

Commission Members:

Ed Broadhurst
David Ward
Mike Benson
Dick Peters
Mark Price
Teresa Batts
Hiram Williams
Randall Woodruff
Jerry Patton
Jerry Heid

Public Present:

Steve Foster, Interim Town Manager, NTB
Larry Bergman, Town Manager, Surf City
Michael Rose, Town Manager, Topsail Beach
Jade Litcher, BIS Member, Topsail Beach
John Goller, Topsail Beach Resident
Morton Blanchard, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Linda Stipe, Commissioner, Topsail Beach
Andrea Carter
Charles & Jeannine Meyers
Christina Burke, Recording Clerk

1. Call to Order & Greetings

Vice Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments

None made

3. Approval of Agenda

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

4. Approval of the February 22, 2018 Minutes

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

5. Consultant/Lobbyist/Partners – Information & Contact Review/Update

a. Poyner Spruill Attorneys – Mike McIntyre

Mr. Benson stated that Congressman McIntyre, along with representatives for the three Towns are currently in Washington, DC. He expects an update at the next meeting.

b. Connie Wilson Consulting – Connie Wilson

Mr. Benson stated he has no information or updates from Mrs. Wilson.

6. United States Army Corp of Engineering (USACE) Update– Pam Castens

a. Financial Cost Benefit Review – Status of reviews with each town.

Mr. Bergman stated that he recently spoke with Pam Castens and she stated that everything is in a holding pattern while they wait on funding. Mr. Bergman informed the Commission that the Economic Analysis has been done. Mr. Broadhurst asked if the analysis improved from the last one being there has been some nourishment in North Topsail Beach. Mr. Bergman said it

did improve slightly. Mr. Bergman added that Mrs. Castens felt the project was in a good position.

7. NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRAC & CRC) Update – Mike Moore

Mr. Benson stated that Mr. Moore could not be present but he had no update for the Commission. Mr. Benson noted that the CRC's proposed changes to the Dune Regulations will be discussed under New Business.

8. North Carolina Beach, Inlet & Waterway Association (NCBIWA) Review – Kathleen Riely

Mr. Benson stated that Mrs. Riley could not attend the meeting because she is in Washington, DC but she asked Mr. Benson to remind the Commission to register for the upcoming NCBIWA meeting in Pine Knoll Shores April 23-24.

9. Old Business

a. Washington, DC Meetings – March 20 & 21

Mr. Benson stated that he has been in Communication with Mr. Smith while he has been in DC. Mr. Smith has met with the EPW and the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the meetings have been good. Mr. Smith also indicated that using the sand in the CBRA zone for nourishment looks to be a Legislative solution, not an administrative one. Mr. Benson stated that the message Mr. Smith heard from all in DC was to save the Federal Government money by having local monies for matching funds. Mr. Benson said Mr. Smith will update the Commission when he returns.

Mr. Patton spoke about a new budget bill containing new START language that included two (2) Storm Reduction projects, but he didn't know whose projects they were. Mr. Benson said that could be good news for us because our projects were near the top of the list.

Mr. Patton asked NTB representatives if they have discussed with the ACOE how the nourishment projects have affected the ACOE project. Mr. Benson said they expect it will be cheaper because NTB has added nourished their beach, so they won't need as much sand. Mr. Bergman said he spoke with Mrs. Castens about the cost analysis. She said even though North Topsail Beach made some improvement, Surf City lost some sand, so it just about evened out as far as amount of sand and cost.

b. ASBPA Conference March 21-22

Mr. Benson stated that Mrs. Riley should have a report about the conference at the next meeting.

c. Actions we need to take for State Beach Funding

Mr. Peters stated that he attended a meeting last week in New Bern where State

Representatives were present. He said that several people from the audience encouraged legislation to allocate funding to the Coastal Storm Mitigation fund. Mr. Peters believe the Representatives are hearing the message loud and clear.

10. Towns' Local Project

a. North Topsail Beach – Steve Foster

Mr. Foster stated that he just got out of a meeting concerning the lawsuit over the revetment. He said they have decided on an engineer to repair the revetment. Mr. Foster also spoke about how the Town had several different engineering companies working on various projects for the Town. Because they weren't all working together, the same data was being collected by the different companies but not shared, which was costly to the Town. The Town has decided to hire one engineering firm so that data collected, could be used for all the various projects, which is more cost effective. Mr. Foster said a Committee has selected one engineering company and their recommendation will go before the Board of Aldermen for their consideration. Mr. Foster stated that the Phase 5 repair project is moving forward and on schedule.

b. Surf City – Larry Bergman

Mr. Bergman said the Town has started working with Chris Gibson of TI Coastal to consider a local beach nourishment project. He stated that Mr. Gibson is recommending Surf City tag along with the project taking place this fall in Topsail Beach. This would be the first initial phase, just to get sand on the beach. Mr. Bergman stated that the Town has authorized Mr. Gibson to inquire about using Shallow Draft Inlet (SDI) funds for this phase of the project. Mr. Williams said if this leads to Surf City having a FEMA Engineered beach that would be a big plus. Mr. Bergman said it would be very beneficial to the Town because the Town would then get FEMA funds to restore the beach in the event of a storm. Mr. Broadhurst questioned how Surf City could use SDI funds which is reserved for shallow draft inlets. Mr. Bergman explained that there will be extra sand left over in Banks Channel from the Topsail Beach project, which could be piped to the beach strand in Surf City. Because the sand is coming from the channel, Mr. Gibson believes it could qualify for SDI funds. Mr. Bergman said eventually, the Town will have to use offshore borrow sites, but this would just be enough to get things started.

c. Topsail Beach – Mike Rose

Mr. Rose said since submitting the application for our next project we have received comments from the various agencies which TI Coastal is addressing. He noted that there have been no significant concerns yet with the scope of the project. He said the town expects to receive the permit in July, go out for bids in August or September and start the project in late fall/early winter of 2018. Mr. Rose spoke about how the project will include adding a second dune on the oceanfront. He stated that the Beach, Inlet, Sound (BIS) Committee is exploring crossover options for the new dune, including Hatteras ramps and mats that lay across the dune. Dune protection and cost are both factors.

11. New Business

a. CRC Dune Rules: Public Hearing April 11

Mr. Benson informed the members that the CRC is proposing revisions to the dune regulations. The changes could affect not only the dunes but hardened structures as well. Mr. Benson said he would like to schedule a special TISPC meeting (prior to the Public Hearing scheduled for April 11th in Manteo) for the Commission to discuss concerns, impacts and what the response will be. He noted how important it is to have one common voice on the issue. Mr. Benson asked the members to study the proposed changes and be prepared to discuss at the Special Meeting (date not determined at the time of the meeting).

Mr. Benson asked Mr. Foster to give an update on the hardened structure they are trying to get permitted in the New River Inlet. Mr. Foster stated that the engineering company, ATM, that was hired for the project is projecting to have the permit in hand by 2020. He said the permitting will be the toughest part, then they will have to decide how to pay for it. Discussion took place about the prohibition in the 80's on hardened structures along the North Carolina coast.

b. Resolution for Mr. Zinke to meet with US Senators

Mr. Benson spoke about a meeting that was planned to take place last fall between the Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, and Senators Burr and Tillis to discuss the CBRA issue. Mr. Benson said in order to move things along, the Commission needs to adopt a Resolution recommending the Senators meet with Mr. Zinke to discuss the need for a CBRA map amendment. Mr. Benson distributed copies of the resolution to the members and read it out loud.

Mr. Broadhurst made a motion to accept the Resolution. Seconded by Mr. Williams, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodruff said typically Washington, DC never reaches out to the local municipalities but last week they sent a list of issues out, in which they recommend a Regional approach, not just the Community, for the issue to be resolved. He said he will distribute the list to the Commission.

12. Open Forum

Mr. Williams spoke about the proposed insurance rate increase of 39.6% for owners of secondary or rental property in the area. He reminded the members and the public that the deadline to submit written objections is quickly approaching. Mr. Benson noted that NTB approved a Resolution opposing the increase. Mr. Rose and Mr. Bergman said their Towns have done the same. Mr. Williams said that helps, but the residents need to comment

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, March 22, 2018, 2:00 PM

Surf City

as well. Discussion took place about a Special Committee that had been formed to study insurance rates and if they are fair or not. Mr. Benson said the Insurance Rate Bureau represents the insurance companies. They have a database based on cost, loss and profits but won't share it. Mr. Benson said he believes this Special Committee is looking to see all Counties in the State are treated in the same equal formula. Mr. Benson read out loud the email address to send comments and objections to.

Mr. Williams stated that he was in a meeting recently in which Representative Rouzer's office asked for a list of infrastructures needs in the area. He said there may be money coming available soon and he wants to be ready. Mr. Williams informed the Members and the public that Storm Mitigation is considered "infrastructure". Mr. Benson agreed and said waterways are now considered Coastal Infrastructure.

13. Next Meeting – Topsail Beach Town Hall, 2 PM, April 26, 2018

14. Adjournment

Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn at 2:57 p.m.