



County of Dare

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, NC 27954

MINUTES

DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:00 a.m., October 1, 2018

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 9:01 a.m. He invited Rev. Charles Daly from Mount Carmel United Methodist Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Note – some agenda items were handled out of sequential order to accommodate a time specific Public Hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

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 –

- Noted that the weeks following Hurricane Florence have been very busy and we need to continue to think about the people in the areas that were hard hit by the storm.
- Reported on a meeting he had with Park Service Superintendent Hallac and reminded that the Wright Brothers Memorial reopening ceremony is scheduled for October 20.
- Commented on his discussion with Municipal Mayors concerning the issue of housing.
- As a COA Trustee, Chairman Woodard advised that enrollment is up for this quarter.
- Reported that the recent Candidates Forum was very well attended and informative.
- Explained that he, the Dare County Public Information Officer, and a representative from Cooperative Extension recently met with Manteo High School students to get input about student attitudes concerning the College of the Albemarle. He said the students were helpful and provided valuable insight.

- Gave a briefing on the recent Lost Colony Wine & Culinary Festival. He said this year's event, which had increased attendance, was a wonderful day of great food and wine. He encouraged everyone to support this fundraiser benefitting the Lost Colony.
- On behalf of Governor Cooper, the Chairman presented Jay Burrus, the recently retired Director of Dare County's Health & Human Services Department, with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. The Chairman's remarks are outlined in agenda item #4.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Greg Wilson, Deputy Sheriff Captain, received a 10-year pin.
- 2) Wendy Hall, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, received a 10-year pin.
- 3) Lakayla Hill-Melton, Detention Shift Leader, received a 15-year pin.
- 4) Sue Hewitt, In-Home Service Aid Supervisor, received a 25-year pin.

ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2018

Pam Matthews received the Employee of the Month award from Tim White who described the many ways that Ms. Matthews is an asset to the Transportation Department.

ITEM 4 – RECOGNITION OF RETIREES

Jay Burrus, who recently retired as the Director of Dare County's Health & Human Services Department, was honored for his distinguished public service career that spanned over 40 years. Chairman Woodard commended Mr. Burrus for having served as a passionate advocate for our children, the elderly, and all those who are vulnerable in our community. He explained that under Mr. Burrus' insightful leadership, the County's Health and Human Services Department has become a model program that is well respected and emulated by other North Carolina communities. On behalf of Governor Roy Cooper, Chairman Woodard presented Mr. Burrus with The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, which is the highest award for state service granted by the Office of the Governor. In accepting the award, Mr. Burrus said it has been a pleasure working with the Board of Commissioners and the staff of caring and capable professionals at the Health and Human Services Department.

ITEM 5 – 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. Rosemarie Doshier described the need for mosquito spraying in East Lake. She reported on a conversation she had where she was told that spraying is only allowed in Stumpy Point and Manns Harbor. Ms. Doshier said that East Lake does indeed have mosquitoes and asked that this community be included in the spraying program.

2. Gail Sonnesso from GEM Day Services, read several letters of support written by volunteers involved in programs that are provided to those with dementia. The letters gave insight about GEM activities such as the Harmony Café, art classes, therapy dogs, programs at All Saints Episcopal Church, and the need for financial support.

The following comments were made in Buxton –

3. Laurel Gropper told the Board that the people on Leslie Lane want and need County water. She said a contaminated well on her block presents a public health risk and added that the lack of a fire hydrant is a safety issue. The County Manager asked Ms. Gropper to contact him so he can personally discuss this and follow-up with her.

ITEM 6 – REPORT FROM GEM DAY SERVICES

Gail Sonnesso, on behalf of GEM Day Services, gave an update report on efforts to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and the need for research, educational programs, and caregiver services in our community. She explained the stages of disease progression and presented statistics about Alzheimer’s disease. Ms. Sonnesso outlined services that are currently available in Dare County and described fundraisers sponsored by GEM.

ITEM 7 – OB CHAMBER ZONING AMENDMENTS – YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

The Planning Director outlined a set of zoning amendments from the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce involving minimum lot sizes for duplex structures, multifamily dwelling densities and accessory dwelling units. She noted that the revisions are designed to facilitate the development of year-round residential structures and not to encourage the construction of short term vacation rentals. Ms. Creef added that any change to the zoning rules cannot supersede flood rule requirements. She reported that the Planning Board held a public hearing where it received positive input in support of the amendments. Each of the Chamber’s requests were outlined in detail along with the recommendations of the Planning Board. After fielding Commissioner questions about the proposed zoning amendments, Ms. Creef recommended that the Board conduct a Public Hearing.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to schedule a Public Hearing for 5:30 p.m., Oct. 15, 2018.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

RECESS: 10:49 a.m. – 11:03 a.m.

ITEM 8 – REQUEST FROM KILL DEVIL HILLS

Chairman Woodard presented a request from Mayor Sheila Davies, on behalf of the Kill Devil Hills Board of Commissioners, that a working group of all Dare County local governments be established to comprehensively address stormwater concerns and complications throughout our entire area. The Chairman noted that the stormwater engineering study that was recently commissioned for the north end of Roanoke Island is

not yet completed. It was the consensus of the Board to table the request until the County receives the engineer's report because that information will be vital in moving forward to address the stormwater issue. It was suggested that this topic would be good for the mayors and managers to discuss when each group meets for their monthly luncheon.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to table this item until after the County receives the stormwater engineering study that is now underway.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – PUBLIC HEARING – TRANSPORTATION DEPT PROGRAM GRANT (Att. #1)

At 10:00 a.m. the Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing to receive input concerning the Transportation Department's FY2020 NCDOT 5311 & 5310 Program Grant Application. The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. There were no Public Comments. Chairman Woodard closed the hearing at 10:00 a.m.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adopt a resolution approving the grant application and authorize the County Manager to sign the Local Share Funding Certification.

Vice Chairman Overman 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 Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (09.17.18) **(Att. #2)**
- 2) Report on Water CIP – Capital Project Ordinance & Budget Amendment, FY2019 **(Att. #3)**
- 3) 3-year Contract for Metro Ethernet Services & Contract to Install Fiber Optic Cable
- 4) 3-year Contract for Outbound Internet Services

Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Health and Human Services Board

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to appoint Chris Roberts to the vacant Social Worker seat as requested by the Health and Human Services Board.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Parks and Recreation Advisory Council

By consensus, the Board agreed to table this item pending a recommendation from staff for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Council.

3) Wanchese Community Center Board

Commissioner House motioned to appoint Joseph Lee Willis to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Ulysses S. "Lish" Meekins.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

4) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming appointments for November, December, and January 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

- Reported on recent Community Advisory Council tours of both Spring Arbor and Peak Resources. He noted that Spring Arbor is facing challenges and advised the Board that Peak Resources is doing a fabulous job. He said programs offered by Gail Sonnesso and GEM volunteers at these facilities have had a positive impact. He added that the residents very much appreciate the parties hosted by the Outer Banks Woman's Club.
- Gave an update on the dredge vessel project. He explained that steady progress is being made on the contractual documents related to this endeavor. He also reported on a scoping meeting that was recently held with the regulatory agencies and said the session went very well. In response to a Commissioner question, he advised that the new dredge should be in the water and operating in approximately 18 months to 2 years.
- Commissioner Tobin summarized the current navigational conditions at Oregon Inlet, where he said there is difficulty at the center span.

Commissioner Ross

- Echoed the comments that were made in acknowledgment of Gail Sonnesso and the GEM volunteers. He commended them for their educational and respite care activities.
- Noted that the Albemarle Commission will be meeting in closed session this week.
- Reported that he will be attending a meeting scheduled soon with Guernsey Tingle, the architect firm for the new Dare County Animal Shelter. He added that he will also be meeting this week with John Graves about the shelter.
- Said he is looking forward to the Trillium annual conference coming up later this year.

Commissioner House

- Thanked Jay Burrus for his service to Dare County and wished him well in retirement.
- Reported on ways people have pulled together to help those hurt by Hurricane Florence.
- Announced that the Commission For Working Watermen will hold its reorganizational meeting next week in Rodanthe after its original meeting date had to be postponed due to the hurricane. He encouraged everyone to attend the reorganization meeting.

Vice Chairman Overman

- Congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month.
- Briefed the Board on a citizen request to allow golf carts in Wanchese. He said he has discussed this with the Planning Director and reported that Ms. Creef plans to put this item on the November 5th agenda.
- Commented on the Walk Against Addiction recently held at First Flight High School.
- Thanked the North Banks Rotary Club for their donation to the Saving Lives Task Force.
- Noted that the recent Lost Colony Wine & Culinary Festival was an outstanding event.
- Welcomed back Sheriff Doug Doughtie after having had medical procedures performed and said Dare County is truly blessed to have him as our Sheriff.

Commissioner Shea

- Thanked Jay Burrus for his many years of exemplary service to Dare County.
- Congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month.
- Expressed gratitude for the valuable services that are provided by GEM volunteers.

Commissioner Couch

- Gave a report on the condition of the beach in Buxton in the wake of recent storms and he encouraged the Board to see if something can be done to allow jetties as a way of protecting our vulnerable shoreline.
- Commended the Cape Hatteras United Methodist Men for their efforts to help the people of Hyde County who were hurt by Hurricane Florence.
- Commissioner Couch said although the hurricane had a dampening effect on business, he expressed hope that 2018 will be a good year for businesses on Hatteras Island.

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

1. The County Manager reported that the Manteo dredging project needs to move forward and requested permission to engage Ken Willson’s consulting firm to work on the project. Mr. Outten said a contract will be prepared and brought back to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

MOTION

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

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2. Mr. Outten outlined the need for a new position in the Finance Department for a Budget Analyst/Internal Auditor. He described the scope of the position, reported that funding is available, and noted that with department to department moves there will be no increase in the number of positions. The Manager asked for permission to create the position.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to create the new position as outlined by the Manager. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Public Information Officer Dorothy Hester reminded everyone that the interactive video link for Hatteras Island residents to make public comments will be moved to the Fessenden Center Annex effective October 15. She announced that the bear-proof trash cans have arrived ahead of schedule and that a mailing will be going out to mainland residents.

Finance Director David Clawson summarized efforts that are being taken to see if Dare County qualifies for any level of FEMA assistance as Emergency Protective Measures related to Hurricane Florence.

Chairman Woodard asked for a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) to instruct the County staff, or negotiating agents, concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the County in negotiating the price and other material terms of a contract, or proposed contract, for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease in the matter of the Old Kellogg Supply Building in Manteo.

MOTION

Chairman Woodard motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes cited by the County Manager.

Commissioners Shea, House, Ross, and Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 11:41 a.m. the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 12:45 p.m. and Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes, gave guidance to the County Attorney regarding the real estate matter noted above, and took no other action.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Ross and Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

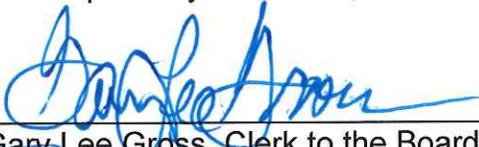
VOTE: AYES unanimous

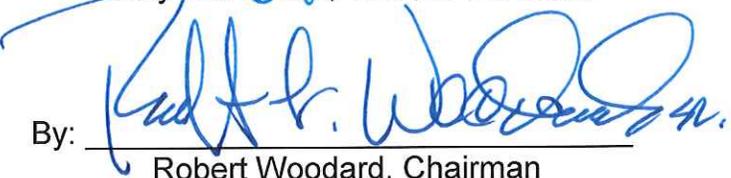
At 12:45 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., October 15, 2018.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners