



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., December 19, 2016

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Vice-Chairman Wally Overman
Jack Shea, Beverly Boswell, Steve House, Danny Couch

Commissioners absent: Margarette Umphlett

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. Lorrie Ghering-Burick from Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Note – In order to accommodate the Public Hearing scheduled for 5:30 p.m., some agenda items were handled out of sequential order.

ITEM 1 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- Reported on a farewell reception honoring Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer who is leaving COA to take another community college position.
- Commented on beach erosion issues in the Village of Avon.
- Thanked Commissioner Couch for spearheading Commissioner participation in the Hatteras Christmas Parade.
- Noted that a letter has been sent to Colonel Grey at the North Carolina Highway Patrol requesting traffic control assistance during summer weekends.
- Thanked the economic development consultants for a report on the economic diversification plan that was given earlier today at a special meeting. He said the Board will be discussing the comprehensive report in the coming weeks.
- Read a letter that was sent to Governor McCrory thanking him for his service.
- Commended Governor McCrory and the North Carolina Legislature for the recently approved package of relief for Hurricane Matthew recovery.
- Provided an update report on debris removal related to Hurricane Matthew.
- Commented on the recent Celebration of Flight at the Wright Brothers Memorial.

- The Chairman asked NCDOT Board Member Malcolm Fearing to give an update on the status of the bridge planned for Rodanthe. Mr. Fearing provided information about the Rodanthe project and read a resolution adopted by the NCDOT Transportation Board concerning local expansion of the Blue Star Memorial Highway to honor Veterans.
- In a surprise presentation, Chairman Woodard, joined by Steve Keen from Governor McCrory's office, presented the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Malcolm Fearing in recognition of his integrity, vision, compassion, and extraordinary public service. 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 –

The following Public Comments were made in Manteo –

1. Pat Weston commented on beach erosion issues plaguing Avon. She thanked National Park Service Superintendent David Hallac and Frank Jennings with CAMA for their cooperation in addressing a 225-foot breach that occurred due to Hurricane Matthew. She also identified an area that has experienced severe erosion since then. Ms. Weston called on the Board for help saying that beach nourishment is needed sooner rather than later. She explained that this problem impacts all of Hatteras Island and threatens to jeopardize tourism and our economy.

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

ITEM 3 – PRESENTATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2016 CAFR AND AUDIT RESULTS

Finance Director David Clawson along with Bob Taylor from Potter & Company presented the fiscal year 2016 audit results and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mr. Taylor said his auditing firm was giving an opinion without any qualifications or exceptions noted, which he said is good news. Mr. Clawson gave the Board a detailed summary of the CAFR component units and funds and highlighted changes in revenues and expenditures. He noted improvement in the Insurance Fund balance deficit and said the General Fund balance level increased by \$2,167,003. The audit presentation can be viewed in its entirety at the County website www.darenc.com.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED C-2 TEXT AMENDMENT TO ADD INDOOR RECREATION USES

At 5:43 p.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. No one responded to the invitation to address the Board. Chairman Woodard closed the hearing at 5:43 p.m.

Planning Director, Donna Creef summarized the proposed text amendment that would allow indoor recreation uses in the C-2 district encompassing Avon and Buxton.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to amend the C-2 zoning district to add indoor recreation uses to the list of permitted uses in this district as recommended by the Planning Board with the finding that this amendment is consistent with the policies of the 2009 Land Use Plan and other official documents specifically policy LUC #5 which encourages the continued existence of locally owned businesses.

Commissioner Boswell seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 5 – 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 (12.05.16) **(Att. #1)**
- 2) DCDHHS, Public Health Division – Additional Ebola/Zika Preparedness Funds
- 3) Firemen’s Relief Fund Board Reappointment
- 4) 5311 Designee Certification Resolution **(Att. #2)**
- 5) Tax Collector’s Report

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – 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 Boswell – expressed thanks for the work of Malcolm Fearing on the NCDOT Transportation Board and congratulated him on receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Governor McCrory. Commissioner Boswell noted that the conditions at Oregon Inlet look good now and she wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner House – extended Christmas greetings and urged people to be safe and remember emergency service personnel who are away from their families during the holiday. Commissioner House provided details about how people can submit public comments in opposition to the petition for rulemaking that has been submitted to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission. The petition, if approved, would create Special Secondary Nursery Areas, which would have a harmful effect on watermen. He asked the Board to consider a resolution opposing the rulemaking petition.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve drafting a resolution that will be brought back to the Board at its next meeting

Commissioners Boswell, Shea, Overman, and Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Vice-Chairman Overman – congratulated Malcolm Fearing on being awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He provided an update on Hatteras Inlet and said the permitting effort is moving in the right direction. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with peace on earth and Godspeed for the leadership of our nation.

Commissioner Shea – gave an update on today's Special Meeting with the economic development consultants where a comprehensive report was given to the Board with key recommendations. Commissioner Shea said there is a lot of material to review and he will be reporting further on the matter. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and best wishes for a great year in 2017.

Commissioner Couch – thanked NCDOT Board Member Malcolm Fearing for the good news regarding the NCDOT Rodanthe Bridge project. He said the bridge will help people have reliable transportation access and expressed hope that it will also provide additional recreational opportunities. While wishing Merry Christmas to the community, Commissioner Couch asked people to remember the reason for the season.

Chairman Woodard – congratulated Malcolm Fearing on receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He shared a letter from the WW II Coastwise Merchant Mariners, thanking Dare County for its support of veterans. Chairman Woodard commended the Board of Commissioners for their dedication, loyalty, and service to the people of Dare County. He wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

1. Mr. Outten said the positive audit report that was presented today makes him proud of the County staff that strives to make the Board's policies come into fruition.
2. The Manager raised the issue of a possible boat ramp in Rodanthe. He suggested getting community input by having a Public Hearing with the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Board by consensus instructed the Manager to proceed.
3. Mr. Outten reported that community colleges in North Carolina, including COA, received bond money for spending on capital projects. He said COA has an ambitious plan for the Dare County campus and called for a small group of Commissioners to meet with representatives from COA to discuss it. Chairman Woodard said he would talk with the COA Chairman and asked Commissioners to let him know if they want to be part of that effort.
4. The Manager explained that grant money may be available to help with the engineering costs for the Hatteras Inlet dredging project. He asked the Board to approve submitting a resolution signed by the Chairman requesting grant funding.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Shea motioned to approve a resolution signed by the Chairman requesting grant funding as outlined by the Manager. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Public Information Officer Dorothy Hester said she would follow-up with information on the Dare County website to help people submit public comments to oppose the petition for rulemaking that was mentioned by Commissioner House.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.

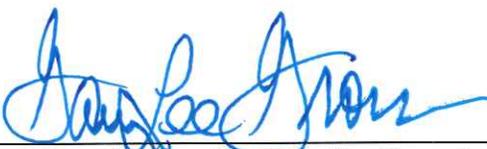
Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:38 p.m., the Board adjourned until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2017.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners