

Town of North Topsail Beach

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



Steven H. Foster
Town Manager

Carin Z. Faulkner, MPA
Town Clerk

Board of Aldermen Special Meeting Tuesday, July 13, 2010 2:00 P.M.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Casey Fillinger, Fire Chief Thomas Best, and Assistant Fire Chief George Moore.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Tuman called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the North Topsail Beach meeting room.

- II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
 - Mayor Pro Tem Yawn made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Alderman Lanci seconded the motion.
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.

- III. **DISCUSSION AND/OR CONSIDERATION OF HIRING PART-TIME PERSONNEL TO PATROL THE BEACH:**
 - Alderman Swantek said that there have been several incidents in the area and described some instances where the Town's ordinances are not being followed on the beach. He said that these things have been brought to his attention and he recommended that the Town hire two people to patrol the beach.
 - Mr. Foster presented the Board with a rough cost estimate of what it would take to pay these individuals.
 - Police Chief Fillinger explained that he has had personnel on the beach on ATVs throughout the summer on the weekends and that he plans to continue having them out there the rest of the season.
 - Mr. Foster was asked what it would take to implement the plan.
 - Mr. Foster indicated that the funds to pay the employees would come from the beach fund. He said that the Board needs to decide if it is necessary to have the personnel. He also said that the Board can consider how much the police department staff could be used to fill in to cut costs. He said that the Board can look into it for a new budget year or decide to start this season.

- Mr. Foster said that he asked the Town Attorney about the liability issues and that the attorney indicated that as long as the Town does not advertise the positions as lifeguard positions and the capabilities for water safety are secondary functions that the Town will have less liability. Mr. Foster said that if the Town chooses to use existing water rescue personnel that the liability would be diminished.
- There was discussion on who would hire and train the personnel. There was consensus that these positions would fall under the Police Department.
- There was discussion about the police department and staffing issues with reserve officers. Chief Fillinger explained that the reserve officers help so that he can put personnel on the beach. He said that he is having a hard time filling the six reserve officer positions the department has and explained the reasons for the shortage.
- There was discussion about the emergency calls that have come in during this season.
- Alderman Swantek made a motion for the Town to hire two individuals to patrol the beach as outlined in the Town Manager's proposal.
- Alderman Farley seconded the motion.
- The motion failed 3 to 2 with Aldermen Farley and Swantek voting in favor.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

- Mayor Pro Tem Yawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Lanci seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Daniel Tuman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Carin Z. Faulkner, Town Clerk

Approved on: 8/5/2010