

820 S. Anderson Blvd.  
Topsail Beach, North Carolina 28445  
Telephone (910) 328-5841  
Fax (910) 328-1560

Dear Resident:

Your Town Board has been working on how we can improve our water system. It has been 40 years since a major retrofit has been completed on our water system. Our water system is in the midst of several capital improvement projects. These projects will increase the longevity of the Town's infrastructure, address pressure and volume capacity and fire fighting capability, and increase efficiency in reading the Town's water meters. This system wide modification was outlined in a study of the Town's water infrastructure conducted in 2009 by the Engineering firm Rivers and Associates.

The Town Board of Commissioners was able to secure a no interest loan from the State Revolving Loan fund through the North Carolina Division of Water Resources. The total cost to erect a new 300,000 gallon elevated water tank, a new 200,000 groundwater storage tank, install parallel delivery lines, looped lines and radio read meters along with the engineering and management of the project is \$3.5 million dollars.

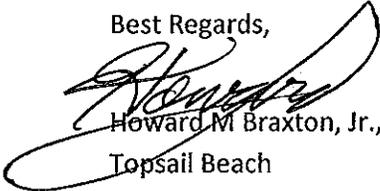
Analyzing the water rates and fees was of an equal concern to the Board as was providing a viable and reliable potable water delivery system for the Town's residents and visitors. The Town examined all variables and means to fund these capital improvements that will ensure the sustainability of water service and capacity for our current and foreseeable future needs. The Town Board conducted a lengthy examination of rates from other towns, counties, and water districts as part of this process.

The Town Board voted, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, to raise the monthly minimum fee from fifteen to thirty dollars. The water usage rates were not changed. The fact that the Town was fortunate to borrow money with no interest for this project means that all increased funding goes directly into the capital improvement projects and associated water infrastructure depreciation costs.

This new minimum rate will be effective in April after the reading for the first quarter of 2013. After the April reading, all meters will be read on a monthly basis and all water and garbage bills will be billed or automatically drafted monthly going forward. The water project will be completed before the busy summer season.

Please contact Town Hall at 910-328-5841 if you have further questions.

Best Regards,

  
Howard M. Braxton, Jr., Mayor  
Topsail Beach