



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

MINUTES

DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:00 a.m., December 4, 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. Some agenda items were handled out of sequential order to accommodate the time specific Public Hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

Clerk to the Board, Gary Lee Gross, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. He invited Rev. Keith Dey from Emmanuel Lutheran Church to share a prayer and afterward led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Clerk then outlined the procedures for the annual election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

ITEM 1 – ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (Att. #1)

Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board, conducted the election. He explained that in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, no second would be necessary for a nomination and four votes would be required to win election.

NOMINATION

Commissioner Shea nominated Commissioner Woodard for Chairman.

There were no other nominations.

VOTE: AYES – Seven votes by a show of hands

Commissioner Woodard was re-elected to his 4th term as Chairman by unanimous vote.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN (Att. #2)

Newly re-elected Chairman Woodard conducted the election of Vice-Chairman.

NOMINATION

Commissioner Shea nominated Commissioner Overman.

There were no other nominations.

VOTE: AYES – Seven votes by a show of hands

Commissioner Overman was re-elected to his 4th term as Vice-Chairman by unanimous vote

ITEM 3 – HOLIDAY MUSIC BY MANTEO HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR

An excellent musical performance was given by the Manteo High School Concert Choir under the direction of Becki Rea. The choir, which consisted of 22 students from the school's Chorale and AVE Singers, delighted the audience with holiday music for the Board's December meeting.

ITEM 4 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Following is a brief outline of the items mentioned by Chairman Woodard during his opening remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety in a video on the Dare County website –

- He commented on the upcoming meeting of the COA Task Force to address curriculum.
- Encouraged participation in the "Endow a Seat" campaign to benefit the Lost Colony.
- Gave an update on the Buxton beach nourishment project, which is now 54% complete.
- Congratulated the Dare County Center on being recognized as a Center of Excellence.
- Reported on the celebration ceremony for the 30th anniversary of the Baum Center.
- Promoted the upcoming 114th Anniversary of Flight at the Wright Brothers memorial.
- Provided details on the upcoming Martin Luther King Day event at Manteo High School.
- Chairman Woodard asked Emergency Manager Drew Pearson to join him in presenting Sara Small with an award from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Patricia Rhodes, Detention Center, received a 10-year pin.
- 2) Nancy Stieh, 911 Communications, received a 10-year pin.
- 3) Willie Brickhouse, Public Works, received a 20-year pin.

ITEM 6 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER 2017

Michelle Colley received the Employee of the Month award from Debbie Dutton who described the many ways that Ms. Colley as a school nurse is an asset to students and the Public Health Division of Dare County Health and Human Services.

ITEM 7 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. Following is a brief summary of citizen remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety in a video on the Dare County website –

The following comments were made in Manteo –

1. Terry Gray honored Dare County Sheriff Doug Doughtie for helping the Dare County Motorcycle Toy Run have a successful event that raised over \$25,000.
2. John Finelli explained why the residents of Martin's Point do not support a revision in the trash pickup schedule for the winter season.

3. Joe Staten, President of the Martin's Point Homeowners Assoc., further described problems that the proposed trash schedule would create for year-round areas.
4. Sandy Ross reported that the proposed trash schedule did not go over well in Stumpy Point and cited a list of local projects that would benefit from any savings.

The following comments were made in Buxton –

5. Jennifer Gaskins said once a week trash pickup is good enough for her in Avon and voiced support for any savings that could come from a revised trash pickup schedule.

ITEM 8 – PRESENTATION ON CYCLING RIDE TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES

Jack McCombs gave a presentation on a 3,700 mile cycling event that he along with Rita Ayers and Jim Ebert are doing to benefit Dare County InterFaith Community Outreach (ICO) and the Outer Banks Hospital "Hands of Hope" program. He explained that the ride is dedicated to cancer victims and outlined how people can watch their progress and make donations. Representatives from ICO and the hospital joined Mr. McCombs at the podium and described services that are provided to local families impacted by cancer.

ITEM 9 – RECOGNITION OF AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS FOR TAX STAFF

The County Manager informed the Board that honors were bestowed on several members of Dare County's Tax Departments at a recent meeting of the North Carolina Association of Assessing Officers. Mr. Outten complimented County Assessor Greta Skeen on being named the 2017 "Assessor of the Year" for the State of North Carolina. He also acknowledged Assistant Assessor Hosea Wilson on receiving the Presidential Award for outstanding assessment administration. April Farence was recognized for receiving certification as both a Real Property Appraiser and Personal Property Appraiser. Corinne Etheridge was congratulated for her certification as a Certified Assistant Tax Collector.

Mr. Outten also recognized Dorothy Hester and Dare County Public Relations Department on recently being awarded an Excellence in Communications Award from the North Carolina Association of Government Information Officers for the "More Beach to Love" campaign. The County Manager explained that this was a collaborative effort done in conjunction with the Towns and cited the award as another example of things we are doing in Dare County that are being recognized by others.

ITEM 10 – NC COASTAL FEDERATION – INTRODUCTION OF COASTAL ADVOCATE

Coastal Advocate Michael Flynn introduced himself to the Board and provided an overview of how the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) works together with partners for a healthy coast. He identified the group's goals for 2018, highlighted projects, and described NCCF efforts to provide environmental education opportunities to local students.

RECESS: 10:57 a.m. – 11:09 a.m.

ITEM 11 – TOURISM BOARD REQUEST FOR RESTRICTED FUND SPENDING

Susie Walters Chair of the Dare County Tourism Board, and Lee Nettles Executive Director of the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, presented a request to spend up to \$715,000 to purchase property located at 6806 S. Virginia Dare Trail and 6807 S. Croatan Highway in Nags Head. It was explained that the purpose of the property acquisition is to use the space as potential overflow parking and supplemental utility for the Soundside Event Site. Ms. Walters said the request has the unanimous support of the Dare County Tourism Board. In response to Commissioner questions, Mr. Nettles outlined the number of parking spaces that might be generated by the acquisition depending on what is done with the existing structure on the property. He added that the purchase price is less than the appraised value. Ms. Walters noted that this is her last appearance before the Commissioners in her capacity as Chair of the Dare County Tourism Board. She was thanked by Vice Chairman Overman for her leadership.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Long Term Restricted Fund request.

Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 12 – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – ANNUAL REPORT

Jay Burrus, Chuck Lycett and Sheila Davies appeared before the Board to present the 2016-2017 Annual Report for the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Their comprehensive report outlined the community and clinical services that are provided along with environmental health services, health education and outreach, home health and hospice services, school health services, adult services, and children’s services. Economic assistance and family services were also highlighted along with a financial analysis of the Health and Human Services Department. Mr. Burrus outlined plans for a Satellite Office in Nags Head and implementation of a central reception area to better serve the public at the DHHS offices in Manteo.

ITEM 13 – PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION – CHILD TELEPSYCHIATRY UPDATE

Dr. Sheila Davies, on behalf of the DHHS Public Health Division, provided an update on the County’s child telepsychiatry partnership with Surf Pediatrics and the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. She explained how the telepsychiatry program will operate and the number of hours per week that a psychiatrist will be available. Vice Chairman Overman asked Ms. Davies to come back in six months with an update on this program. In response to a question from Commissioner Couch about resources on Hatteras Island, Ms. Davies explained that Surf Pediatrics provides care for about 80% of Dare County children including those on Hatteras Island. The County Manager commended Ms. Davies for all her work putting together this partnership project.

ITEM 14 – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bob Peele, Chairman of the Outer Banks Chamber Board of Directors and Chamber President & CEO Karen Brown gave an update report on the implementation of the first phase of the Dare County Economic Development and Diversification Strategic Plan. They

identified industries, outlined economic development activities, and announced upcoming initiatives and events. It was reported that a group has been formed to address the need for affordable housing noting that this is a workforce issue that impacts economic development. Commissioner House said we need to attract businesses that will provide higher paying employment opportunities rather than minimum wage jobs. And, a recommendation was made by Commissioner Shea to reach out to the National Association of Manufacturers.

ITEM 15 – DISCUSSION OF WINTER TRASH COLLECTION PROPOSAL FOR UNINCORPORATED DARE COUNTY

The County Manager summarized a cost analysis prepared by staff regarding a proposal to revise the winter trash collection schedule in unincorporated Dare County. He said the research shows an annual savings of approximately \$5,500 in fuel and vehicle maintenance expense and noted that labor costs would remain the same under the proposed schedule. He asked the board for feedback as to whether \$5,500 is significant enough to warrant a change in the winter pickup schedule. Chairman Woodard voiced appreciation for the research that was done and said the Board was doing its due diligence by looking into the potential taxpayer cost savings. He noted that the Board never intended to reduce staffing or employment in any way by looking into a possible change in the winter trash collection schedule. Following discussion of the analysis prepared by staff, the Board agreed by consensus that at this time the potential cost savings do not warrant changing the existing trash collection schedule.

ITEM 16 – REQUEST FOR A VOTER REFERENDUM IN HATTERAS VILLAGE (Att. #3)

Mr. Outten briefed the Board on a request from the Trustees of the Hatteras Village Community Center District (HVCCD) for a voter referendum in Hatteras Village to allow the use of ad valorem tax funds for construction and maintenance of multiuse pathways. He outlined the legislative action earlier this year by the North Carolina General Assembly authorizing a local referendum and presented a resolution calling the Board of Elections to conduct a voter referendum on this issue in the Hatteras voting precinct. Representatives of the HVCCD were on hand at the Fessenden Center and through the video link it was noted that there is no increase in the tax base because of the referendum and its purpose is to use the existing tax revenue for the purpose of walkways in Hatteras Village.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the HVCCD request and authorize a resolution calling for an election. Commissioner Shea seconded the motion. VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 17 – PUBLIC HEARING – CHAPTER 152.11 AMENDMENTS FOR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT RESIDENCY (Att. #4)

At 10:21 a.m. the Dare County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing to receive input concerning this agenda item. The County Manager conducted the hearing and explained the procedure for making comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. No one responded to the invitation to address the Board. Chairman Woodard closed the hearing at 10.22 a.m.

Planning Director Donna Creef outlined proposed changes to Chapter 152.11 that would revise the residency requirement for the Board of Adjustment (BOA) to allow residents of municipal areas to serve as members. She explained that currently only residents of unincorporated Dare County are allowed to serve, and making the change may allow for easier recruitment of volunteers.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to adopt the proposed amended residency standards of Chapter 152.11 for the Board of Adjustment.

Commissioner Shea and Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 18 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (11.20.17) **(Att. #5)**

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 19 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Board of Equalization and Review – this item was tabled until a future meeting

- 2) Dare County Center Advisory Board

Commissioner Shea motioned to appoint Sarah Hester-Smith to fill the unexpired term of Jean Farr Councill who has resigned.

Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 3) Parks and Recreation Advisory Council

Commissioner Shea motioned to reappoint Missy McPherson.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 4) Special Motor Vehicle Valuation Review Board

Commissioner Shea motioned to reappoint Danny Couch and Dock Sawyer.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 5) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for January, February and March were announced.

ITEM 20 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety in a video on the Dare County website. Following is a brief summary outline of the items mentioned by Commissioners during this segment –

Commissioner House

- Congratulated the Chairman & Vice Chairman on being reelected to leadership positions
- Thanked County employees for their dedication and loyalty and suggested that retirees be honored at Commissioner meetings.
- Commented on the resolution that was passed for the Hatteras Village Civic Association.
- Wished everyone a safe, happy, and Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Commissioner Ross

- Noted that he will be attending the upcoming meeting of the COA Task Force.
- He echoed remarks wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Tobin

- Reported on a meeting of the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council that he attended with the County Manager where expansion of the Sanctuary was discussed.
- Thanked County employees for doing a fabulous job and wished all a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Couch

- Commented on a successful fall tourism season on Hatteras Island.
- Said that a beautiful trip is available this time of year on the Outer Banks Scenic Byway.
- Expressed excitement about the upcoming work to be done by the COA Task Force.
- Voiced appreciation for what has been done on the Buxton beach nourishment project.

Commissioner Shea

- Thanked the Manteo High School Choir for putting everyone in the Christmas spirit.
- Commented on the upcoming Birth of Flight Celebration on the Outer Banks.
- Thanked the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas hoping that their holiday will be safe and happy.

Vice Chairman Overman

- Congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month.
- Reported on a very successful drug take back event that was recently held.
- Commended Terry Gray on the Motorcycle Toy Run to help local children at Christmas.
- Thanked Commissioners for reelecting him as Vice Chairman and promised to continue working hard for the Dare County Board of Commissioners.
- Wished everyone a safe and wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Chairman Woodard

- Briefed the Board on a request he made to NCDOT about deer warning signs to be posted on Hatteras Island and asked Commissioner Couch to watch for its completion.
- Noted that there are a lot of good things going on every day in Dare County.
- Thanked Commissioners for their vote of confidence in reelecting him as Chairman and pledged his undying support and hard work for the people of Dare County.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

1. The County Manager briefed the Board on a housing initiative meeting he attended along with other Town Managers and Planners. He said the group is being very methodical in looking at this issue and ultimately they will be coming to elected leaders with density and other zoning regulations that may need to be addressed.
2. Mr. Outten reported on an upcoming stakeholders meeting he plans to attend on off-shore energy leases that is being conducted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). He said that, as in the past, he would share the Board’s position on any issues that are raised.
3. He informed the Board of an invitation he received to attend a meeting pertaining to the Rural Center partnership with the Golden Leaf Foundation, which could impact economic issues. The Manager said he would attend the meeting on behalf of Dare County.
4. Mr. Outten presented a request from the Buxton Babe Ruth group to add bathrooms and storage, at their expense, to the field across the road from the Fessenden Center. He noted that staff does not have a problem with the request provided that the group understands that if the County should need the site for a different purpose in the future, it will still be County property regardless of the investment that may have been made by the Buxton Babe Ruth group.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to allow the Babe Ruth group to construct bathrooms and storage as outlined by the County Manager.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

STAFF REPORTS

- Public Information Officer Dorothy Hester described improvements that are being made this month to the video cameras in the Commissioners Meeting Room. She also noted that efforts are underway to increase community awareness of the ability for people to make public comments during Commissioner meetings through the video link at the Fessenden Center in Buxton.
- Finance Director David Clawson reported that FEMA approved money should be coming in the next few weeks for Hurricane Matthew debris removal.

ITEM 21 – CLOSED SESSION

The Manager asked for a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the County in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and to approve the minutes of the last Closed Session.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes cited by the County Manager.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 12:59 p.m., the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 1:21 p.m. and Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes, had discussion with the County Attorney, and took no action.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

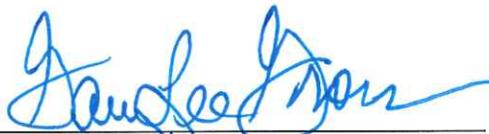
Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

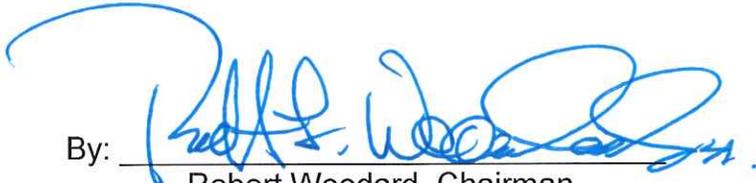
VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 1:22 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., January 8, 2018.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED: By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners