



MR. MICHAEL ROSE ACCEPTS POSITION AS NEW TOWN MANAGER

Former Town Manager Tim Holloman accepted the Manager's position for the Town of Oak Island in May 2015 after serving 5 years as our manager. Tim worked very hard while serving as Manager for Topsail Beach and many of the Town's priorities were accomplished under his leadership. We all wish Tim and his family the very best with his new position at Oak Island.

Until the new Town Manager is in office, Michael Moore is serving as our Interim Town Manager. "Mike" is a retired career Town/City Manager and a citizen of Surf City where he was Town Manager for twelve years. We are pleased and fortunate to have his experienced hand on board during this extended transition.

The Town Board received over 60 applications for Topsail Beach Town Manager and after an extensive review from the Mayor and Board, a select citizens committee, and key town employees the Town of Topsail Beach is happy to welcome Mr. Michael Rose, former Town Administrator of Harrisburg, NC, as our new town manager starting January 4th, 2016. The Town looks forward to benefitting from Mr. Rose's experience for many years to come.

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PRIORITIES UPDATE

During the Board's retreat in March, several priorities were identified for the town, and one or more Board members volunteered to chair committees for each priority. Here are just a few of the priorities that were identified for this year, and the progress that has been made on each:

"TOPSAIL BEACH TOWN CENTER" - The Board of Commissioners voted "Topsail Beach Town Center" as the official name. The final phase of the project was completed early fall 2015. Playground equipment, two shelters, basketball court, public restrooms, and additional walks along with Flag Poles for US, NC, and Topsail Beach flags and landscaping are all complete. Park benches were donated and have been installed by volunteers. Recreation committee chairman Frank Braxton is very pleased with the outcome of this project and is confident it will come in under budget and a pickle ball court is planned.

CAMA LAND USE PLAN UPDATE - The Planning Board, with the help of the Cape Fear Council of Governments, has completed the update of Topsail Beach's CAMA Land Use Plan. Each municipality in the 20 coastal counties covered by NC's Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) maintains such a plan.

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The NC Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) administers CAMA. Our primary concerns are protection of our environment, preserving our family beach character and maintaining our existing resources. The CAMA Land Use Plan is comprehensive and sets the framework for our specific Town Codes and Ordinances. When viewed as a guide, the document is intended to present the basic description of the Town of Topsail Beach now and into the next decade. The plan has been adopted by the Town Board, and accepted by the CRC, the updated document is viewable on the town Website: www.topsailbeach.org on the Planning & Zoning page.

DISASTER FUND – It is important to have funds immediately available in the event of an unexpected disaster. As a coastal town, the disaster we worry about most is a hurricane or a strong nor'easter, but there are other events that could negatively impact our town on very short notice as well. Most recently, we had a scare when one of our wells caused problems, necessitating voluntary water restrictions for the first time since our new water system was put into place. According to Commissioner Larry Combs, we are always working on building up uncommitted General Fund reserves for just such an event. The plan is to designate some of those uncommitted funds to be used only in the event of a disaster. This year's budget does not include an amount for a Disaster Fund, and it is important that we continue to build up those reserve funds.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC) – Talks have begun with Surf City to have a joint off-island EOC. The old Surf City Volunteer Fire Station on Highway 210 (near its junction with Highway 50 at the CVS) is the most likely candidate. Of course, it is important for us to work closely with Surf City on this venture, as our return to Topsail Beach is always dependent on our coming across the bridge and through Surf City.

EMPLOYEE INSURANCE – Due to the rising cost of healthcare, the Mayor and Town Board decided that the full time employees needed to begin contributing \$10/month to their own healthcare in 2010. In 2011/12 that amount increased to \$25/month. During this time, the Town's insurance provider implemented what became a mandatory "wellness" program that assessed the general health of all employees bi-annually. The Town's provider said that participation in the "wellness" program would help keep premiums down. After considerable discussion, the Mayor and Board decided in 2012/13 that the full time employees contribute 10% of their healthcare cost which amounted to \$65/month in 2013/14 and \$74/month in 2014/15. Due to the Town's employee's continuous participation in the "wellness" program, the Mayor and Board (with advisement from the personnel committee) have waived the employee's contribution for fiscal year 2015/16 which has been much appreciated by the employees.



RECYCLING – A committee was formed to investigate the possibility of curbside recycling in Topsail Beach, but for the time being it has been decided that curbside recycling is cost prohibitive. However, we do want to encourage both residents and renters to use our recycling center located on Carolina Blvd between Home Port Restaurant and the Assembly Building. We have purchased a 3rd container to increase our capacity for recyclable materials including glass, plastic, paper and cardboard. It is not necessary to separate the materials. Please be sure to break down cardboard boxes before putting them in the containers. If you own a rental house, please make sure your renters are aware of our recycling center.

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WATER CONCERNS - Due to potential problems with one of our five wells earlier this summer, the town has implemented a mandatory irrigation schedule. Although the concerns with that well are no longer an issue, the town has decided to continue with its conservation efforts between May 27th and September 30th of each year. Accordingly, irrigation restrictions have been implemented as follows:

All property owners **NORTH OF DAVIS AVE** can irrigate during the hours of 2 A.M. and 4 A.M. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday only.

All property owners **SOUTH OF DAVIS AVE** can irrigate during the hours of 2 A.M. and 4 A.M. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday only.

All in-ground irrigation systems using Town water must have rainfall cut off sensors installed, or must be manually shut off to prevent watering during active rainfall within any assigned irrigation time and day.

Manual Watering with Town water for owners without in-ground irrigation systems is restricted to two (2) hours per day using the same addressing system described above. Any manual watering must take place between the hours of 5 A.M. and 10 A.M. during these assigned days.

It is recognized that many homeowners without irrigation systems are unable to water during the week because they are only here on weekends. Thus, manual watering for two (2) hours on Saturday or Sunday is permitted between the hours of 5 A.M. and 10 A.M.

Non-Compliance can result in a \$50 Civil Penalty and disconnection of water utility services for repeat offenders.

Talks are ongoing with Pender County regarding purchasing water from the county, but the issue is how to get that water to Topsail Beach. Spending \$4 million to pipe the water under the ICW and Topsail Sound doesn't seem like a very good idea! It would be more practical to work with both the County and Surf City, purchasing water from the county and using Surf City's existing pipes as a transmission line for our water. Other options being investigated are some sort of reverse osmosis system, either on each individual well so we could combat salt intrusion if necessary, or a larger reverse osmosis plant. A new reverse osmosis plant has recently been implemented in Camden, NC, and representatives of the town and the county have taken a close look at that system.



Darden Soundside Access

DARDEN SOUND SIDE ACCESS – With help from a CAMA grant, the town has completed improvements to the Darden Street Soundside Access. For many years, this access was virtually unusable due to the pile of debris at the base of the collapsing seawall. The access now has a nice wide set of steps going down to the water, and much of the debris has been removed. Although water shoes are strongly advised (at this access and all soundside accesses), one can now easily get to the water and out to an inviting sandbar at low tide. The steps are wide enough to carry a kayak or paddle board down to the water.

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Darden Oceanside Access Street View



Darden Oceanside Access Ocean View

WORK NEARING COMPLETION ON DARDEN OCEAN ACCESS – With significant help from another CAMA grant, major improvements to the Darden Street Ocean Access are nearing completion. The ocean-front lot immediately south of this access was donated to the town by the Hallam Walker family several years ago. This made the combined area large enough to put an ADA compliant handicapped accessible ramp there. The ramp is complete. Two concrete pad parking spaces have made the ramp easily accessible by vans. Additional parking and landscaping will make this a very useful and desirable ocean access.

Repairs have been completed on two other ocean accesses: O-2 near Sidbury Ave, and O-5 at Barwick Ave.

THE FUTURE OF OUR BEACH: A COMMUNITY DECISION

How Best to Protect and Preserve Our Town’s Way of Life?

Where We Are Now

Topsail Beach’s gorgeous beach and the waterways of our Sound are critical assets. They are the heart of our recreational economy and relaxed family lifestyle. But what nature provides it also can tear down, whether from gradual erosion or violent storms. It takes significant investment of our time, talents, and financial resources to maintain and protect these assets.

Beach erosion is an ongoing process, which has led to a series of “nourishment” projects over recent years to restore that lost sand. The history of these erosion control projects was outlined in an article in the previous Topsail Tides (“Dredging and Nourishment”, in Fall 2014 issue), which included a detailed description of the major one last fall to dredge Topsail Inlet and the channels of the lower Sound, “putting that sand back on the beach” from which it gradually had eroded.

With the design skills and project management of Chris Gibson, the Town’s coastal engineering consultant, that \$10 million project was completed on time, under budget, and produced enough high-quality sand to restore the full length of our beach, even widening it somewhat more than planned. It became the first full-scale project in the 4-5 year cycle of the Town’s “30-Year Erosion Control Program.” The federal government does not control the program’s design, management, or funding, though the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is involved in the complex permitting for each cycle.

Twenty-five years ago, well before our 30-Year Program was conceived, Topsail Beach began the lengthy process of qualifying for the “Federal 50-Year Hurricane Protection Program” (see the same Fall 2014 article), as

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had New Hanover County's beach towns in the early 1960's. Unlike our current 30-Year Program, the Federal 50-Year Program is dual-purpose: routine erosion control for maintenance of the beach strand itself, plus storm damage mitigation to protect property and lives from major storms. It starts with a significant design and construction phase to beef up dune structures and to broaden the width of the beach. These provide the buffering to reduce storm surge and flooding.

Though Topsail Beach did not complete the Federal Program's extensive qualifications at the time, we now have done so, and recently were "authorized" by the President, a significant hurdle, making us eligible for a share of whatever funds Congress may provide the Corps each fiscal year to start such long-term projects. The Corps selects from among those "authorized," based strongly on their comparative cost/benefit scoring. We are told we stand well in that competition. The Corps takes the lead role in all aspects of the design, permitting, construction, and management of each selected community's project. Once started, they maintain it for 50 years, cost-shared with the Town.

To facilitate meaningful comparison, Chris Gibson has developed the outline of an expanded version of our 30-Year Program, adding similar storm damage mitigation provisions to the existing erosion control program. This includes storm damage mitigation design, construction, maintenance, and management, but done without the Corps (except permitting) or federal funding. This version is called the "Modified 30-Year Program."

The Board of Commissioners will continue the Town's 30-Year Program for the time being. But now that our Federal 50-Year Program has been authorized, Topsail Beach should stand well in the competition for available Congressional funding. If and when that happens, this community and the Board together will have a major choice to make: Continue our current erosion control (30-Year Program) or expand it into a true storm damage mitigation Program (Federal 50-Year, or the Modified 30-Year).

To prepare for this possibility, the Board wants to be able to base their decision and the community's understanding of all three Programs on well-founded facts rather than on assumptions and opinion. Recognizing the significant amount of research and documentation this would entail to prepare, in January 2015, this year the Board delegated that task to a restructured Beach, Inlet, and Sound (BIS) Committee consisting of two commissioners (Linda Stipe, Morton Blanchard) and three citizens (Steve Smith, Jerry Patton, Jack Cozort). Chaired by Mr. Smith, the BIS Committee is a non-voting advisory body to the Board of Commissioners, and to the public, as to the characteristics and many details of the three Programs.

The Basics of Our Choices

"Putting Sand on the Beach" --- What does this mean? Sand should be on the beach! But toward what goal?

As we move forward, Topsail Beach as a community needs to consider what type of "sand on the beach" program we want: Erosion Control or Storm Damage Mitigation. Both types "put sand on the beach," but for broadly different purposes.



Dredge Chesapeake

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Erosion Control

Our town has adopted an Erosion Control program for beach strand maintenance. It is designed only to restore sand lost to erosion from that strand. This is the current program (traditionally called beach nourishment), which has seen sand placed on our beach three times. It is an “engineered beach” because its shape or ‘profile’ is designed to meet certain minimum criteria established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for erosion control programs. We follow a FEMA protocol to monitor its erosion annually. Minor losses are expected and considered routine, which we must replenish, without federal assistance, when they accrue beyond a set minimum. But in the event of storm-caused losses that exceed this limit, if Pender County is a federally-declared disaster area (most recently from Hurricane Irene) FEMA will refund the Town’s costs to return the beach to its pre-storm condition. We have received the final FEMA check for restoring Irene’s losses.

Storm Damage Mitigation

Our established erosion control program above does not include adding sand to the protective dunes behind the beach, which will be essential if we want a true Storm Damage Mitigation program. This major addition would increase the width of the front dune, slant down to a wide lower protective section called a ‘berm’, and slant down again to the beach proper. Collectively called a “berm & dune structure,” it’s the key feature providing the storm surge and flooding protection of a Storm Damage Mitigation program. Storm Mitigation programs also require annual monitoring to ensure that accrued sand losses to the dune, berm, and beach have not exceeded the threshold requiring replenishment.

Future issues of Topsail Tides will continue this series, with progressively more detailed information about the Programs. If you have questions you are encouraged to attend the BIS Committee’s regular meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month, or contact a committee member directly.

TOWN BUDGET FOR FY ’15 -’16: A MIXED BAG OF TOUGH DECISIONS

The major task of the Board of Commissioners each spring is to reach consensus on the Topsail Beach budget for the upcoming July - June fiscal year. Coordinated by the town manager and the finance director, it begins with the town staff drafting a proposed budget reflecting expected revenues and needed expenditures, which then is refined by the Board over a series of public budget workshops and at least one public hearing prior to the official vote for approval. This long process was fully described in the Fall 2014 *Topsail Tides*, along with an explanation of how our budgets have been structured, and a summarized version of last year’s (FY ’14 -’15) final budget.



What was different this year?

This spring’s budgeting process followed the same format, but was notable for its length, its strongly-debated tradeoffs, postponed regular expenditures, the resignation of our then town manager early in the process, the influence of a large upcoming county tax increase, and for a major improvement in the structure of the budget itself.

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The first weeks of every year's budget process are intensive for the town manager and for finance director Connie Forand, as they build and refine the draft budget to propose to the Board. Because the manager's vision and plans for the coming year are reflected financially in that draft, but are not necessarily described, those explanations usually occur during the first Board workshops. This year, due to Town Manager Holloman's departure just before this point, Connie added that role to her own during the workshops, effectively providing background and details as requested by the Commissioners. She was ably supported by newly-hired Interim Town Manager Michael Moore who guided the Board from the perspective of his long career as town manager in several cities.

Any municipality may elect to formally break its budget and financial records into two or more Funds: a General Fund for most needs, plus one or more special-purpose funds. Each of the latter is dedicated to a specific function or activity of the city/town, with its own dedicated revenues to service that Fund's particular expenses, and those expenses only. Each Fund has its own "mini-budget" and its own records (though identified in a manner such that data for all the funds can be maintained in a single municipal accounting system). This separation provides financial transparency, simplified management, and control to ensure that moneys do not become merged or inappropriately expended with others in the General Fund. For many years Topsail Beach, like most towns with municipal water and/or sewer utilities, has financed and managed its water system through a Water Fund, self-supported by its water bills and impact fees, entirely separate from the General Fund for all other town functions.

Ways to protect and maintain our beach and to how pay for it have been the object of thousands of citizen volunteer and town staff hours over many years. But more recently, as methods and regulations have broadened and federal funds have shrunk, it has become by far our largest local expense and focus of attention. We have progressed in how we plan and perform periodic beach nourishment, but the typical cost of doing it just once is about 5 times as much as for everything else in our annual General Fund budget. Starting in 2011, some 41% of Topsail Beach property taxes have been designated for that BIS (Beach, Inlet, Sound) initiative. Most of the other dollars needed for BIS come from non-local sources. In the past years all the BIS revenues and expenses had been included in the General Fund.

The Board of Commissioners recognized the need to separate and change the Town's accounting structure to transfer all BIS revenues and expenditures from the General Fund into a new BIS Fund, starting with the FY '15-16 budget. This was a very positive action.

How did we do? – Last year (FY 2014-2015) by the numbers

The left side of the first chart below repeats the summarized version of last year's General Fund budget, followed by a column that shows how each line's actual revenue or expense for the year differed from the budget, shown as a percentage. (A negative value indicates an actual revenue or actual expense lower than originally budgeted.)

Note: Because last year was a beach nourishment year ("The Fall 2014 Project"), and all BIS revenues and expenditures still were part of the General Fund last year, its totals were dominated by that project, and some General Fund revenues are not clearly identifiable as being received for BIS purposes.

The left side (top) of the second chart shows last year's budgeted vs. actual data for the Water Fund.

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2014 -- 2015 & 2015 -- 2016 GENERAL FUND BUDGETS, SUMMARIZED

Fiscal Years
July 1 -- June 30

GENERAL FUND 2014--2015				GENERAL FUND 2015--2016	
	Budgeted	Actual % vs. Budget		Budgeted	
<u>REVENUES</u>					
TB Property Taxes	\$1,040,000	Even		\$1,061,500	
TB Property Taxes for Beach Nourishment	723,800	Even			
T. Beach Accommodations Taxes	319,000	+ 13%		119,000	
Pender Accommodations Taxes	319,000	+ 13%			
Solid Waste/Recycling Fees	263,000	+ 3%		285,700	
Local & County Sales Taxes	325,000	- 3%		338,600	
FEMA Reimbursements (Hurr. Irene)	2,908,100	+ 13%		22,000	
State Inlet Dredging Funds	3,805,000	- 2%		60,400	
From Beach/Inlet/Sound (BIS) Reserves	2,992,400	Even		Marina & Beach Fees	53,300
Pender BIS Contribution	150,000	Even		Construction & Repair Permits	53,600
Donations & State Grants for Town Center	30,000	+ 80%		Donations & State Grants for Town Center	17,500
Other Revenues	<u>308,500</u>	+ 98%		Other Revenues	<u>483,700</u>
Total	\$13,183,800	+ 5.6%		Total	\$2,495,300
* .1725% of valuation				* .1725% of valuation	
** .1200% of valuation					
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
By Category: Town Department or Service					
Management & Administration	557,000	- 11%		522,400	
Police	646,900	+ 8%		688,900	
Fire	320,200	- 8%		339,600	
Public Works	208,100	- 23%		180,400	
Solid Waste/Recycling	286,000	- 1%		300,500	
Dredge/Nourish: BIS Fall 2014 Project	10,655,200	- 3%		Beach Management & Tourism Support	256,500
Federal Hurricane Protection Program	16,100	- 7%		Federal Hurricane Protection Program	1,100
Other Categories (3)	<u>494,300</u>	+ 22%		Other Categories (2)	<u>205,800</u>
Total	\$13,183,800	- 1.9%		Total	\$2,495,300
<u>EXPENSES</u>					
By Major Expense Types					
Personnel related	1,190,100	+ 3%		1,286,600	
Outside Professionals	108,700	- 34%		93,200	
Maintenance & Repairs	112,600	+ 5%		129,300	
Solid Waste & Recyclables disposal services	264,000	+ 4%		Solid Waste & Recyclables disposal	214,300
Town Center Development	60,000	+ 58%		Town Center Development	15,000
Capital Professional Services	615,000	+ 16%		Capital Professional Services	5,700
Dredging/Nourishment Charges	9,991,800	- 4%		Debt Service: principal + interest	245,300
Debt Service: principal + interest	248,768	Even		Additions to Reserves	2,500
Additions to Reserves	228,000	- 99%		All Other Expenses	<u>503,400</u>
All Other Expenses	<u>364,832</u>	+ 45%			
Total	\$13,183,800	- 1.9%		Total	\$2,495,300

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2014 – 2015 & 2015 – 2016 OTHER FUND BUDGETS, SUMMARIZED

Fiscal Years
July 1 -- June 30

WATER FUND 2014–2015			WATER FUND 2015–2016		
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u> % vs. Budget		<u>Budgeted</u>	
REVENUES			REVENUES		
Property Taxes	– None –		Property Taxes	– None –	
Facility Availability Charges (fixed)	\$482,800	- 4%	Facility Availability Charges (fixed)	\$482,800	
Water Use Charges (gallons)	262,000	+ 18%	Water Use Charges (gallons)	285,000	
Impact Fees	65,700	+ 45%	Impact Fees	70,000	
Tap & Connect Fees	9,000	+ 42%	Tap & Connect Fees	7,000	
Other Revenues	<u>10,700</u>	- 26%	Other Revenues	<u>7,100</u>	
Total	\$830,200	+ 7.1%	Total	\$851,900	
EXPENSES			EXPENSES		
By Major Expense Types			By Major Expense Types		
Personnel related	\$230,500	+ 3%	Personnel related	\$248,800	
Outside Professionals	33,600	- 55%	Outside Professionals	23,000	
Water System Repairs	74,000	- 33%	Water System Repairs	26,200	
Other Maintenance & Repairs	20,700	- 30%	Other Maintenance & Repairs	25,000	
Debt Service: principal + interest	306,500	Even	Debt Service: principal + interest	304,200	
Additions to Reserves	28,700	- 91%	Additions to Reserves	40,000	
All Other Expenses	<u>136,200</u>	- 6%	All Other Expenses	<u>184,700</u>	
Total	\$830,200	-10.2%	Total	\$851,900	
BEACH, INLET, SOUND (BIS) 2014–2015			BEACH, INLET, SOUND (BIS) FUND 2015–2016		
Was part of the General Fund			Now: a separate Fund starting FY '15-16		
REVENUES			REVENUES		
<p>Prior to FY '15-16: <u>Revenues</u> intended to pay for BIS-type expenses were placed in the General Fund, available for general use. (See the FY '14-15 column in General Fund Summary above.)</p> <p><u>BIS Expenses</u> were budgeted and tracked in the General Fund. The 2014 Project's expenses are included in the General Fund's totals above, but are shown here also, to show how project years and non-project years compare.</p>			<p><u>Budgeted</u></p>		
<p>Property Taxes for Beach/Inlet/Sound **</p> <p>Pender Accommodations Taxes</p> <p>T. Beach Accommodations Taxes</p> <p>State Inlet Dredging Funds (none this year)</p> <p>Pender BIS Contribution</p> <p>Net Clear FEMA Funds from Fall 2014 Project</p>			<p>\$731,100</p> <p>340,000</p> <p>221,000</p> <p>0</p> <p>150,000</p> <p><u>580,400</u></p>		
Total			Total		
			\$2,022,500		
			** .1200% of valuation		
EXPENSES			EXPENSES		
By Major Expense Types			By Major Expense Types		
Dredge/Nourish : Fall 2014 Project	\$9,627,600		Addition to BIS Reserve for future projects	\$1,866,300	
Engineering./Surveying/Project Mgt.	712,500		Engineering./Surveying/Project Mgt.	150,000	
Advertising & Audit	3,700		Advertising & Audit	2,500	
Legal fees	<u>3,900</u>		Legal fees	3,500	
			Other expenses	<u>200</u>	
Total: 2014 Fall Project	\$10,347,700		Total	\$2,022,500	

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This year's plan -- The FY 2015-2016 Budget, Summarized (July '15 – June '16)

The right side of the first chart shows the dollars budgeted by the Board for the General Fund this year. All revenues and expenditures associated with Beach, Inlet, Sound activities have been removed, and transferred to the new separate BIS Fund.

The right side of the second chart shows the dollars budgeted this year for our other funds: the Water Fund at the top and the new BIS Fund below

At the start of the budget workshops Mrs. Forand and Mr. Moore advised the Commissioners that the draft budget presented was bare-boned, with little opportunity for additions without forcing offsetting cuts into essentials.

As the workshops progressed over several weeks, they featured marked discussion about several line items in the detailed budget. The common theme to most of these was the tradeoff between regular ongoing maintenance of town property vs. the short-term saving of omitting it for a year. This focused particularly on acceptable cycles for repaving Town-owned streets, and for replacing heavily weathered beach access walkways even if not severely storm-damaged. A similar discussion addressed deposits to the Town's reserve accounts -- saving up for future needs, whether definite, desirable, emergencies, or just for the 'unpredictable but necessary.' Several of these reserves, including some new ones, were budgeted last year but had little or no deposits credited. This year's budget restarted the BIS reserve nicely, and with various amounts for half the others. (See the last chart below for a layout of these reserve accounts.)

The core of these discussions was whether increasing the property tax for the Topsail Beach General Fund (last changed in 2011 – a small decrease) prudently could be deferred another year, or whether it actually would be imprudent to not increase it by 2 cents/\$100 valuation this year. In a split vote, the Board voted to defer for this year, influenced somewhat by the known 34% increase in Pender County's 2015 property taxes.

RESERVE ACCOUNTS: HISTORY & PROJECTION

2014 - 2015 Actual
2015 - 2016 Budgeted

FOR	RESERVE'S PURPOSE	PRIOR BALANCE 6-30-14	FY 2014 -'15		FY 2015 -'16	
			BUDGETED DEPOSIT	ACTUAL DEPOSIT	BUDGETED DEPOSIT	PROJECTED BALANCE 6-30-16
TOWN BOARD	Emergencies (hurricane)	None	\$81,131	\$0	\$0	\$0
FIRE DEPT	Fire Truck	\$20,000	20,000	1,428	0	21,428
	Duty Dorm	None	10,000	0	0	0
	Air Packs	None	5,000	0	2,500	2,500
PUBLIC WORKS	Vehicle Replacement	30,000	40,000	0	0	30,000
WATER SYSTEM	System Depreciation	None	10,000	0	30,000	30,000
	Vehicle Replacement	12,000	18,671	0	10,000	22,000
BIS PROGRAM	Fall Project 2014	2,992,424	(2,992,424)	Completed: FY 2014		
	Future Projects		55,942	0	1,866,325	1,866,325
	TOTALS	\$3,054,424	\$240,744*	\$1,428	\$1,908,825	\$1,972,253

* Deposits only

TOWN BOARD FALL ELECTIONS RESULTS

Elections for citizens that will represent our town for four year terms were held November 3, 2015. The Mayor and two Commissioner seats were up for election. Commissioner Larry Combs decided not to seek a second term on the Board and we wish to thank Larry for his service and wish him and his family the very best.

Mayor:

Howard Braxton was re-elected to remain as the Mayor of Topsail Beach.

Commissioners:

Linda Stipe was re-elected to remain commissioner. **Steve Smith** was elected to the second available commissioner's seat.



NEW RULES FOR DOG OWNERS

Topsail Beach loves dogs, but in many cases the dogs' owners aren't following the rules. This has caused the police department to ask the town to consider strengthening its rules and increasing fees. At their August meeting, the commissioners voted to increase fees for dog violations from \$25 to \$100. In most cases citations will be issued without warning even for first time offenders. The maximum length of a dog leash is now 20 feet. If you can't immediately get your dog to your side, your leash is too long! It is never appropriate for your dog, even if on a leash, to bound up to another dog or a child and jump on them, no matter how "friendly" your dog is. It can scare children, and you can never know how that other dog that yours has now "attacked" will respond, even if your dog is friendly.

The only place that dogs are allowed to run off leash in the summer months is on the sandbars in the sound and the marshland on the west side of the sound. "Sandbars" means bars that are reached by kayak or swimming or boat. The shoreline of the sound is not a sandbar! Even with that freedom, your dog needs to be under your control, not jumping on others.

TOPSAIL IS ONE OF THE FEW TRULY DOG FRIENDLY BEACHES LEFT. LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY BY OBEYING THE RULES!!

CORA'S ISLE-END DELI HOLDS RIBBON CUTTING

Mayor Howard Braxton welcomed Cora's Isle-End Deli, Topsail Beach's newest eating establishment, with an official ribbon cutting in early September. A standing room only crowd enjoyed unique sandwiches and fruity teas afterward. Owned and operated by Jeff Voelck, and named in honor of his beautiful greyhound rescue, Cora, the deli actually opened in June in the former Jif-Freeze location and has seen its customer base steadily grow.

Jeff is not a newcomer to Topsail Island. Since 1999, Jeff has worked as cook, manager, or chef at island restaurants including The Beach Shop and Home Port. Jeff's menu includes a variety of sandwiches of his own creation. The day he was interviewed for this article, the specialty sandwich was "Pig Enjoying a Root Beer Float", described as "spiced root beer glazed ham and vanilla cream cheese on ciabatta." Side items included Tomato Basil Feta Soup, and White Tangerine or Blackberry Sweet Tea. Regular menu items include the Turkey & Apple Wrap, Coconut Shrimp Salad, and "Plain Ol' Boring Salad."

Although some of the local restaurants close for several days a week during the fall season, Cora's has seen its busiest days yet, and Jeff intends to stay open through the winter. He says more and more people are hearing about his reputation, and, though winter is historically a slow time, he doesn't have the overhead of the bigger establishments. So stop in and give him a try! He has a sanitation grade of 100%, and this writer has been 100% satisfied with the delicious food!



Mayor Braxton, Owner Jeff Voelck and rescue greyhound dog Cora with community supporters at ribbon cutting

JUST FOR FUN!



"Wonder how the local police will deal with this!"

Topsail Tides is written and edited by a small volunteer team of Topsail Beach NC citizens for the benefit of our residents, non-resident property owners and visitors. It is published by the Town staff on an irregular schedule and posted on the Town's website: www.topsailbeach.org. Printed copies are available in the Town Hall lobby. Past issues are archived on the website. Focusing on the facts of major Town projects and important smaller issues, we aim to summarize, inform and even amuse.