



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

5:00 p.m., August 21, 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.

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He invited the Rev. David Morris from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation 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 that a letter was sent to Governor Cooper thanking him for his visit to Dare County during the recent power outage and noted that the Governor responded.
- Comments were made about today’s solar eclipse and the schedule for future ones.
- The Chairman commented on the recent Community Meeting that was held at the Fessenden Center to provide information about resources available for those who suffered losses during the Hatteras Island power outage.
- He expressed gratitude for the efforts of the Dare County Sheriff’s Office during the mandatory evacuation and reentry related to the power outage.
- Chairman Woodard complimented the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau for the “Hatteras Is On!” video to encourage tourism in the wake of the power outage. He thanked Lee Nettles and Tourism Chair Susie Walters and their staff for moving so quickly.
- He reported on the large number of boats that were able to compete in the recent Alice Kelly Fishing Tournament due to the diligent ongoing efforts that have been made to maintain the inlets of Dare County.

A video of the Chairman’s update can be seen on the County website www.darenc.com.

ITEM 2 – 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. Following is a brief summary of the key issue that was mentioned by each speaker –

The following comments were made in Manteo –

1. Judy Williams – addressed the need for a dog park on Roanoke Island near the new EOC Building, which she said could also be used for various other purposes. She described a ravine area on the site that needs fencing in order to keep everyone safe. Ms. Williams asked what other requests have been made for the property and why the facility could not be larger than the dog park in Kitty Hawk. She said reducing the dog play area to less than half of the field is unacceptable.
2. Jule Scarborough – offered comments in support of an officially designated pet friendly community park of appropriate space to accommodate the need. She expressed gratitude for the multi-use path, but noted that there are congestion problems that justify a child and pet friendly park that could help alleviate some of the burden born by the bike path. She called on the Board to designate an open area on Airport Road, fenced only on its outer perimeter, as a multi-purpose park.

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

ITEM 3 – INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – REMOVAL OF ABANDONED VESSELS

The County Manager explained that the Town of Manteo has an abandoned boat and needs authority from the County in order to have the vessel removed. He asked the Board to approve an Interlocal Agreement, which indemnifies the County and gives authority to the Town of Manteo to remove the vessel at their cost and expense.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman and Commissioner Tobin motioned to approve the agreement. Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

The Manager announced the items as they were visually displayed in the meeting room. He asked that Consent item #1 (Minutes) be approved reflecting a clarification by the Clerk that the Sept 14th fundraising golf tournament mentioned during Commissioner Ross' comments is being conducted by the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as outlined by the Manager

- 1) Approval of Minutes (08.07.17) **(Att. #1)**
- 2) Transportation Department – Authorizing Resolution for NCDOT Grant **(Att. #2)**
- 3) NCDOT Utility Relocation Agreement – Kitty Hawk Rd Bridge Improvements Project
- 4) CDM Automated Meter Reading Feasibility Study Contract Approval

5) Tax Collector's Report

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 5 – 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 Tobin – thanked the Town of Manteo for their flawless trash pickup service during the recent fishing tournament at Pirate's Cove Marina.

Commissioner Ross – no additional comments.

Commissioner House – commented on the beach nourishment project underway in Kitty Hawk and said he talked with a visitor who was very impressed watching the fascinating process. Commissioner House reported that he and his wife went to Hatteras Island to spend a couple of days shopping and dining. He noted that the island's food pantry still needs help and urged people to make donations. Commissioner House presented the Pet of the Week video.

Vice Chairman Overman – briefed the Board on comments he made at a recent public hearing on offshore energy exploration. He explained that at the meeting he read into the record the latest of four resolutions that have been adopted by the Dare County Board of Commissioners in opposition of offshore drilling. The Vice Chairman presented a summary of tourism economic information for 2016 noting that Dare County experienced an impact of \$1.1 billion accounting for 13,160 jobs. He added that the Visitors Bureau will make a full economic impact presentation to the Board in September. Vice Chairman Overman gave details about the next Town Hall meeting sponsored by the Saving Lives Task Force and urged everyone to attend. He gave kudos to the County Manager for the information given to Hatteras Island residents at the Community Meeting in Buxton regarding the power outage. The Vice Chairman addressed the dog park issue saying he would like to have more details about any possible impact it could have on the adjacent airport property and suggested that the Board table this item.

Commissioner Shea – read a letter he prepared for the new White House Chief of Staff requesting a meeting to discuss increased funding for the ongoing maintenance of Dare County inlets. Commissioner Ross asked whether it would be helpful to ask for a specific amount rather than a general request. Commissioner Shea explained that the purpose of the letter is to secure a meeting and then outline our specific needs at that time.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the letter with the Chairman's signature.

Vice Chairman Overman and Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Couch – thanked the County for taking the initiative to provide information to Hatteras Island residents and businesses in the aftermath of the power outage. He commented on the workshop held for Dare County school bus drivers and thanked Sheriff Doughtie for attending. Commissioner Couch gave a report on the Waterways Commission noting that a lot has been accomplished in the past two years and thanked the Board for their support of Hatteras Inlet. He thanked the Public Relations Department for their update videos on the construction of the new Bonner Bridge and suggested that NCDOT be invited to give a presentation on the project at a future Board meeting.

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

1. The County Manager asked for authorization to send the State \$500,000 as Dare County’s match for additional dredging of Oregon Inlet.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the request as presented by the Manager. Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2. Mr. Outten gave an update on Hatteras Inlet and outlined the latest projected timetable for dredging. He explained that the price of an economic impact study for Hatteras Inlet would cost approximately \$90,000 to \$125,000, which represents about half of what is budgeted. Since funding an economic impact report would cut dredging in half, he said the Waterways Commission recommends putting the study on hold.
3. The Manager addressed the request for a dog park on the site next to the new EOC Building. He presented an aerial photo showing two possible dog park locations. He explained drainage issues at the site and mentioned that any comparison to the Kitty Hawk Dog Park was only as a frame of reference for scale. Mr. Outten noted that the site is not scheduled for any regular use, although it is used on occasion for sports, regattas, event parking, and commercial driver’s license testing by NCDOT. He gave estimates for chain link fencing and asked the Board for guidance on whether they want a park and if so, how big and where to put it at the site. Commissioners discussed the project and the need to gather more information. Chairman Woodard added that Commissioner Shea and Vice Chairman Overman should talk with the Airport Authority about any adverse impacts. By consensus, the Board agreed with a suggestion made by Mr. Outten that he and the Parks & Recreation Director look into the design of a dog park and possible amenities and bring back a report to the Board at one of the next two meetings.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner House and Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

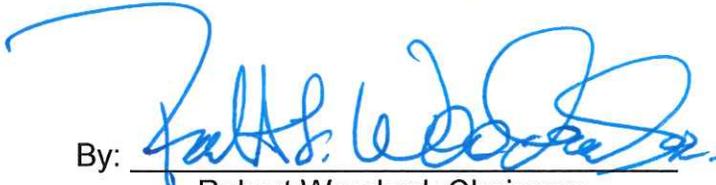
At 6:18 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., September 5, 2017.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners