



TOWN MANAGER'S NEWS AND NOTES

March 2020

ADMINISTRATION

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The Mayor and Staff participated in a conference call with Pender County Emergency Management, Pender County Health Department, and other municipalities to discuss the potential impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). These agencies are monitoring the situation and will continue to keep the towns informed. Residents in North Carolina who have questions and concerns about coronavirus may call the newly established Coronavirus Line at 1-866-462-3821. The helpline is staffed by North Carolina Poison Control officials 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

For more information, go to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or the NC Department of Health and Human Services at <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina/>. You can also go to Pender County Health Department at <http://www.pendercountync.gov/hhs/>.

Remember – Wash your hands, cover your mouth when you cough, and stay home when you're sick!

STORMWATER MEETING

Mayor Smith and the Town Manager attended the Stormwater Decision Maker Summit on March 3rd. The summit focused on lessons learned and shared by different coastal communities with a goal to develop a coastal North Carolina collaborative initiative on stormwater-related issues. Hosted by the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences, the summit looked at key facts related to stormwater impacts from both a flooding aspect and a water quality concern. Conversations included an overview of Nags Head's Septic Health Initiative, Jacksonville's Stormwater Programs, Water Quality Programs in Beaufort and Atlantic Beach, and watershed protection. The UNC IMS hopes to develop a program of Communities of Practice to address growing

stormwater concerns. Topsail Beach can utilize much of this information as we continue to develop our own plan of action.

BUDGET UPDATE

The Board of Commissioners met on February 18th and 21st for their annual Budget Retreat. The two days led to productive discussions on Goals and Policy, Major Capital Needs, and Operational Objectives. The retreat included discussions about service levels and desired goals of the Board of Commissioners, including a review of key policies and regulations in place and overall goals of the Town for FY 2021 as well as future years. Discussion and planning of major capital needs for the Town over the next 5 to 10 years included utility growth and expansion, facility needs, street and sidewalk plans, major fire equipment, and related items.

The next step is for staff to take these discussions and incorporate the goals into a working budget for the Town as we move forward. There are three budget workshops scheduled in April and May to continue to build upon the retreat discussions.

UPDATE ON ABC TAX REVENUES

In the February Board Meeting, staff discussed a recent decision by the ABC Board to withhold revenues from each of the communities as they address space and facility needs. This would impact each of the municipalities in Pender County, as well as the County budget. Topsail Beach budgets around \$18,000 a year in ABC Revenue.

Representatives of Topsail Beach, Surf City, Atkinson, and Pender County met with the ABC Board on February 20th to express our concerns over the decision. The ABC Board did note that the remaining quarterly reimbursements for this year would still be distributed, but that additional revenues in FY 2021 are likely to be small or completely eliminated based on the expenses of the ABC Board. The Towns will continue to pursue any options available.

HURRICANE FLORENCE MARINE DEBRIS RECOVERY PROJECT

The North Carolina Coastal Federation continues its efforts to remove marine debris from North Carolina's coastal waters and public trust properties. Through a grant they received from NC General Assembly and the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the Coastal Federation has been diligently cleaning debris areas of the coast that were impacted by Hurricane Florence and earlier storms. Included in this project

are the marsh areas here in Topsail Beach. The project focuses on public islands and marshes, including state parks, dredge spoil islands, and public waterways. The Coastal Federation has contracted a crew of commercial watermen to implement the clean-up.

The crew completed what they can do for now and have moved down to the Wrightsville Beach area. We hope to have them come back to our area again later this spring or summer. They did a remarkable job, collecting a total of 62 tons of marine debris over a 63-day working period. All this debris came from about a 9 square mile area from the Surf City bridge to New Topsail Inlet, encompassing the public trust areas of Banks Channel, the ICWW and the mainland creeks. The tonnage can be broken down by the site they were working out of:

- 1) Surf City Soundside Park: 35.5 tons
- 2) Hampstead-Sloop Point Boat Access: 4.75 tons

3) Topsail Beach: 21.75 tons

Among the items collected include dock floats and wood/deck material, a porta-jon, an ice maker, foam products, and a damaged trailer with furniture still inside.

STAFFING

Topsail Beach is excited to welcome aboard Rose Patane to our staff as our new Account Technician. Rose started on Monday, March 2nd and will be assisting our Finance Director, Connie Forand with the daily accounting operations. In addition, Rose will be helping with our customer service needs. Please come by and welcome Rose to Topsail Beach!

BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT

Be sure to visit our website for updates on the progress of our Dredging and Beach Nourishment Project! Look for the icon on the main page to see photos, videos, and detailed information on the project. Be sure to visit us on Facebook as well.



POLICE

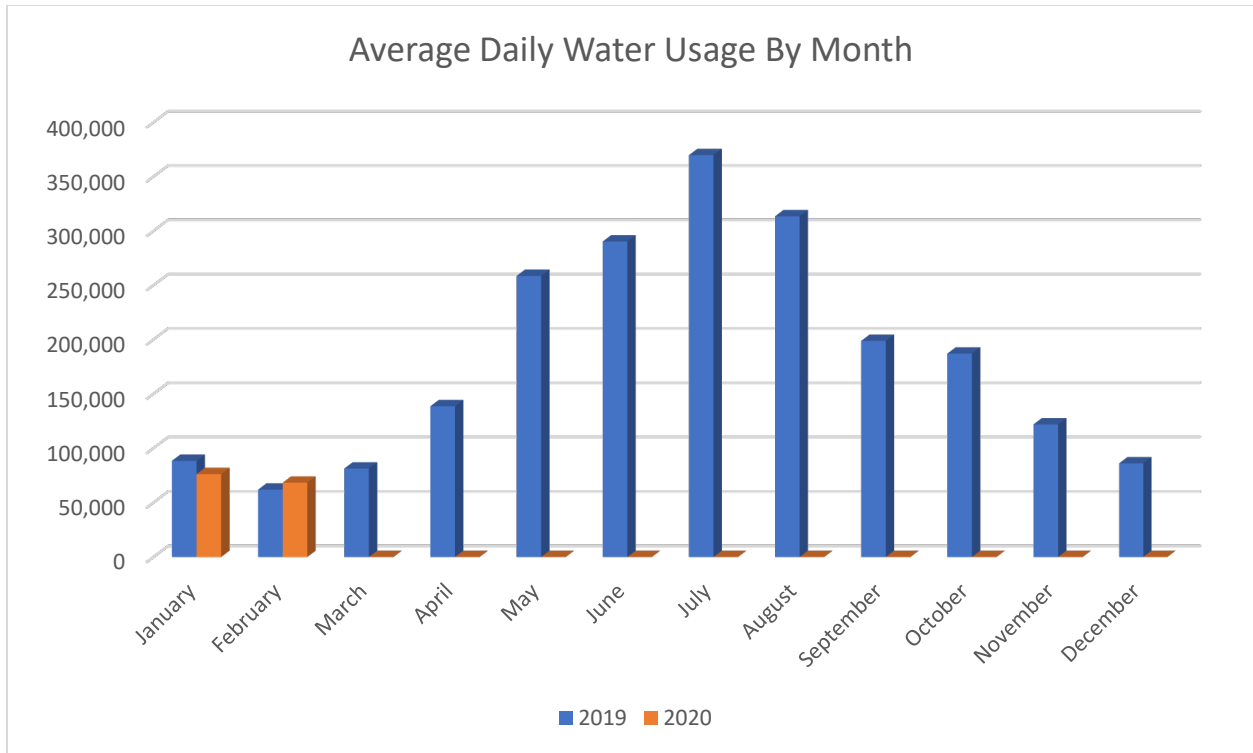
ACTIVITY LOG EVENT SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2020

ARREST MADE	2	ASSIST TO RESCUE	3
ALARM CALL	2	CALL FOR SERVICE	28
CIVIL CITATION	0	DISTURBANCE CALL	2
DOG RELATED CALL	0	FUEL	0
OPEN DOOR FOUND	11	PARKING COMPLAINT	1
SCHOOL ATTENDED	15	SECURITY CHECK	276
SPECIAL WORK	42	STATE CITATION ISSUED	17
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	3	SUSPICIOUS/UNLOCKED VEHICLE	5
TOPSAIL ASSISTED SURF CITY	0	WARNING CITATION ISSUED	23

PUBLIC WORKS

WATER USAGE

Below is a look at the average daily water usage for February 2020, and a comparison of the data to 2019. This February our four wells generated a total of 2,115,910 gallons of water for an average of 68,255 gallons a day, a slight increase from 61,855 in February 2019. Well #4 generated the largest amount for the month, at 741,750 gallons.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING AND ZONING

The Planning Board reviewed a proposed amendment to the Land Development Code to limit the use of temporary storage containers during the repair of structures. A proposed ordinance has been recommended for adoption by the Board of Commissioners.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is reviewing the Walk/Bike plan to establish priorities and move forward with implementation. A Citizen Advisory Group is recommended to assist the effort. The following citizens have volunteered:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Richard Hart | 306 S. Anderson Blvd |
| Ed Broadhurst | 212 N. Anderson Blvd |
| Jeff Price | The Beach & Shop Grill |

David Barnes Owner of Cora's Deli Building
 Carrie Hewitt 230 N. Anderson Blvd
 Jerry Patton 713 N. Anderson Blvd
 Lynn Blue 1114 S. Anderson Blvd
 Cathy Scaparrotti 1613 S. Anderson Blvd

Summer Concert Series

Linda Vescovi and Zach White (Pender County Parks and Recreation) are finalizing the details and budget for the Summer Concert Series. Pender County has committed to fund the advertising and half of the cost of the entertainment (bands). The funds committed by the Town for the 2019 events was \$1,800.00. The current tentative budget commitment for the 2020 events by the Town is \$1,700.00.

BUILDING PERMIT SUMMARY

A total of 30 permits were issued at a valuation of \$718,074.57 with one new construction and two substantial improvements/repairs.

FEBRUARY 2020 BUILDING PERMITS

PERMIT DESCRIPTION	NUMBER	VALUATION	PERMIT FEE
Docks/Decks/Seawalls/ ACC	4	\$71,050.00	\$560.00
Demolition	1	\$1,500.00	\$105.00
Electrical Repair	5	\$4,450.00	\$275.00
Gas Piping	1	\$1,005.57	\$55.00
Land Disturbance	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
Mechanical Repairs	9	\$59,439.00	\$495.00
Res. Alteration	2	\$110,000.00	\$430.00
Misc. Building Repair	4	\$70,630.00	\$400.00
Res. Single Family	1	\$400,000.00	\$4,886.60
Septic Permit	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
Misc. Zoning	1	\$0.00	\$30.00
	30	\$718,074.57	\$7,296.60

2020 CENSUS

Remember April 1st is Census Day and you count! Look for information in the mail starting as early as March 12th. The results of the 2020 Census will help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding flow into communities every year for the next decade. That funding shapes many different aspects of every community, no matter the size, no matter the location. It is important to our community.

For more information, go to <https://2020census.gov/>

Dates to Remember:

Board of Commissioners – Mar 11th (6:00 PM)
Eastern Alliance Meeting – Mar. 18th (Jacksonville)
Legislative SDR Visit – Mar. 19th (10:00 AM)
ASBPA Mtg. – Mar. 23rd – 27th (Washington D.C.)
Planning Board – Mar. 25th (3:00 PM)
TISPC – Mar. 26th (2:00 PM)
Four Towns Meeting – April 2nd (6:30 PM)

Contact Town Hall for more information