



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 15, 2016

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard
Vice-Chairman Wally Overman
Warren Judge, Jack Shea, Allen Burrus,
Beverly Boswell, Margarett Umphlett

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 5:01 p.m. He invited the Rev. Billy Dennis from Manteo Faith Baptist Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ITEM 1 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2016

It was announced that the August Employee of the Month will be honored in September.

ITEM 2 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- He displayed a photograph of the new skateboard park that is now open at the Fessenden Center in Buxton
- The Chairman described the recent event at the Roanoke Island Aquarium that was attended by Governor McCrory.
- He congratulated the Elizabethan Gardens on their 65th anniversary celebration.
- Gratitude was expressed to the media for helping to promote the video link that gives people the opportunity to make Public Comments from the Fessenden Center.
- Chairman Woodard reported on a recent meeting with the Governor concerning the County's ongoing effort to keep Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet open and navigable.

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

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. Following is a brief summary –

The following Public Comments were made in Manteo –

1. Audrey Esposito, on behalf of the League of Women Voters, expressed disappointment about the early voting schedule announced for Dare County. She cited statistics about local voter turnout and called for weekend hours to be expanded. Ms. Esposito noted that August 19 is the deadline for Dare County to submit its early voting plans to the State Board of Elections.
2. Van Price of Southern Shores spoke in favor of beach nourishment and thanked the Board of Commissioners for providing funding for this important endeavor.
3. Sandy Semans Ross urged that early voting hours be expanded before the upcoming deadline. She said this is not a partisan issue and presented a resolution calling on the Dare County Board of Elections to expand early voting hours by submitting a plan that provides early morning voting, Sunday voting, and expanded Saturday hours and locations.

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

Following the Public Comment period, Chairman Woodard recommended that the Chair of the Dare County Board of Elections be invited to the next Commissioners meeting.

MOTION

Commissioner Umphlett motioned to invite the Chair of the Elections Board to attend the next Board of Commissioners meeting to discuss early voting.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous (Commissioner Burrus was not present for voting on this item)

Commissioner Judge explained that time is of the essence because of the impending deadline for submitting early voting plans to the State Board of Elections. He said the Dare County Board of Elections should reconsider their early voting plans and expand access to provide more voting opportunities, and he made the following motion –

MOTION

Commissioner Judge motioned to adopt the resolution that was presented by Sandy Semans Ross during Public Comments.

MOTION FAILED FOR LACK OF A SECOND

ITEM 4 – ACCESS EASEMENT FOR RODANTHE PROPERTY

The County Manager provided information about a request for an access easement across County owned property at the water tower in Rodanthe. He reported that the easement does not present any operational problem for the Dare County Water

Department. He noted that the neighboring Murphy family has expressed concern that a vegetative buffer would be destroyed if the easement followed the property line. Mr. Outten said this problem could be alleviated if the easement were to follow the fence line instead of the property line. He added that the easement will need to include a provision to allow changing the easement location if the County's needs should change in the future. The person requesting the easement, Ryan Gentry, said he would agree with placing the easement along the fence line provided the easement was 20 feet wide.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve granting a 20-foot access easement along the fence line with the caveat that the easement can be moved in the future if the County's needs should change, and to authorize the Chairman and Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous (Commissioner Burrus was not present for voting on this item)

ITEM 5 – RENEWAL OF LEASE WITH OUTER BANKS GUN CLUB

Mr. Outten presented a one-year lease renewal for the County property used by the Outer Banks Gun Club. He explained that next year the Board may be presented with a longer-term lease.

MOTION

Commissioner Judge and Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the lease renewal and authorize the County Manager to execute the agreement.

Commissioner Boswell seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous (Commissioner Burrus was not present for voting on this item)

ITEM 6 – BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR BEACH NOURISHMENT FUND FOR TRANSFER FOR TOWNS' PROJECT

Finance Director David Clawson presented a budget amendment for the transfer of \$10,000,000 from the Beach Nourishment Fund to the Capital Projects Fund for the Towns' beach nourishment project.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adopt the budget amendment.

Commissioner Umphlett and Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous (Commissioner Burrus was not present for voting on this item)

ITEM 7 – CONSENT AGENDA

The Manager announced the Consent Agenda items as they were visually displayed. Mr. Outten explained that the Southern Albemarle Association invitation list (Consent Agenda Item #2) should be amended to reflect Andy Stewart as the Kitty Hawk Town Manager instead of John Stockton.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as amended:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (08.01.16) **(Att. #1)**

- 2) Southern Albemarle Association, Annual Meeting Invitation List
- 3) Proclamation – First Flight Middle School Day

Commissioners Judge, Boswell, and Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous (Commissioner Burrus was not present for voting on this item)

ITEM 8 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Oregon Inlet and Waterways Commission

Commissioner Umphlett motioned to appoint Dan Oden to fill the unexpired term of Arvin Midgett, and Ronald Lowe to fill the unexpired term of Holly White.

Commissioner Burrus seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Veterans Advisory Council

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to appoint Carl Reiber to fill the unexpired term of Billy Brown.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – 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 – reported on the latest meeting with NC State on the economic development program that is being prepared for Dare County. He outlined the status of the project and said the timeline is on schedule.

Vice-Chairman Overman – gave an update on efforts to improve navigation through Hatteras Inlet. He provided details about an upcoming meeting with the permitting agencies and said the urgency of the situation at Hatteras Inlet will be emphasized. He then made the following motion about the public body that advises on Waterways –

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to change the name of the Oregon Inlet and Waterways Commission to the “Dare County Waterways Commission.”

Commissioner Burrus seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Umphlett – stressed the importance of proper hydration during hot, humid weather and urged citizens to look in on their neighbors. Commissioner Umphlett added that she was proud of the United States performance at the Olympics.

Commissioner Judge – gave a detailed history of the Skateboard Park at the Fessenden Center and thanked Mr. Price for his remarks during Public Comments.

Commissioner Boswell – read an anonymous letter that challenged Commissioners to make Board and Committee appointments without regard to political affiliation. She also presented a video showcasing the Animal Shelter’s Pet of the Week and urged people to consider pet adoption or volunteering as a foster family. Commissioner Boswell gave a report on behalf of the Oregon Inlet Task Force and expressed appreciation for the work that has been completed and made the following motion –

MOTION

Commissioner Boswell motioned to approve sending a \$1,000,000 installment from the Beach Nourishment Fund for the ongoing dredging effort at Oregon Inlet.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Burrus – apologized to the public and the Board for being late and missing a few recent meetings due to an unfortunate family situation. He expressed gratitude for the new Skateboard Park at the Fessenden Center. He noted however that he would like to see some lighting at the Skateboard Park. He asked if the questionnaire for the economic development initiative is unique to Dare County or if it is something they have used elsewhere. Commissioner Shea explained that while some items are common to other areas, the project is geared for Dare County. Commissioner Burrus asked for and received clarification about the scoping meeting for Hatteras Inlet. He also expressed concern about the lack of local courses being offered by the College of the Albemarle (COA). He said if COA will not offer what is needed, Dare County may need to do its own classes. Commissioner Judge explained that although there are well intended people on the COA Board of Trustees, Dare County should have more representation, which would help put emphasis on our local campus.

Chairman Woodard – thanked Mr.Price for his remarks during Public Comments about the importance of beach nourishment. The Chairman addressed the issue of political bias in making board and committee appointments by saying that the Dare County Board of Commissioners has acted fairly in selecting people to serve. Chairman Woodard asked the Board to consider moving the September 19, 2016 meeting date to September 26 in order to accommodate a personal scheduling conflict.

MOTION

Chairman Woodard motioned to move the 5:00 p.m., September 19, 2016 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners to 5:00 p.m., September 26, 2016.

Commissioner Boswell seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

1. The County Manager presented a request from NCDOT to place a 16-foot tower near the emergency ferry dock in Rodanthe as part of the state’s GIS network.

MOTION

Commissioner Judge motioned to approve the request.

Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

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

MOTION

Commissioner Boswell and Commissioner Umphlett motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:14 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday,
September 6, 2016.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 

Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners