



County of Dare

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, NC 27954

MINUTES

DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

5:00 p.m., September 17, 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 5:01 p.m. He invited Rev. Fran Peel to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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 provided a comprehensive review of Dare County’s preparation and action related to Hurricane Florence. He explained that the mandatory evacuation ordered by the Dare County Control Group was done in order to protect public safety based on information from the National Weather Service and the National Hurricane Center as the hurricane was approaching the Carolina coast in an uncertain track as a possible category 4 storm. The Chairman recapped the meetings that were held by the Control Group, which consists of the Dare County Chairman, each of the six municipal Mayors, the National Park Superintendent, and Sheriff Doughtie. A report was given on the strategic mobilization of equipment by NCDOT and the steps that were taken by EMS, the Sheriff’s Office, Health & Human Services, and other County Departments to safeguard public safety related to the storm. Commissioners joined the Chairman in voicing concern for the people in the areas of North and South Carolina that were hard hit by Hurricane Florence and expressed gratitude that Dare County did not sustain a direct hit from this storm.

ITEM 2 – DISCUSSION OF HURRICANE FLORENCE

The County Manager echoed the thoughts expressed by Chairman Woodard and commended staff for their storm related efforts. Mr. Outten explained that the preparation and planning process done by County departments throughout the year is what enables emergency operations to go as smoothly as possible during storm activation. The American Red Cross and other community partners were recognized for their assistance and residents and visitors were thanked for their cooperation in heeding storm warnings.

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. 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. Carolyn Self, on behalf of the American Red Cross, thanked Emergency Management Director Drew Pearson for the County's help and support during Hurricane Florence. She explained that the American Red Cross appreciates its relationship with Dare County in helping people be prepared for these type of events.
2. Tom Murphy, a Rodanthe resident, thanked Chairman Woodard and all those who worked during Hurricane Florence. He asked for a clarification of who is on the Dare County Control Group and the Chairman outlined who serves on the panel. Mr. Murphy reported that Radio Hatteras was on the air throughout the entire storm.

There were no comments made in Buxton –

ITEM 4 – PROCLAMATION – ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS

The County Manager, on behalf of Gail Sonnesso and GEM Day Services, presented a proclamation designating September as World Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

MOTION

Commissioner House and Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Proclamation. Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 5 – AWARD OF FY2018-2019 CIP EQUIPMENT FINANCING (Att. #1)

Finance Director David Clawson briefed the Board on proposals that were received for the financing of equipment that was approved in the FY2018-2019 Capital Improvements Plan in the amount of \$1,266,611. He reported that eight financial institutions responded and explained that The Bancorp Bank submitted the lowest total cost proposal for a four year term at a rate of 2.65%.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to adopt the Resolution awarding the four year financing to the Bancorp Bank and authorize the Manager and staff to execute all necessary documents. Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION – DARE COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

The County Manager outlined the RFQ (Request For Qualification) responses that were received for design services for a new animal shelter. He said five firms responded and explained how they were evaluated by the selection committee. Mr. Outten asked the Board to approve moving forward with the Guernsey Tingle firm and noted that their experience with animal care centers in Virginia and North Carolina was a determining factor.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to select Guernsey Tingle and authorize the County Manager to negotiate a contract to be brought back to the Board for approval.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – 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 (09.04.18) **(Att. #2)**

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Dare County Transportation Advisory Board

Commissioner Shea motioned to appoint Chuck Lycett to the seat held by Jay Burrus.

Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Nursing Home Community Advisory Council

Commissioner Tobin and Commissioner House motioned to appoint Mary Pendill.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – 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 Couch

- Expressed gratitude to Emergency Management Director Drew Pearson and Public Information Officer Dorothy Hester for their hard work during Hurricane Florence. He also thanked the Hatteras Island Rescue Squad and the Dare County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner Couch described humanitarian relief efforts that are being taken by watermen on Ocracoke and Hatteras who are using their boats to haul much needed supplies to those on the Carolina coast who were hard hit by Hurricane Florence.

Commissioner Tobin

- Asked for prayers for the people living in the storm impact area. He noted that many marinas in North and South Carolina have been wiped out. Commissioner Tobin described the status of local navigational aids and markers in the wake of the storm.
- Asked the Board to address the serious problem that people in East Lake, Stumpy Point, and Manns Harbor are having with bears. The County Manager gave a briefing on the dumpsters that have been put out, which has not solved the problem. Mr. Outten reported that bear proof trash cans are available at a cost of \$250 each plus tax and shipping. He added that there is an eight to nine week turnaround for delivery. He asked the Board to consider buying 200 bear proof cans at a cost of approximately \$50,000. He recommended that these cans then be made available to residents for \$85 if picked up, or \$96 if delivered. He explained that those receiving social service benefits will be provided one at no cost. He noted that staff will consider using another vendor if one can be found with a shorter turnaround time for a similar product.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to approve the purchase of 200 bear proof trash containers as outlined by the County Manager and authorize the Manager to execute the related Budget Amendment.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Ross

- Thanked Chairman Woodard for the clarification that was given on the composition of the Dare County Control Group.
- He commended Gail Sonnesso and GEM for their tireless efforts on behalf of those in our community that are dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. He noted that details will be forthcoming about a Respite Day being planned for this fall to give caregivers a much needed day off.
- Reported that the Albemarle Commission's Congregate Meals program has successfully recruited community partners to replace the contribution that had been made by the Golden Corral restaurant because of their withdraw from the program. He expressed gratitude that this vital service will not be interrupted. Commissioner Ross also commented on a State Auditor recommendation concerning the per diem allowance for Albemarle Commission traveling employees.
- He informed the Board that the Dare County Animal Shelter did not experience any flooding during Hurricane Florence and described precautions that were taken to remove animals out of possible harm's way in advance of the storm.
- Based on his family's involvement with someone at Spring Arbor, he noted that the residents of the facility were evacuated for the storm and have been safely returned.
- Commissioner Ross asked everyone to remember those who died on Sept. 11, 2001 saying that although 17 years has passed, we need to always remember the victims.

Commissioner House

- Echoed the comments that were made about the Sept 11th terrorist attack.
- Based on his background in emergency services, he commended everyone involved in what he said was a smooth and flawless hurricane evacuation and reentry.
- Reported that the planned reorganization meeting for the Commission For Working Watermen had to be postponed due to the storm, however, it will be rescheduled for a date and time to be determined.
- Commissioner House asked all commercial watermen to report any and all storm related damages they sustained to the North Carolina Fisheries Association and he provided details on how to submit information.
- Described humanitarian efforts that are underway by area watermen to help those in need. He explained that those who are using their fishing boats to transport supplies to flood victims are putting their vessels and livelihood at risk. He described the items that are needed by relief organizations and where they can be donated. Commissioner House also shared a report about local children who stepped up to help those in need by operating a lemonade stand with 100% of the proceeds going to hurricane relief.

Vice Chairman Overman

- Expressed gratitude for the decisions that were made by the Dare County Control Group concerning Hurricane Florence. He said it was a blessing that our area was spared and asked for God's blessing and comfort for those that were impacted by the storm.
- He addressed the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by saying emphatically and repeatedly that we must never forget, never forget, never forget.

Commissioner Shea

- Voiced thanks that Dare County was not hard hit by Hurricane Florence like what happened in the New Bern area and thanked those who responded to the storm. He cautioned that the hurricane season is not yet over and urged people stay alert and prepared. Commissioner Shea noted that there may be a need to look at local building codes to make sure Dare County homeowners are well protected.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

1. The County Manager presented an Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Nags Head regarding Building Inspector services. He noted that the agreement, which is similar to one recently done with the Town of Kill Devil Hills, will allow the County and the Town to work cooperatively together as needed.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve the Interlocal Agreement with the Town of Nags Head regarding Building Inspector services.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2. Mr. Outten advised the Board that in the wake of Hurricane Florence, Dare County may be called upon to provide assistance to jurisdictions impacted by the storm. He noted that staff has been told to assist whenever possible as long as services to the people of Dare County are not jeopardized. He added that rendering help may involve overtime and other costs, which may not be readily repaid and the Finance Director gave an overview of FEMA's reimbursement process.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:31 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., October 1, 2018.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners