



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., March 5, 2018

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Vice Chairman Wally Overman
Jack Shea, Steve House, Jim Tobin

Commissioners absent: Rob Ross, Danny Couch

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 9:04 a.m. He invited Rev. Keith Dey from Emmanuel Lutheran Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Chairman Woodard announced that Commissioners Ross and Couch had an excused absence due to a prior commitment.

ITEM 1 – 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 –

- Chairman Woodard gave a report on the recent rally conducted in Raleigh related to the BOEM public meeting on offshore energy, which was also attended by Vice Chairman Overman, Commissioner Ross, and the County Manager. The Chairman announced that he will be going to Washington, D.C. this week to speak against offshore drilling.
- He noted that the very recently completed Buxton beach nourishment project was finished just in time before the onset of the brutal weather that has hit the Outer Banks.
- The Chairman shared a detailed report from NCDOT listing the roads that were still experiencing impacts from the recent coastal storm.
- George Henderson, one of the founding members of the Dare County Airport Authority, was presented a certificate of appreciation for his 47 years of continuous service. Mr. Henderson was recognized for his aeronautical experience, long-standing commitment, and insightful leadership, which has caused general aviation in Dare County to flourish.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Anna Gallop, Social Services Division, received a 10-year pin.
- 2) Cynthia Crabtree, Social Services Division, received a 15-year pin.
- 3) Chuck Earley, EMS, received a 30-year pin.

ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – MARCH 2018

Debi Equils received the Employee of the Month award from Shanna Fullmer who described the many ways that Ms. Equils is an asset to the Public Works Department.

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. 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. Willo Kelly, Government Affairs Liaison with the Outer Banks Association of Realtors and the Outer Banks Home Builders Association, alerted Commissioners to a rate filing that, if approved, would result in a huge increase in insurance rates for Dwelling policies that are written for non-owner occupied structures such as rental properties and second homes. She noted that the rate filing would have a greater impact on coastal communities than the statewide average. She urged everyone to file comments opposing the rate filing and provided details on how to make public comments. Ms. Kelly also advised property owners to shop around when presented with Consent to Rate forms by their existing insurance carrier.

The following comments were made in Buxton –

2. Nicole Jennette spoke on behalf of Wendy Stowe Sisler who she said lost her son after a long struggle with addiction. She explained that Ms. Sisler has since become an advocate for mental health and substance abuse treatment services in memory of her son Cory. Ms. Jennette voiced support for PORT Health Services and outlined the need for an outpatient treatment facility in Hatteras Village noting that it is difficult for people to travel off the island for treatment especially during storms. She urged the Board of Commissioners to support the endeavor to bring a larger and more diverse treatment facility to her community.

ITEM 5 – PROCLAMATION – AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

Carolyn Self, Community Volunteer Leader for the Greater Albemarle Area of the American Red Cross, asked the Board to proclaim March as American Red Cross Month in an effort to applaud the heroes in Dare County who deliver help and hope during disasters. She also outlined a new Red Cross program “Sound the Alarm” that provides smoke alarms to help prevent fire related deaths. Commissioner House spoke in support of the Red Cross by noting his long-term affiliation with the organization and shared a quote from Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to proclaim March 2018 as American Red Cross Month. Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – REPORT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA COASTAL FEDERATION

Erin Fleckenstein from the North Carolina Coastal Federation gave a recap of the recent rally that was held in Raleigh to oppose offshore drilling. She expressed thanks for the strong stand that the Board of Commissioners has taken against offshore drilling. Details were provided about the public comment process and Ms. Fleckenstein urged everyone to submit remarks about the adverse impact offshore drilling would have for the Outer Banks.

ITEM 7 – NC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

Shannon Brooks, County Extension Director presented a comprehensive report on the agency's accomplishments during 2017. She reported that 103 volunteers provided over 7,200 hours of service to the people of Dare County with an economic value of over \$174,000. Ms. Brooks outlined the many services provided by Cooperative Extension including pesticide collection, soil testing, the Master Gardener Program, and 4-H activities.

ITEM 8 – FIVE YEAR GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL PROJECTION

A five year projection for the County's General Fund was presented by Finance Director David Clawson. He explained that this type of projection is recognized as a best practice that is viewed favorably by the credit rating agencies. Commissioners were told that the five year projection shows a Fund Balance decline from 32.8% to 31.7% at the end of fiscal year 2019. It was noted that modest deficits may occur in 2020, 2021 and 2022. Mr. Clawson reported that the projection shows a decrease in debt service as a percentage of total expenditures from 17.11% to 11.40%, which he said is a major ratings factor.

ITEM 9 – REVISED RESOLUTION INDICATING THE DATE OF THE HATTERAS VILLAGE VOTER REFERENDUM (Att. #1)

Mr. Outten reported that the resolution previously adopted that called for a voter referendum in the Hatteras voting precinct regarding the use of ad valorem taxes for multiuse pathways did not indicate the date for election. He said In order to comply with NCGS 163-287 a revised resolution is needed indicating May 8, 2018 as the date for the voter referendum.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the revised resolution indicating May 8, 2018 as the referendum date in the Hatteras Voting Precinct.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (02.20.18) **(Att. #2)**
- 2) Government Education Access Channels 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Community Advisory Committee for Long-Term Care Facilities (Nursing Home Advisory Board)
Commissioner Shea motioned to recommend that the applications of Richard Burris and Susie Walters be forwarded to the Ombudsman to undergo training required by the NC General Statutes prior to their names being submitted to the Board of Commissioners at a future date for formal appointment to the Dare Co. Community Advisory Committee, also known as the Nursing Home Advisory Board.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)

Commissioner Shea and Commissioner House motioned to appoint Molly McGinnis to fulfill the term of Teresa Twyne as the School Superintendent Designee to the JCPC.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 3) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for April, May and June 2018 were announced.

ITEM 12 – 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 Tobin

- Welcomed the new Cooperative Extension 4-H Agent and mentioned the community partnership with Mano al Hermano.
- Raised a concern about the blue fin tuna quota and asked the Board to support a collaborative effort to strategically push for a more equitable allotment that will be fair for the watermen of Dare County.

Commissioner House

- Asked everyone to carefully monitor the next storm front that may be developing.
- Expressed concern about the issue raised by Willo Kelly during Public Comments concerning the insurance rate filing and said the Board needs to address this with North Carolina's Insurance Commissioner.

Vice Chairman Overman

- Congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month.
- Thanked Dare County Cooperative Extension for their helpful programs and services.

Commissioner Shea

- Commended the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month for all they do to make Dare County a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.
- Expressed hope that people survived the recent wind storm without property damage.
- Thanked the American Red Cross for all that they do to help those in distress.
- Agreed that the County needs to reach out to the NC Insurance Commissioner on the rate filing that was mentioned during Public Comments.

Chairman Woodard

- Addressed the insurance rate filing and voiced his concern about the impact it would have on coastal communities. He concurred on the need to reach out to the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner.
- The Chairman reported on a request from Hyde County to support a joint letter to the NCDOT Ferry Division asking for a comprehensive survey of Hatteras Inlet. The County Manager noted that the purpose of the survey is to look for a more direct navigational route. The following motion was made following Board discussion -

MOTION

Commissioner House and Commissioner Shea motioned to sign on to the joint letter. Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

1. Mr. Outten thanked all the County Departments and staff for their efforts during the recent storm. He explained how County resources were strategically staged during the event to help minimize storm impacts.
2. The County Manager explained that North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey is planning a trip to Dare County in March and expressed hope that a meeting with Dare County officials can be arranged during his visit.

Prior to adjournment, Public Information Officer Dorothy Hester explained how people can sign up to receive automatic notifications from Emergency Management. She also provided details about the Board's upcoming Community Meeting that is designed to give citizens the opportunity to talk with Commissioners on a more informal basis about issues of concern. Finance Director David Clawson noted that bid opening will occur soon for the Nags Head beach nourishment project.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.

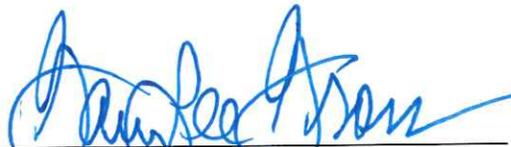
Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

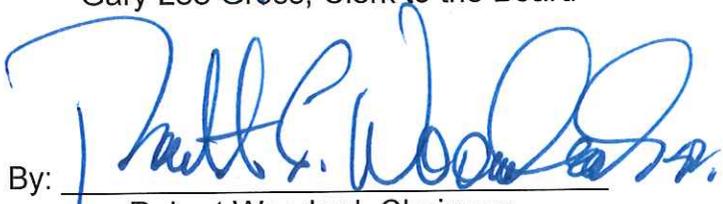
At 10:51 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., March 19, 2018.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners