



# COUNTY OF DARE, NORTH CAROLINA

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

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are videotaped and can be viewed at [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com)

## MINUTES

### DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

**5:00 p.m., September 18, 2017**

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Vice Chairman Wally Overman  
Jack Shea, Steve House, Rob Ross, Jim Tobin, Danny Couch

Commissioners absent: None

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten  
Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, David Clawson  
Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester  
Clerk to the Board, Gary Lee Gross

A full and complete account of the entire Board of Commissioners meeting is archived on a video that is available for viewing on the Dare County website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com).

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. He invited George Lurie, the Lay Leader from the Jewish Community of the Outer Banks to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### **ITEM 1 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE**

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- He reported on the 9/11 Commemorative Ceremony that he attended along with Vice Chairman Overman and Commissioner Ross at the Outer Banks Event Site.
- The Chairman said he had a luncheon with the new School Superintendent John Farrelly. He complimented the Board of Education for the excellent choice they made in hiring Mr. Farrelly and said he looks forward to working with him.
- He noted that 2017 has been an active hurricane season and urged everyone to be watchful and make preparations in the event storm activity that is developing in the Atlantic Ocean should head in our direction.

A video of the Chairman’s update can be seen on the County website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com).

#### **ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2017**

Dan McCallum received the Employee of the Month award from Jennie Collins who described the many ways that this EMS Lieutenant is an asset to Dare County.

### **ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. Citizen remarks can be seen in their entirety on the county website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com). Following is a brief summary –

*The following comments were made in Manteo –*

1. Don Bridge, President of the Theatre of Dare, was joined at the podium by other members of the group's Board of Directors. He outlined the history of the all-volunteer group whose performances have become very popular. He said the group invests in the community and noted scholarships that have been awarded. Mr. Bridge reported that a mold problem at the College of the Albemarle (COA) auditorium, where the group has rented performance space, is now unusable without expensive remediation. He described why this puts the group in danger of financial collapse. Mr. Bridge asked the Board to fund a speedy remediation of the COA space, and if that is not possible, to consider providing a facility to keep the performing arts alive in Dare County.

*There were no Public Comments via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton.*

### **ITEM 4 – PROCLAMATION – ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS**

Gail Sonneso, on behalf of GEM, presented information about Alzheimer's disease and outlined the global campaign to raise awareness of dementia. She stressed the value of early detection and cited the need for Dare County to develop a dementia inclusive plan and consider supporting local families with adult day care, group respite programs, and education. Ms. Sonneso outlined GEM services and events and asked the Board to designate September as Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to issue an Alzheimer's Awareness proclamation. Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

### **ITEM 5 – NCDOT UPDATE ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW BONNER BRIDGE**

NCDOT Division Engineer Jerry Jennings and Resident Engineer Pablo Hernandez gave the Board an update report on construction of the new Bonner Bridge. Mr. Jennings provided a timeline and summary of the project and described construction features differentiating the old bridge from the new span. He said construction is about 50% finished and the project should be substantially completed by Nov. 2018. Mr. Hernandez gave a comprehensive briefing on the innovative design technology that is being used to construct the new Bonner Bridge. He highlighted the way the new structure will enhance navigational access by providing a much wider span for vessels traveling under the bridge through Oregon Inlet. Mr. Jennings also gave an update on the Rodanthe bridge project and he announced that the NCDOT Board has approved Dare County's request to name the new Pea Island Bridge, which is near completion, in honor of Capt. Richard Etheridge.

**ITEM 6 – RECOMMENDED 2018–2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (Att. #1)**

The recommended Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) for 2018 to 2022 was presented to the Board by Finance Director David Clawson. He summarized the plan and noted that the Capital Improvement Planning Committee recommends setting Fund Balance goals of \$650,000 for the first year and \$750,000 for each subsequent year. It was noted that over the five years, the plan funds the total amount requested by Dare County Schools for CIP projects. Mr. Clawson provided an overview of projects in the plan including a new request for \$170,094 to fund 3-D photography for revaluation and GIS. A request to address immediate needs for EMS facilities was also presented in the CIP at a cost of \$167,000. The Finance Director outlined a \$7,500,000 item for a new building on the COA Dare County campus and a \$1,000,000 placeholder for demolition and renovation of the COA Russell Twiford campus that will be deeded to Dare County. Mr. Clawson described how the COA project will be financed and provided details about debt issuance for the CIP.

**MOTION**

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to approve the recommended CIP and authorize the Manager to execute the necessary Capital Project Ordinances and Budget Amendments with a report to the Board of those actions on a following meeting's Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 7 – CONSENT AGENDA**

The Manager announced the items as they were visually displayed in the meeting room.

**MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (09.05.17) **(Att. #2)**

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 8 – COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS & MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS**

Following is a brief outline of items raised during this segment. Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety on a video archived on the Dare County website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com).

Commissioner House – reported on a Dare County Youth Council meeting he attended and said it was energizing to see how the young people want to promote youth services. He expressed condolences to the families of the crewmembers who died in the tragic accident involving a Duke Life Flight aeromedical helicopter. Commissioner House urged everyone to prepare now for hurricanes that are developing. He also showcased the Pet of the Week video and encouraged people to consider animal adoptions.

Vice Chairman Overman – congratulated Dan McCallum on receiving the Employee of the Month Award. He expressed thanks to those who organized the 9/11 Commemorative Service that was held at the Nags Head Event Site and shared a compelling quote from former President George W. Bush. Vice Chairman Overman reported that the recent Day at the Docks celebration in Hatteras Village was a successful and enjoyable event.

Commissioner Shea – commended Employee of the Month Dan McCallum. He voiced hope that people will make plans for dealing with the hurricanes that are now developing.

Commissioner Couch – wished success to the Theater of Dare and described how the group benefits the community. Commissioner Couch expressed hope that Dare County can be part of the solution for the problem they face getting a new performance venue.

Commissioner Tobin – addressed the need for a new environmental analysis that is required for dredge spoils at Oregon Inlet. He reported that the County Manager is working with the consulting engineer on a preliminary review for a new FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact). Commissioner Tobin added that he is working with Representative Boswell and Representative Torbett to properly address this issue with NCDOT. He also reported that a series of brief navigational closures will be occurring during January and February through the center span of the Bonner Bridge. He provided information about the upcoming “Dare to Scare 5k” event and the “Sweet Treat Fun Run.” He also mentioned the Baum Center’s upcoming celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Commissioner Tobin noted that Dare County Cooperative Extension has an opening for a 4-H Director and he described his participation in the Extension’s 2017 Needs Assessment Survey,

Commissioner Ross – echoed comments made about the recent 9/11 Commemorative Service, which he said was a humbling experience. He announced that Lisa Bridge has been named as the new Director of the Dare County Animal Shelter. Commissioner Ross noted that today is Constitution Day and shared two quotes recognizing the enduring power and importance of the United States Constitution. He also reported on Sheriff Doug Doughtie’s recent birthday celebration.

## **MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS**

1. The County Manager reported that bids have been received for interpretive signs for the Outer Banks Scenic Byway. Mr. Outten asked the Board to approve the sign manufacturing bid submitted by Pannier and the Hatchell Concrete installation bid.

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the bids as outlined and authorize the County Manager to sign the necessary documents.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2. Mr. Outten explained that in the past the County’s Public Works Department has conducted two large item pickups each year. He said staff recommends changing this schedule due to increased activity and because inmates are no longer available to assist in this project. The Manager asked the Board to consider scheduling large item pick up once per year rather than twice and conducting it in strategically timed segments to help Hatteras Island property owners prepare for the tourism season. By consensus, the Board agreed to the new schedule and directed that information be disseminated about the change.

3. The Manager addressed the problem with the COA auditorium that impacts the Theater of Dare's use of the facility as described during Public Comments. He said the County is gathering estimates about the scope and nature of the problem. Mr. Outten noted that if the estimates involve substantial funds, he will need to come back to the Board for guidance. Chairman Woodard said we need to help the Theater of Dare find another venue.
4. Mr. Outten informed the Board that he conducted the research that was requested at the last meeting to determine if Dare County has the authority to conduct a referendum related to the repeal of the plastic bag ban by the North Carolina Legislature. He said according to North Carolina General Statutes, special elections shall be called only as permitted by law. He noted that without statutory authority, Dare County cannot conduct a referendum on this issue.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Chairman Woodard asked for a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 7:06 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., October 2, 2017.



Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By:   
Robert Woodard, Chairman  
Dare County Board of Commissioners