

March 23, 2020



As you know, the Topsail Beach Town Board of Commissioners enacted a State of Emergency (SOE) on March 17th in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The SOE was amended on Friday, March 20th, to include the following:

- ❖ All public parking at beach and soundside accesses will be closed until further notice.
- ❖ All on-street parking to unauthorized vehicles is prohibited. Government agencies, town employees and any authorized contractor of the Town is exempt from this regulation.
- ❖ Town Center Park is closed for all uses.
- ❖ Bush Marina facility and the Boat Ramp are closed to the public except for the removal of watercraft. Boat Slip rentals will remain in effect.

Today, March 23rd, the Board of Commissioners held an Emergency Meeting and voted to amend the SOE to include the additional conditions:

- ❖ Prohibit Short Term Rentals (90 days or less) until April 22, (exempting housing needs for those individuals involved in critical projects within the Town) with a plan to re-evaluate the situation to determine if the time period should be extended. Any individuals currently occupying a rental property may fulfill the existing written contract, but no later than April 4, 2020.
- ❖ Strongly encourage all private playgrounds and ball courts to close.
- ❖ Continue to allow or extend permits for temporary housing for those residents still involved in the recovery/renovation.

At this time there are no restrictions on entry to the Town by the general public, nor has a curfew been instated, but the Board of Commissioners is continually monitoring the everchanging information as it comes in. Violators of these SOE conditions may face a misdemeanor charge and a daily fine of up to \$1,000.

Our goal is to avoid community spread. Therefore, we strongly encourage everyone to follow the CDC recommendations which restrict non-essential travel and mass gathering of groups of more than 10 people. In addition, it is all of our responsibility to practice social distancing (at least 6' from others) and frequent hand washing to reduce the spread of this virus.

Although Town Hall is closed to the general public, staff remains available by phone and email to answer your questions and keep you informed. Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!