



# **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, February 22, 2018, 2:00 PM  
North Topsail Beach Town Hall**

## **Commission Members:**

Steve Smith  
Ed Broadhurst  
David Ward  
Mike Benson  
Dick Peters  
Mark Price  
Teresa Batts  
Hiram Williams  
Randall Woodruff

## **Public Present:**

Mike McIntyre, Poyner-Spurill  
Steve Foster, Interim Town Manager, NTB  
Larry Combs, Topsail Beach  
Kathleen Riely, NCBIWA  
Dan Tuman, Mayor, NTB  
Tom Leonard, Alderman, NTB  
Tom Eggleston, Commissioner, Topsail Beach  
Doug Medlin, Mayor, Surf City

## **Call to Order & Greetings**

### 1. Public Comments

None made

### 2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Peters made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was carried.

### 3. Approval of the January 25, 2018 Minutes

Mr. Price made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Ward seconded the motion and it was carried.

### 4. Consultant/Lobbyist/Partners – Information & Contact Review/Update

#### a. Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Congressman McIntyre discussed that he was excited about the prospects before the commission, he highlighted some of the most important factors:

Congress passed the resolution to continue the FY 17-18 federal budget. There was many supplemental appropriations that were favorable to Topsail Island. There were also emergency provisions that allowed allocations for hurricanes and weather related natural disaster events. They are still working diligently to receive funding for Hurricane Matthew recovery. The US Army Corps was provided funding for ongoing projects as an emergency supplemental and not for new starts.

President Trump's new FY19 budget that he is proposing includes a 20% decrease in the Army Corps budget and new starts included. Congressman McIntyre stated this is not unusual for the Crops budgets; it is expected that congressional delegations will lobby for more funding. Generally Congress



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provides more funding for the Corps than the President. The budget requests are not always an accurate representation of the funds that will be passed and allocated.

The Dept. of Homeland Security has an 8% increase from the FY18 budget. FEMA is requesting more funds for an all hazards grant funding, which could have an opportunity for Topsail Island. At this time those grants have not been listed out at this time.

The Dept. of Commerce which includes NOAA, has a 20% decrease under the President's budget. It is Mr. McIntyre's opinion that this will not pass and NOAA will receive at least normal funding.

The President's infrastructure package has broad categories, with six main principals for what the White House wants to see. New investments for rural development counties, N. Topsail has previously qualified for funding under this category. There are matching programs, which they are hoping to target for waterways, stormwater, drinking water, rails & ports, and others. These specific topics are up to Congress to fund with the new monies, and there are no specific amounts delegated at this time.

Congressman McIntyre stated that Congressman Rouzer is looking at this potential infrastructure bill as a roadway for nourishment. There are still a lot of moving targets. Under WRDA it is still unknown what Congress has planned, the Senate is already looking at putting things into motion for the WRDA bill. It is in the forefront to get the two Topsail Island federal projects started, although they are not included in the President's budget proposal. A new pilot dredging program to evaluate use of dredge materials has been announced by the Corps. The program will consider projects in ten areas.

## **In regards to the 2018 advocacy program that was submitted by the TISPC Commission:**

Changes to the CBRA Maps for N. Topsail Beach: they are looking at a strategy to move that CBRA bill, and these discussions are already happening currently. There are some technical questions in regards to history. Both Senators' offices are looking into moving legislation through sub-committee that will amend the CBRA L06 map. The biggest obstacle at this time is getting the staff to let the committee members know that this is the most logical option, and to know the history of this issue. The history is the biggest obstacle in amending the maps.

The CRBA sandbar in Topsail Beach Inlet: We have been in communication with the House Transportation Committee (HTC) on the sand use issue. Staff for these committees thought it could be handled with HTC staff, however, with priority changes this did not happen. There has been much conversation over the language in the bill with Congressman Rouzer's office. The sub-committee staff thinks it will happen.

Federal Beach projects: The appropriations for the monies for the new start is there, but it has to be put into their work plan. The Army Corps already has several projects for consideration, they are just waiting on the funding specifics. There has been many conversations on earmarking projects from Congress, however, the Army Corps is the deciding factor and we have been ensured by them that the

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Topsail Island projects are in the game. One of these Topsail Island projects could potentially get a new start in the FY 18 budget if it is put into the Army Corps budget wording.

Mr. Smith stated he had conversation with Pam Castens, our liaison with the Army Corps, and she is telling her bosses that these two projects are ready to go. The other thing she stated is that the commanders are just getting back to their offices as they have been away taking care of other projects.

Mayor Tuman stated that there was a regional Army Corps meeting and that they already had work plans drawn out for the year. One of the specific projects is for dredging the ICW crossing at the New River with dredge materials deposited on the town's beach. There is also money for maintenance dredging in the New River Inlet to maintain navigation within the waterway. They have four dredges and they are already scheduled.

Mrs. Riely stated the US Army Corp did mention that because of the military influence they were able to use that for increasing funding in the President's proposed FY19 budget.

Congressman McIntyre continued on the advocacy commission list:

The Community Rating System will be followed up on as well.

All new legislation will be followed up on and will continue to be in the monthly updates.

**For the full text of Mr. McIntyre's report please see the February Federal Advocate's Report at [tispc.org](http://tispc.org)**

b. Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson

Mrs. Wilson sent a report: She is in the process of setting up a meeting with Senator Brown.

5. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) Update– Pam Castens
  - a. Financial Cost Benefit Review – Status of reviews with each town.

The Army Corps is reviewing maps in regards to updated changes and the cost of the sand and how those figures were calculated. She is also wanting to bring the new Commander to the island.

6. NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRAC & CRC) Update – Mike Moore
  - a. Dredging window - can it be widen – continue to work on at CRAC
  - b. New Members – 3 new members added
  - c. Dune Rules – Moved to public comment
  - d. Sediment Criteria – moved to public comment
  - e. Science Panel – Member addition – tabled until next meeting
  - f. Ocean Energy – continue update process
  - g. Position on Drilling – CRC asked to consider all options; including if CRC needs to take a position



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Mr. Smith stated the recent CRC meeting was a very positive, the dune rules is now moving to public comment, the sediment criteria is moving along as well. The sand criteria is helping to set the standards that you will live by, to ensure that it will meet the dynamics of the beach and be beneficial to beach. The science panel felt they need to add members but it was tabled to determine where the focus was. On ocean energy, they gave a history to where we currently are, there were some key dates arising. The chairman ask the CRC members to see what their real position was on off-shore drilling, and does the CRC need to take a position on off-shore projects.

Mayor Medlin stated that there has been no decision at this time in regards to offshore drilling.

7. North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA) Review – Kathleen Riely
  - a. Update of NCBIWA's activities

Mrs. Riely discussed that they received a letter from Ocean Conservation in regards to NOAA funding, to keep those funds coming. She invited everyone to attend the ASBPA meeting in Washington DC. She discussed there are grant funds available for beach accesses.

- b. Position on Drilling

She stated that one thing they seek to do is to educate their members as much as they can. One key note that keeps coming up is the lease sharing. Initially the Trump administration said no on lease sharing. As far as taking a position, the NCBIWA will not take a position on offshore drilling. She stated there are a lot of unknowns at this point. In regards to DEQ they have two openings, for funding and one for permitting coordinator.

Mayor Medlin stated there is so much you have to look at with offshore drilling. Even if it really offshore they will load tankers to bring the oil in, which is the most dangerous part. They will be up in the Outer Banks, the graveyard of the Atlantic. There needs to a lot of research done before any decisions are made.

- c. Conference – April 23 & 24 – Pine Knoll Shores

She is in the process of getting education credits for planners & geologists. She stated NCBIWA is still growing and hopefully expanding their resources. They are looking at Virginia as to what they are doing for inland funding.

8. Old Business
  - a. CBRA Changes Request – direction and actions
  - b. Community Rating System (CRS) – what actions
  - c. Insurance Increases – what actions

Insurance Commissioner will be at the Surf City Welcome Center on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.



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d. Speakers

9. Town's Local Projects

a. North Topsail Beach – Steve Foster

Mr. Foster stated that the phase 5 repair project is in the permitting process and is going out to bid to be completed by the end of October with construction to begin the first of November. They have submitted an application to Onslow County for \$350,000.

b. Surf City – Larry Bergman  
Comments covered by Mayor Medlin

c. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose stated Topsail Beach has submitted the last bit of information for storm mitigation next winter, everything seems to be going right along and the funding is in place.

10. New Business

- a. Washington, DC Legislative Delegation Meetings – Mar. 20 & 21
- b. ASBPA Conference Mar. 21 & 22
- c. Actions we need to take for State Beach Funding (BIMP beach fund)

11. Open Forum

Mayor Medlin ask about retaining Mike McIntyre for each town.

Mr. Smith stated the Topsail Beach also has someone on retainer for their personal work also.

12. Next Meeting – Surf City Town Hall, 2 PM, March 22, 2018

13. Adjournment

Mr. Ward made a motion to adjourn.