



COUNTY OF DARE, NORTH CAROLINA

District 1: Roanoke Island & Mainland; Dist 2: Nags Head, Colington, Kill Devil Hills; Dist. 3: Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores, Duck; Dist. 4: Chicamacomico, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Hatteras; Dist. 5: At Large

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

**DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DARE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – RM. 185
954 MARSHALL C. COLLINS DRIVE, MANTEO
October 27, 2009 – 4:00 P.M.**

The Dare County Board of Commissioners met in a special meeting on October 27, 2009. The following Commissioners were present: Chairman Warren Judge, Vice-Chairman Allen Burrus, Commissioners Richard Johnson, Jack Shea, Mike Johnson, Virginia Tillett, and Max Dutton. County Manager Bobby Outten; Dorothy Toolan, Public Information Officer; Dave Clawson, Finance Director; Katie Smith, Clerk; Terry Scroggs, Motorola; Andrew Curd, Motorola; Jeff Parker, Motorola; Deputy Almey Gray, other staff from the Sheriff's Department, and members of the public were also present.

Chairman Judge called the Special Meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners to order and stated the purpose for the Special Meeting was to discuss, and if applicable, to approve, a contract from Motorola to provide and construct a new 800 MHz Digital Astro 25 Communication Network to replace Dare County's current communication system. He then asked County Manager Bobby Outten to present the Motorola Contract.

Mr. Outten gave the Commissioners an overview of the system staff have been working to develop for several years. He noted the Commissioners had opportunity to read the specifications of the system and explained he had reviewed the contract (**Att. 1**) with Dave Clawson, Finance Director, and made some additional changes. He distributed the newest version of the contract and requested the Board give him authority to make necessary changes if they elect to approve the contract. He explained the reason for the Special Meeting of the Board was due to Motorola's offer of extended warranties, totaling a savings in excess of \$30,000, if the contract was approved by the end of the month. He noted Deputy Almey Gray and staff have reviewed the system with Motorola and approved the final product. Mr. Outten also explained the system is a turn-key operation with the exception of one tower that would need to be built in Stumpy Point. He stated some equipment for this tower has already been purchased from Highway Patrol. Height variances and soil type will determine the cost of the tower construction which ranges from \$250,000 to \$750,000. Commissioner Richard Johnson asked why the tower could not be placed on the existing water tower. Mr. Outten explained this option was explored and ruled out. He went on to explain the cost to amortize the indebtedness would be \$850,000 a year in the first year with a ten (10) year period to pay. The principal will be level, but the interest would decrease throughout the ten (10) year period of the loan as the debt is paid down. He detailed the costs, risks and benefits of additional services offered by Motorola including Maintenance Contracts and a Software Support System. He noted staff and the Board would need to evaluate these options at a later time to see if these plans should be purchased. Mr. Outten stated if the contract is approved, the County would remain on track to meeting the 2013 deadline. The total contract amount of \$6.8 million includes radios required for Dare County and the Fire Departments the County agreed to pay for. He noted the other towns and Fire Departments are aware they will also need to purchase radios.

Commissioner Shea noted several engineered drawing where parts of the system were described as analog and not digital. Andrew Curd, Motorola, noted it is a digital system and has backwards compatibility for analog devices in order to meet radio standards. He explained some of the components are analog but the backbone of the system is fully digital. The Commissioners and Motorola representatives then discussed coverage area for the new system. Jeff Parker, Motorola, explained they offer 95% coverage for the

County and noted the only areas where coverage may not be available are “heavy” buildings such as the jail and hospital, and some areas between Rodanthe and Buxton for hand-held units. He noted mobile units between Rodanthe and Buxton will still have coverage. Mr. Outten explained with the Viper system, concerns had been expressed regarding inside building coverage. He asked Deputy Gray if he was satisfied with this system and if it will be sufficient to meet the needs of the County. Deputy Gray responded the Viper system was designed for street coverage which became a critical issue for the County’s needs. The Motorola system will provide much better coverage and is built to be able to talk within most buildings with the exception of “heavy” buildings such as the Detention Center and hospital. Mr. Parker stated bi-directional amplifiers could be added to enhance the signal in a heavy building allowing coverage, but noted this option is not part of the proposal at this time. Discussion continued on coverage including in buildings such as hotels and schools, in coverage hole areas such as between Rodanthe and Buxton, ways to enhance coverage, the ability to maintain communications during a catastrophe, and details of a backup generator in East Lake. Motorola representatives explained mobile units should have coverage in areas that are questionable for hand-held equipment and reiterated they would test areas throughout the County for coverage. Mr. Terry Scroggs, Motorola, assured the Commissioners Motorola will meet the coverage criteria as stated in the contract. County Manager Outten also explained in the instance of a catastrophe, the emergency management plan has provisions set up with satellite radio and other sources of communication. Major Almey Gry also noted this new system will solve issues emergency personnel have faced in the past such as not being able to talk at the same time if there is more than one emergency. He noted in addition, all emergency personnel (Fire Department, Police, and Rescue) will be able to talk together to better coordinate their response to an emergency. Other items such as details and costs of the maintenance and software contracts as additional purchases were discussed.

Commissioner Shea asked if the system would undergo stress tests. Mr. Parker explained the system would be staged in Chicago where it would be tested. Dare County staff would be in attendance to verify the operation. Then the system would be tested in the field. He also noted each component of the system underwent stress tests when it was designed. Commissioner Richard Johnson asked if the generators would be on an uninterrupted power supply. Mr. Parker stated they are still working with the state on this issue. County Manager Outten noted under the proposed contract, it states the County would have an uninterrupted power supply. He asked the Motorola representatives to clarify as the County would need to make provision for any additional equipment that needs to be purchased. Mr. Scroggs replied Motorola would carry the responsibility of ensuring there would be uninterrupted power supply to the locations. Chairman Judge asked if there is potential for growth in the system to accommodate the County as it expands. Mr. Parker stated this system is a scalable system that can be added on to at the County’s expense. Mr. Outten explained there is room for expansion, but it is not unlimited. Mr. Curd also noted he did not see the need to expand the system anytime soon. More discussion followed regarding software support, upgrades and the life expectancy of the software programs. The Motorola representatives further explained the different software agreements available and explained what would be included.

MOTION

Commissioner Richard Johnson motioned to approve the contract subject to final approval on conditions and modifications in an email by the County Attorney.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

Commissioner Dutton asked if the towns were aware of their maximum cost. Mr. Outten noted the towns know what the radios and pagers cost and are aware of the timeline of when this system will be operational. He noted if there was any confusion on cost to contact Deputy Gray for the price list. Mr. Curd noted the quote entitled “Dare County Special” is the most up to date price and would be available to the towns when they are ready to purchase by contacting Warren Bell with Motorola.

Vote: AYES unanimous

AT 5:49 P.M. THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 A.M. ON
NOVEMBER 2, 2009.

(SEAL)

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
Katie Smith, Clerk

APPROVED:

By: _____
Warren C. Judge, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners

