Daniel Tuman, Mayor
Suzanne Gray, Mayor Pro Tem
Aldermen:
Don Harte
Tom Leonard
Richard Macartney
Michael Yawn

Steven H. Foster
Town Manager

Carin Z. Faulkner, MPA
Town Clerk

August 28, 2012

Ms. Dora Johnson
8713 3rd Ave.
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

Dear Ms. Johnson,

The Town of North Topsail Beach is in receipt of your letter and it will be circulated to the Board of Alderman for their information and possible reply. I read your letter and I have some comments.

The Town is planning an inlet realignment and beach nourishment project at the north-end. This is part of the town-wide beach nourishment project that has been underway for 10 years or more. This project will be paid for from revenues in the present beach fund and from borrowing. This project will cost nearly $6.8 million dollars. Essentially none of the cost of this project is being paid from the "hard-earned dollars" of our town's residents. Rather, the monies accumulated in the Town's beach fund are from vacationers to our town that pay a 3% premium on their vacation rental for the luxury of vacationing here. For your information, vacationers to our town spend $25 million dollars annually in rentals. The Town and Onslow County both receive approximately $750,000 each in taxes from these rentals. By North Carolina Law, the Town can only use these monies for beach nourishment. By collecting these taxes, the Town is obliged to maintain the beaches for the visitors who come here.

North Topsail Beach is unique among beach towns. Our 1 cent property tax ($20 for a $200,000 property) for the beach is almost nothing compared to what all the other beach towns levy. Consequently, little progress has been made in implementing the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Act) requirement that communities must have an engineered (nourished) beach in order to qualify for Federal Disaster Recovery Funds in the event of a major storm event. I lived here in 1996 when Hurricane Fran destroyed over 400 homes and much land disappeared. This damage occurred over the entire length of North Topsail Beach. People lost their land and their homes. Today, FEMA will restore the island to its condition prior to the storm if the Town has implemented a beach nourishment program. The Town of Topsail Beach has already done this and will receive $7.5 million dollars to repair their beach from the damage done by last year's Hurricane Irene. Surf City has a major program underway and is accumulating large sums in its beach fund. The majority of the present Board of Alderman is fully aware of the risks of living on a barrier island and the need to have a town-wide beach program. I believe that they are acting responsibly and are addressing the Town's present and future needs. I too received a letter recently challenging the Town Board's recent decisions regarding our Phase 1 (first) beach project. I personally don't support the assertions or the recommendations in this letter.

In closing, I thank you for taking an interest in North Topsail Beach. If you wish, I will meet with you and with anyone who would like to join you to discuss this topic further at Town Hall. Please call Carin Faulkner, Town Clerk, at 910-328-1349 and she will make the arrangements.

Sincerely,

Dan Tuman, Mayor
North Topsail Beach

2008 Loggerhead Court
North Topsail Beach, NC 28460

ntbnc.org

Phone (910) 328-1349
Toll Free: (800) 687-7092
Fax (910) 328-4508

Dear Town of Topsail Aldermen:

I am very much against you purposing to use the "Reserve Fund or Bonds" to fund the North End erosion. Every time I turn around funds are going to the North End. Do you not know you are washing hard earned monies to Sea. If people want to buy property in this high risk area then they should foot the cost. Thought when I voted you people in I done a good job guess not. What are you thinking not bringing this to voters is it because you know it has been let known in the past that it would be voted down. Stop your unfair spending at the North End. DJ

Mailed letters to:

Joint Legislative Committe on Local Gov't in Raleigh.

North Carolina State Local Gov't. (marshal)

Jacksonville Daily News

and The Topsail Voice.