



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., February 6, 2017

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Vice-Chairman Wally Overman
Jack Shea, Margarett Umphlett, Steve House,
Rob Ross, Danny Couch

Commissioners absent: None

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

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He invited the Rev. Don Teears from Kitty Hawk Baptist Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Note – In order to accommodate a presentation on preliminary flood maps (Item #8) scheduled for 11:00 a.m., some agenda items were handled out of sequential order.

ITEM 1 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Bettie Scarborough, Tax Office, received a 20-year pin.
- 2) Tammy Reber, Social Services, received a 30-year pin.
- 3) Rhonda Creef, Veterans Office, received a 30-year pin.
- 4) Clyde Gard, Public Works Dept, received a 35-year pin.

ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – FEBRUARY 2017

Emily Gould received the Employee of the Month award from Brandi Rheubottom who described the many ways that Ms. Gould is an asset to the Older Adult Services Department and the Baum Senior Center.

ITEM 3 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

A video of the Chairman’s update can be seen on the Dare County website.

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- He welcomed newly appointed Commissioner Rob Ross to the Board.
- Reported on preliminary talks with the College of the Albemarle (COA) about long-range plans that are in development for the Dare County campus and discussion about expanding the course offerings for local students.
- He described a recent Chamber of Commerce seminar where he participated in a presentation that explained the function of county government.
- An update was given on a meeting with Karen Brown and Bob Peele to discuss engaging the Chamber of Commerce in the plan for implementing the economic development proposal.
- He reported on the recent meeting of the Veterans Advisory Council and commended Veterans Service Officer Rhonda Creef for her dedication.
- Commented on action taken at the recent Board Retreat including the swearing in of Commissioner Ross and approval of the employee salary study.
- The Chairman gave a positive review of the recent oyster roast at Oden’s Dock.
- Report was given on a meeting with Hatteras Island stakeholders to discuss issues including beach nourishment in the Village of Avon.
- In honor of Black History Month, Chairman Woodard celebrated the achievements of black Americans. He presented a certificate to Darrell Collins and recognized him for his distinguished 37-year career as historian with the National Park Service at the Wright Brothers National Memorial.
- The Chairman showcased a video highlighting the wide range of services provided by Dare County government during 2016.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. Nobody responded to the invitation to make public comments.

RECESS: 10:03 a.m. – 10:12 a.m.

ITEM 5 – SAVING LIVES TASK FORCE 2017 TOWN HALL SERIES

Information about a Town Hall meeting to address substance abuse and addiction concerns was presented by Vice-Chairman Overman and Roxana Ballinger from the Public Health Division of Dare County Health & Human Services. They explained that the Dare County Substance Abuse Prevention & Education Task Force has grown and undergone a name change to the Dare County Saving Lives Taskforce. Commissioner Umphlett commended the group and noted that lives have been changed because of their efforts throughout our community.

ITEM 6 – SOUTHERN SHORES BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECT

Mr. Outten outlined a request from the Town of Southern Shores for financial assistance from the Beach Nourishment Fund for a small beach nourishment project they are considering for the town's southern-most end. Southern Shores Town Manager Peter Rascoe described the need and location of the project and efforts that are being made to finalize costs and determine whether permits can be obtained in time to join in with the upcoming nourishment projects planned for nearby municipalities. It was noted that once costs and permits are finalized the Town will then make a decision on whether to authorize the project and move forward.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve granting the Town of Southern Shores 50% cost reimbursement from the Beach Nourishment Fund for the Town's beach nourishment project in an amount not to exceed \$500,000.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – CUP AMENDMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT

This agenda item was handled as a quasi-judicial proceeding. All parties to the proceeding including Planning Director Donna Creef, Steve Evans, and Doug Jackson were duly sworn by the Clerk to the Board before offering any testimony.

Ms. Creef outlined the applicant's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) amendment request to construct a duplex and a new single-family residence. She explained the background of the project and provided details about the amendment request. The County Manager asked the applicant if he agrees to the findings of fact listed in the CUP and stipulates to the facts presented by the Planning Director and Mr. Jackson said he agrees.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to grant approval of the CUP amendment and site plan. Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – PRESENTATION ON PRELIMINARY FLOOD MAPS

Spencer Rogers from NC SeaGrant gave a presentation on the preliminary flood maps. He described how models are applied to the mapping process and showed how the proposed maps will impact Dare County and the region with many properties being moved to lower risk zones. He said the maps are becoming less realistic as coastal hazard zones and FEMA should be encouraged to develop more accurate mapping models. Mr. Rogers explained that local governments cannot adopt requirements that are lower than the federal standard; however, they may adopt higher standards and impose Freeboard requirements. Vice-Chairman Overman noted that it would be prudent for coastal communities to adopt ordinances that are based on historical common sense data and build at heights that are known to be safe. Mr. Rogers said incentives are built into the flood insurance program for higher construction heights.

ITEM 9 – REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING – 2016 SUPPLEMENT TO THE DARE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Planning Director Donna Creef asked the Board to schedule a Public Hearing on a needed update to the published Code of Ordinances in order to incorporate all the amendments that were adopted in 2016.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to schedule a Public Hearing on the Code of Ordinances Supplement for 5:30 p.m., February 20, 2017.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10 – REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING – WANCHESE MINIMUM LOT SIZE AMENDMENTS

Planning Director Donna Creef reported that the Planning Board, in response to Commissioner direction, has implemented procedures to possibly amend the Wanchese minimum lot size requirements for properties connected to a central water supply. She explained that the majority of unincorporated Dare County zoning districts allow for a reduction in the minimum lot size from 20,000 square feet to 15,000 for lots that are served by a central water supply. It was noted that when the Wanchese zoning map was adopted in 2006 the village did not have a central water system available at that time. Ms. Creef said the Planning Board voted to recommend a reduction in the minimum lot size for lots that are served by a central water system. She said a Public Hearing is needed if the Board wants to further consider the lot size amendments.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed amendments for 5:30 p.m., February 20, 2017.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT ADEQUATE STATE FUNDING FOR THE SERVICES OFFERED BY TRILLIUM (Att. #1)

Vice-Chairman Overman presented a resolution to support adequate State funding for the services offered by Trillium, which is the LME/MCO that provides mental health, substance use disorder, and intellectual/developmental disability services in a 24 county area that includes Dare County. He read highlights of a letter from the CEO of Trillium Health Resources addressing the cutbacks in State funding that jeopardize the services that are provided to Dare County citizens. Vice-Chairman Overman shared a resolution asking the State to provide adequate funding for the services offered by Trillium.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adopt the resolution of support.

Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 12 – 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 (01.17.17 & 01.27.17) **(Att. #2)**
- 2) Authorization to Participate in Governor's Crime Commission Grant for 2017
- 3) Lease for Computer Equipment – New EOC/911 Center
- 4) Budget Amendment for the Dare County Center
- 5) Dare County EMS Facilities Assessment Plan

Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 13 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Aging Advisory Council for the Albemarle Commission

Commissioner Umphlett motioned to reappoint Brandi Rheubottom and Kay White.
Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Fessenden Center Advisory Board

Commissioner Couch motioned to accept the recommendation of the Fessenden Center Board and appoint Kenneth Brite (Avon Area), Keith Durham (Buxton Area), and Forrest Paddock (Buxton Area).

Commissioner Shea and Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) NC Senior Tar Heel Delegates

Commissioner Shea motioned to reappoint Kaye White as Delegate and Mary Ellen Hawthorne as Alternate.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

4) Planning Board

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint David Overton (At-Large), Michael Barr (District Two), and Beth Midgett (District Four).

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

5) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for March, April and May were announced.

ITEM 14 – 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.

Commissioner Shea – congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month thanking them for making Dare County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. He said he was looking forward to seeing progress with the County’s economic diversification program. Commissioner Shea asked that the Board send a letter to the White House Chief of Staff seeking support to keep our inlets open year round.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve sending a letter signed by the Chairman. Commissioner Shea and Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Couch – thanked those who attended the recent oyster roast in Hatteras Village. He commented on an informal meeting in Avon with Senator Cook and Representative Boswell where beach nourishment and fisheries issues were discussed.

Commissioner Ross – cited the need for a disciplined and strategic approach for addressing issues like the funding of beach nourishment projects. Whether looking at Avon beach nourishment, economic development, or health and human services funding, he urged the Board to strategically approach each decision.

Commissioner House – gave a detailed report about the recent fisheries meeting in New Bern concerning the petition for rulemaking that would create Secondary Nursery Areas. He said a large group of people showed up to oppose the petition and present resolutions similar to the one adopted by the Dare County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner House recommended changes in the procedure for how people apply to serve on various boards and committees. He suggested that people come before the Board of Commissioners and speak about the appointment that they are seeking.

Commissioner Umphlett – congratulated the Employee of the Month and the service pin recipients noting that Dare County must be doing something right with so many employees being retained for 20 or 30 years of service. She expressed thanks for the flood map presentation by Spencer Rogers and thanked Commissioner House for representing the Board of Commissioners at the recent fisheries meeting.

Vice-Chairman Overman – commended the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month. He thanked the Board for adopting the resolution in support of adequate State funding for Trillium. He reported that grant opportunities might be available from the Tourism Board for multi-use paths in Hatteras Village and for help needed by the Roanoke Island Historical Association. The Vice-Chairman said Senator Cook’s office has been asked to make sure the request that was previously submitted to the North Carolina Highway Patrol for summer weekend traffic assistance is forwarded to the attention of Glenn McNeill the new Commander of the Highway Patrol recently appointed by Governor Cooper.

Chairman Woodard – presented a list of boards and committees for which Commissioner appointments need to be made. He offered the following motion –

MOTION

Chairman Woodard motioned to appoint –

- Commissioner House to the Roanoke Island Commission – to replace Warren Judge
- Commissioner Ross to the Albemarle Commission – to replace Chairman Woodard.
- Commissioner Ross to the Northeast Workforce – to replace Chairman Woodard.
- Vice-Chairman Overman to the Coastal Studies Institute – to replace Warren Judge.
- Commissioner Shea to the Veterans Advisory Council (Ex Officio) – as a new appointment.
- Chairman Woodard to the COA Board of Trustees – to replace Warren Judge.

Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

1. County Manager Outten reported on a recent meeting in Frisco with the National Park Service (NPS) concerning the need for beach nourishment in the Village of Avon. As a result of the meeting, he said NPS needs a letter from the County in order to move forward in determining what might be possible.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Couch motioned to approve sending a letter to the Park Service.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2. Mr. Outten updated the Board about the Nags Head property that is owned by the County and leased to a dermatologist. He said the tenant has agreed to a 2 year lease and noted that the County may be able to offer a longer term on future leases. He explained that in order to bring a lease to the Board with the same terms and conditions with a simple 2 year length, the County needs to comply with certain statutory requirements and asked for authority to proceed.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve proceeding as outlined by the Manager.

Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3. The Manager gave an update on the timetable for replacement of the HVAC chiller at Dare County Justice Center. He described the impact that the project could have on activity at the facility and outlined a timetable of logistical contingencies.

Chairman Woodard asked staff if they had any items for the Board to consider –

- Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester, gave an update on a campaign known as “More Beach To Love” that is providing information to the public about the beach nourishment projects that are underway in the municipalities and Buxton. She said information is available at www.MoreBeachToLove.com.
- In follow-up to the discussion of beach nourishment projects, the Chairman asked Mayor Tom Bennett about the timeline for the Southern Shores project that is under consideration. Mayor Bennett said the cost issue is still a factor to be determined, but they are optimistic that permits could happen quickly. He thanked the Dare County Board of Commissioners for their support.
- Ms. Hester asked the Board if they had any feedback on the new County website. Commissioner Couch said he likes it and Chairman Woodard noted that it is very user friendly.
- Finance Director David Clawson explained that budget adjustments need to be made because of the salary study that was authorized at the recent workshop retreat. He said in order to move the \$750,000 that was previously set aside for implementation of the study in this fiscal year there are budget adjustments that need to be made to various departmental line items. He asked for authority to execute all the necessary budget amendments and transfers for the various funds.
MOTION
Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve the request outlined by Mr. Clawson. Commissioner Umphlett and Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous
- Chairman Woodard thanked the Clerk to the Board for the assistance he has given Commissioner Ross as a newly appointed member of the Board.
- Commissioner House gave details about the upcoming fisheries meeting and urged continued public participation in opposing the petition for rulemaking that would have a harmful impact on North Carolina watermen and seafood consumers.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioners Overman, Umphlett, and House seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

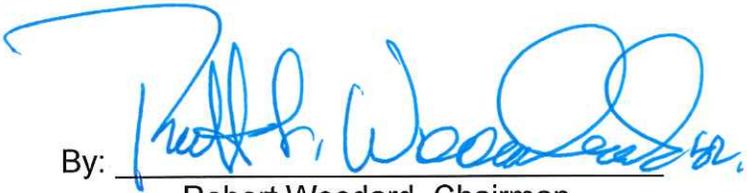
At 12:12 p.m., the Board adjourned until 5:00 p.m., February 20, 2017.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners