a PowerPoint presentation on the highlights of the FY2011 budget.
- There was discussion on possibly adding merit pay for retention purposes.
- Mr. Foster discussed some items that he did not put in the budget that the Board could consider. Additional firefighter personnel, radios (a resolution to support a grant for radios was discussed), Town Christmas tree, organization donations, and fireworks were included in this discussion.
- The Board agreed to keep the contribution to the Chamber of Commerce at \$5,000 and for the money to come out of the beach fund.
- There was discussion about a 5 year commitment of \$1,000 a year to Onslow County Economic Development. Staff was directed to look into it.
- The Board did not want to contribute to Operation Topcat.
- Mr. Foster read the budget message.
- Mr. Foster provided the Board with information about the 6.1% increase in the cost of services from Waste Industries.
- There was discussion about offering assistance for family health care coverage for employees.
- There was consensus to keep the tax for the beach nourishment fund at one cent (instead of the proposed .0173).
- Mr. Smith made a presentation about the revenue neutral tax rate.
- Mr. Foster went over the revenues.
- There was discussion on the cable franchise revenue and whether those revenues may be skewed because of a back payment to the Town. Staff will look into it.
- There was discussion on Town's health insurance plan. Mr. Foster explained the health reserve plan and that this plan would save money for the Town.
- Mayor Pro Tem Yawn asked about domestic partner coverage. Mr. Foster said he would look into it.
- Mr. Foster stated that Staff has cut everything out of the budget that can be cut out.
- The Board discussed their salary. They decided to keep it the same because any change would affect the next Board.
- The Administration budget was discussed.
- The Fire budget was discussed. The salary line item went up. Mr. Foster said he would look into it.
- The Police budget was discussed. There was discussion about the number of cars and the take home policy.
- There was discussion on the State allowing the Town to cut the grass on the Sneads Ferry side of the bridge. Mr. Best will look into that.
- There was discussion on the Streets budget. Powell Bill funding continues to drop.
- There was discussion on the River Road Walk project that needs to be done. The existing walkway needs to be removed and replaced. The Board had consensus on funding the project at \$10,000 in order to do a "t" pier at the location.

- There was discussion on the Beautification fund. The Board had consensus on funding this line at \$7,500.
- There was discussion on the beach fund revenues.

V. **DISCUSSION OF BEACH NOURISHMENT ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MAY 6, 2010 BOA MEETING:**

- **Public Informational Meetings:** The committee discussed that if the Town is going to have these meetings that they need full approval of the slide presentation, letter and survey. Chairman Macartney said that he needs help with the slides. He said that the Board is giving the false impression that they are going to be doing phase one next year. Mayor Pro Tem Yawn said that he is interested in knowing what the public wants. He said he will help with the slides.
- **Letter:** There was discussion about the letter. The letter has the date of the first meeting as next Saturday and that is too soon. The Board agreed that the letter will indicate that the first meeting will be on Saturday, May 22nd.
- There was further discussion on the slides and including a calculator on the website for property owners to calculate their contribution to the beach fund. The Board had consensus to present the financial information as Oceanfront 80% and Non-Oceanfront 20%, with a \$10 million cost and \$1.3 million out of the beach fund.
- **Survey:** There was discussion about the survey and the Board decided to debate it during the regular meeting.

There was discussion about providing the Army Corps of Engineers letters indicating that the Town is committed to providing the required parking and public accesses that are required for the Federal project. The Board discussed the location of the parking lots and accesses.

- VII. **RECESS:** Alderman Swantek made a motion to recess this meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting recessed at 1:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

Daniel Tuman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carin Z. Faulkner, Town Clerk

Approved on: 6/3/2010