



**Town of North Topsail Beach
Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 01, 2026, at 11:00 AM
Town Hall - 2008 Loggerhead Court, North Topsail Beach, NC 28460
(910) 328-1349 | www.northtopsailbeachnc.gov**

*Mayor - Richard Grant
Alderman - Larry Strother
Alderman - Mark Barefoot
Town Manager - Alice Derian*

*Mayor Pro Tem - Connie Pletl
Alderman – Kip Malcolm
Alderman – Laura Olszewski
Town Clerk – Alexis Stanfield*

I. CALL TO ORDER (Mayor Grant)

Mayor Grant called the meeting to order at 11:00AM.

II. INVOCATION (Mayor Pro Tem Pletl)

MPT Pletl gave the invocation.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Alderman Olszewski)

Alderman Olszewski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion— Alderman Olszewski made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item B, Contract Authorization 2026-26.48, under Continuing Business. Alderman Malcolm seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. MANAGER'S REPORT

PTC 8:

Manager Derian reported at the March Board of Aldermen meeting that PTC#B sand work has been completed and wrapped up on February 18th. In total, 61,000 Cubic Yards of sand have been placed as part of this emergency berm project. The next phase of this project will be dune plantings and is expected to take place this Spring. The proposal submitted by the Town Engineer for the Board's consideration includes planting of 182,250 sea oat plants at a total cost of \$353,565.00 and is included with Contract Award Ordinance 2026-26.48

I also reported in March that FEMA has approved the project and obligated funds with the Town's total eligible amount of \$4,330,561. Engineer Way discussed the opportunity for the board to consider a small future project in the next environmental window. Manager Derian reported the Town would be

submitting an extension request to December 31, 2026 to FEMA that will allow the Board to consider a small 13,376 CY project. This will be submitted by end of the week.

Beach Vitex:

The Town is anticipating the contractor treating beach vitex to begin treatments again at the end of April. The exact date will depend on the weather and the leaf of the plants. The Town will post an announcement next week. The Town has a list of locations to review to confirm easements.

FY 2026-2027 Budget Calendar:

The next scheduled budget meetings are for April 8th and April 9th from 9:00Am to 4:30PM or otherwise concluded. Doug Carter from DEC Associates Inc. is scheduled to be in attendance at these meetings.

Vegetative Debris Pick Up:

April 20th is the next scheduled day for vegetation debris pick up. Residents were instructed to place vegetative debris near the roadside on the Right-of-Way on or by April 20th. Manager Derian reported the Town website had additional details.

Memorial Service for Jean Beasley:

Manager Derian there would be a memorial service for Jean Beasley on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 10:00AM on the lawn at the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center with an open house and reception to follow until 1:00PM. Board members were asked by the Manager to RSVP should they wish to attend.

VI. OPEN FORUM

There were no signups for open forum.

VII. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND HEARINGS

A. Coastal Engineer Monthly Report (Engineer Way)

Fran Way, Coastal Engineer, announced to the Board that he would be present at the May 13, 2026, Board of Aldermen meeting. Way provided the Board and public with a review of shoreline projects. Way announced that all areas of the shoreline are actively being worked on, however, some areas of the beach are experiencing higher rates of erosion. The USACE does not have a winter 2026 Dredging Schedule but does plan to announce the winter 2027 schedule this spring. Phase 1 of Beach Renourishment is completed and phases 4 and 5 are holding up well again past tropical storms. Way reported the DA_0143 phases 1-3 easement coordination is on-going. The next step will be the permitting application submittal. Way reported for PTC 8 a dune restoration to withstand a 5-year storm. FEMA officially obligated additional cubic yards for the project at the end of February. FEMA is currently working with fewer employees so the process of receiving this has slowed. Way announced that sand could not be placed in phases 1-3 of the Shoreline Dune Restoration if there was live vegetation inhabiting the dunes per regulatory guidelines. Way stated the areas around St. Regis and Northshore will have a harder time with beach renourishment since that area of the beach is narrower.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes

March 4, 2026, Board of Aldermen Regular Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

B. Department Head Reports

1. Finance Department
2. Fire Department
3. Inspections Department
4. Planning Department
5. Police Department

C. Committee Reports

1. Planning Board & PPI Committee
2. Board of Adjustment
3. TISPC <https://tispc.org/minutes/>
4. ONWASA
5. Parks & Rec Committee

D. Budget Amendment 2026-26.46 for the Hiring of the Interim Town Manager

Motion— Alderman Strother made a motion to approve the consent agenda. MPT Pletl seconded the motion. The Mayor and Board members engaged in discussion regarding restricted funds in the monthly finance report and sale of the firetruck engine. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Approval of Interim Town Manager Contract and Contract Authorization 2026-26.47 (Mayor Grant)

Motion— MPT Pletl made a motion to approve the Interim Town Manager Contract and Contract Authorization 2026-26.47 as presented. Alderman Barefoot seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of CA 2026-26.48 with TI Coastal, PLLC.

Motion— Alderman Olszewski made a motion to approve Contract Authorization 2026-26.48 with TI Coastal, PLLC. as presented. Alderman Strother seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. FEMA Update (GWI Consultant Debra Mack)

Debra Mack, GWI Consultant, presented to the Board a PowerPoint regarding the status of FEMA reimbursements. Mack announced that of the twenty-three (23) open recovery projects, only five (5) remain open. \$21.76 million was awarded to the Town from Hurricane Florence efforts. All Hurricane Dorian projects were reported to be closed. Mack reported that the PTC 8: Category G Dune Recovery was completed, and the Category B Berm was awarded \$4.33 million. Mack reported the Town had requested to extend the Dune Plantings and Additional Sand Placement to December 31, 2026. Debra Mack specified for the Board and public that a project being closed

means it has been submitted for reimbursement. Debra Mack stated her position was the Town would recover all eligible funds. No action was taken by the Board.

C. Beach Project Update (TI Coastal Engineer Chris Gibson)

Chris Gibson, TI Coastal Engineer, presented a beach project update to the Board. Gibson reported that North Carolina Wildlife Resources has concerns with the Towns usage of an easement for DA_0143. He reported his meeting with the USACE last month went well and conversations regarding funding are ongoing. Gibson reported he was in the process of conversing with the State over the requirements to allow Towns to dredge and dispose. Regarding the Sea Oats that were approved earlier in the meeting, Gibson stated there is a one-year eighty percent (80%) survival rate guaranteed for the plantings. No action was taken by the Board.

D. Discussion regarding the establishment of an auxiliary police force pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §160A-282 (Alderman Malcolm)

Alderman Malcolm presented the item to the Board. He provided the public and the Board with a PowerPoint showcasing the baseline population of the Town, highlighting the influx of visitors during the summer months, areas he identified as critically needing more officers, and a shared goal for the Town. Alderman Malcolm presented the North Carolina General Statutes allowing Towns to establish forces and the possible operational benefits. Alderman Malcolm highlighted that the proposed auxiliary force would be on a volunteer basis without pay unlike the Reserve Force North Topsail Beach currently has established. The Auxiliary Force would not replace the Reserve Force, but rather along side it. Therefore, Alderman Malcolm vocalized, the implementation and continuation of an auxiliary force would not be negatively financially impactful to the town. Alderman Malcolm finished his presentation with his proposed next steps. Town Attorney Chip Payson recommended Alderman Malcolm recuse himself from voting on the matter since he is a reserve officer with the Town and has a vested interest. He continued, stating the ordinance could not be passed after being heard by the Board once. Attorney Payson recommended the Board take a vote to decide if they would like to hear the item again at a future meeting. Clerk Stanfield informed the Board that a public hearing and notice of the hearing would first have to be issued and had before the adoption or amendment of an ordinance. Alderman Olszewski vocalized her support for waiting to hear the item until a permanent manager and permanent Police Chief could be hired. Alderman Malcolm requested Attorney Payson explain the requirements for recusal to vote. Attorney Payson and Alderman Malcolm agreed to look further into the statutes outside the meeting.

Motion— Alderman Olszewski made a motion to not hear item at a future meeting until a permanent Town Manager and permanent Police Chief. Alderman Strother seconded the motion later in the discussion after calling the item to question. Clerk Stanfield and Attorney Payson confirmed everyone who wished to speak on the item had and that discussion would cease. **The motion carried unanimously.** Alderman Malcolm was recused from voting.

E. Discussion on Outside Agency Performing a Compensation Study (Mayor Grant)

Mayor Grant requested staff bring the Board estimations for the cost of a Compensation Study. Alderman Olszewski vocalized that she did not believe a compensation study would solve all staffing issues. The Board provided Manager Derian and Interim Manager Faison with a consensus to report back estimated costs.

XI. OPEN FORUM

Jeff Myer, 2224 NRIR, requested clarification on the Board's decision not to hear the Auxiliary Force item at a future meeting.

XII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The attorney had nothing to report.

XIII. ALDERMAN'S REPORT

Alderman Strother announced that CBRA was stationary at the moment, but he would be having a meeting with the Department of Wildlife and Rep. Carson Smith. He reported there would be a Shellfish Aquaculture event at Surf City's Town Hall on April 14th from 1PM-3:30PM.

Alderman Olszewski invited the public to attend the *Saved the South End* Celebration on April 15th.

Alderman Malcolm responded to Jeff Myer's public comment. He reviewed the different meetings and events he attended on behalf of the Town. He reminded the public that sea turtle patrol begins on May 1st, and thanked staff for their hard work. He announced upcoming holidays and events going on the Island.

MPT Pletl welcomed Interim Manager Larry Faison and thanked staff for their hard work. She reminded the public of the upcoming budget meeting on April 8th and possibly 9th at Town Hall. She recognized that Onslow County property values have increased this year.

XIV. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Grant thanked the public for attending and spoke about the recent property revaluations and tax base increase. He responded to Alderman Malcolm's response regarding the auxiliary force and reminded the Board that it is inappropriate for individual members to speak on behalf of the Board.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

The Board of Aldermen did not enter closed session.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion— Alderman Olszewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alderman Strother seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:37PM.