

Topsail Beach Newsletter

October 1 - December 31

FY 25/26 - Q2

We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season with their loved ones!

The Town hosted the 20th Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony on November 29th with over 35 participants in the parade. The Board also honored Finance Director Connie Forand as our parade Grand Marshal for her dedicated hard work to this Town for over 39 years.



We want to thank everyone that attended, participated, and volunteered at this event! Special thank you to Girl Scout Troop #4242 for the hot cocoa, Vicki Wiggins and Gary Chadwell for the cookies and cupckaes, and Elite Golf Carts & Rentals for the golf carts used in the parade.

After a busy 2025, with many changes for the Town, we hope that 2026 brings sunny skies and smooth sailing for everyone!



*We want to give a **HUGE** shoutout to our Public Works Department for their hard work decorating for the holidays!*

2026 Meeting Schedule

For those interested in viewing or attending a Town Board or Advisory Board and Committee Meeting, all Agendas and supporting materials can be found on the Town Website's Agenda and Minutes Page.

We encourage you to review the Town Website for any changes or cancelations of meetings.

Parks and Recreation

1st Tuesday at 2:00 PM

Agenda Workshop

Monday before the Regular Board Meeting at 2:00 PM, as needed

Regular Board Meeting

2nd Wednesday at 6:00 PM

BIS Committee Meeting

Thursday after the Regular Board Meeting at 2:00 PM

Planning Board

4th Wednesday at 10:00 AM

Budget Meetings

Jan. 27 and 29 – 9:00 AM
March 18, April 1, April 29,
May 12 – 2:00 PM

January							February							March						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				

April							May							June						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4								1	2	3	4	5	6	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
														31						

July							August							September						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4								1						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
							30	31												

October							November							December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

Finances



Topsail Beach Financials, yearly Budgets, and yearly Audits are always available for review on the Town Website under the Finance Department Page. Finance Director Forand publishes the monthly financials and fund balance shortly after the Regular Town Board Meeting every month.

FY 26/27 BUDGET SEASON

North Carolina local governments operate under a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. A budget must be adopted by June 30th of each year.

The annual budget combines the goals and vision of the Board with sound financial principles the Town must follow. The Board, Town Manager, Finance Directors, and Department heads are involved in the budgeting process. Residents are provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget through a required public hearing held by the Board before the adoption of a budget ordinance.

BUDGET MEETINGS

Budget Retreats: January 27 and 29 starting at 9:00 AM

Budget Workshops: March 18, April 1, April 29, May 12 – 2:00 PM



<u>INTEREST EARNED</u>	October	November	December	Year to Date
General Fund	\$31,933.48	\$33,074.72	\$37,240.06	\$200,168.04
BIS Fund	\$12,745.30	\$12,202.14	\$12,422.22	\$73,104.72
Water Fund	\$2,202.56	\$2,139.11	\$2,218.29	\$15,113.32
Public Safety Building	\$29,545.00	\$27,650.00	\$27,477.80	\$174,953.91

A BIG THANK YOU TO FINANCE DIRECTOR CONNIE FORAND FOR HER CAREFUL MANAGEMENT AND WISE INVESTMENT DECISIONS THAT HAVE GENERATED STRONG INTEREST EARNINGS FOR THE TOWN.

Public Safety Building

The Public Safety Building Committee continues to meet as needed and reports that the process remains on the projected timeline. The DD drawings (design and development) were completed on 11/25/25. This is the first complete set of drawings that shows all of the major components. The DD Plans will be used to update the budget pricing and identify any areas of additional savings to insure the 9.6 M budget goal is not exceeded. It is anticipated that Thomas Construction will have updated pricing on the project, based on these drawings, in early January. Note that these drawings are the reflection of numerous meetings between the construction team, the architectural team, town administrative staff, department heads and the PSB Committee.

The civil express storm water permit is pending. The septic system permit package was submitted at the end of December and the anticipated cost of the septic system will be on or below budget. We have plans in place to ensure that the 6/30/26 encumbrance date is met. It is anticipated that construction will begin mid to late summer of 2026.





Mayor and Board

The Town of Topsail Beach has a Council/Manager form of government. ICMA (International City Manager's Association) defines this form of government as residents electing a governing body— including a chief elected official, such as a mayor —to adopt legislation and set policy. The governing body then hires a manager with broad executive authority to carry out those policies and oversee the local government's day-to-day operations. The council, or Board of Commissioners, is made up of 6 members, 5 commissioners, and a mayor. Each serve 4 year terms.

The 2025 Election Day for municipal elections took place on Nov. 4, 2025.



FRANK BRAXTON

Mayor

Term Ends: 2027

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JOHN GUNTER

Mayor Pro Tem

Term Ends: 2027

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JOE BELL

Commissioner

Term Ends: 2027

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NANCY THOMASON

Commissioner

Term Ends: 2029

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ALEX ARAB

Commissioner

Term Ends: 2029

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JOHN BEST

Commissioner

Term Ends: 2029

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Prevent Frozen Pipes



BEFORE THE COLD WEATHER SETS IN



Check irrigation systems. Make sure everything is turned off and drained.



Know how to shut off your water in case of an emergency or if you are away. Many properties will have a shut off valve on their side. If not, call Town Hall to have your water shut off.



Protect your pipes. Insulate where possible.



Eliminate sources of cold air. Seal any cracks or openings around windows and doors

WHEN TEMPERATURES STAY BELOW FREEZING



Keep the heat on, even if you will be away from home.



Let it drip. If pipes are exposed to cold, keep water running at a trickle.



Open Cabinets. For plumbing on exterior walls, keep cabinet doors open.

BUT IF YOUR PIPES DO FREEZE



Shut off water immediately.



Allow pipes to thaw before turning the water back on.



Be careful turning the water back on. Slowly turn water back on and check pipes and joints.

Ongoing Projects

Water Supply Study – Rivers and Associates

Rivers provided a 40% complete, digital draft of the Water Supply Study to the Town for review and comment. Rivers met with the Town of Surf City to discuss a bulk water supply purchase alternative for inclusion in the study. Surf City public works staff provided Rivers with several record drawings depicting the size of lines directly upstream of the two towns' existing, emergency interconnect. Rivers performed a hydrant flow test at the two hydrants at the edge of Surf City's system to determine the potential upstream pressure for a bulk water supply interconnect. Rivers will utilize this flow test to perform a hydraulic analysis to determine any potential distribution system upgrades in order to bulk purchase water from Surf City.

Rivers CAD designers also prepared preliminary plots for potential Water Treatment Plant and well schematics for both on-island and mainland sites. Work to be completed includes review and finalizing the schematics, cost estimates, hydraulic analysis, and final selection of an alternative.

Overall, the project is approximately 45% complete.

Stormwater CIP and Resiliency Plan – ARDURRA (formerly WK Dickson)

Accomplishments in December 2025:

- Started effort toward the Restoration & Resiliency Plan

Anticipated accomplishments in January 2026:

- Continue effort toward Restoration & Resiliency Plan

Stormwater CIP and Resiliency Plan – WK Dickson

Schedule for Topsail Beach Stormwater CIP and Resiliency Plan:

- Final CIP and Resiliency Plan Report February 20th, 2026

TOPSAIL ISLAND VITEX ERADICATION PROJECT



Topsail Island beaches have joined together in the fight to eradicate vitex. The Towns applied for state funding to implement the Topsail Island Vitex Eradication Project. On June 19, 2024, the NCDEQ Water Resources Commission awarded Topsail Island a grant in the amount of \$690,060.50 to continue our work on mitigation of the existing vitex.

In August 2025, Michael Baker Engineering began surveying properties to establish initial treatment on vitex areas. If you are an ocean-front property owners, we encourage you to sign the waiver to allow crews access to work on your property. An interactive map and the waiver form can be found on the [TISPC website](#).

Please note that properties that were initially identified in survey conducted in early 2024 are being treated during this current phase. The Town hopes additional funding can be obtained to continue this four-to-five year long project.