



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 p.m., August 1, 2022

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., Vice Chairman Wally Overman
Rob Ross, Steve House, Jim Tobin, Danny Couch, Ervin Bateman

Commissioners absent: None

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten
Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, David Clawson
Master Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester
Clerk to the Board, Cheryl C. Anby

A full and complete account of the entire Board of Commissioners meeting is archived on a video which is available for viewing on the Dare County website www.darenc.com.

At 9:03 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. David Morris to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ITEM 1 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

A brief outline of the items mentioned by Chairman Woodard during his opening remarks:

- The 5 on 5 Committee convened last week to meet with Interim Superintendent Steve Blackstock. The BOE members were encouraged to continue Dare County’s high scholastic rankings. Dare was ranked number two among the 100 NC counties in 2019.
- Dare Challenge was expanding their resident facility with a \$2 million project. The funding was a combination of a \$900k grant from the state, \$200k from Dare and \$400k from private donation. He thanked Commissioner Bateman for his work on the project.
- Beach Nourishment projects were being done in Buxton, Nags Head, Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores and Duck. Avon and Kill Devil Hills’ projects were complete. The ability to maintain area beaches were important to Dare’s economic engine.
- Reported Ronnie Sloan, President of The Outer Banks Hospital, had continued work on the resolution of the medical provider issues. There were plans to renovate the Manteo practice with a 2,500 square foot addition which would incorporate additional staff. He cautioned it would take some time. Dr David Worthen began working July 15th and Dr. Erin Baker would arrive in October.
- The Rodanthe Bridge fully opened last Thursday. Commissioner Couch added it was great to travel the full length of the bridge at a steady 55 mph.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- July:** 1) Roxana Ballinger received a 10-year pin.
2) Kristy Wright received a 25-year pin.
August: 3) Kelly Nettnin received a 15-year pin.
4) Ashlee DeWeese received a 20-year pin.

ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – August, 2022

Olga Roberts, Senior Foreign Language Interpreter, received the Employee of the Month award from Jodi Wyant. Olga was said to be an asset to the Health and Social Services Department as she provides Spanish interpretation for many programs such as WIC, Baby LINKS, and the North Carolina Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. She was described as having a “heart for helping people” and was a true patient advocate.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 10:00 a.m. the Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center Annex in Buxton. There were no comments from Buxton. Following is a summary of all citizen remarks from Manteo:

1. Melissa Gray gave an update of the county’s baseball teams. She stated the average entry fees were \$400 per team and the world series fees were \$1000. She felt hosting a tournament in the area would provide a revenue stream; however, our facilities were run down. Chairman Woodard responded there were assessments made and many upgrades were to be done. There would soon be a MOU in place between the county and the leagues to identify and clarify each party’s responsibilities.
2. Laurie Amatucci, President of Outer Banks SPCA, and Executive Director, Bill Coleman, presented the Trap Neuter Release program which would neuter/spay and provide rabies vaccinations to homeless cats. Feral cats were a health nuisance in many areas. They explained some could be socialized; however, the majority could not. Neutering would help curb the growing numbers. There were currently 200 kittens and cats at the SPCA now. (A full and complete account of the Board’s discussion on this topic is archived and available for viewing at www.darenc.com.)
3. Linda Ledwith, a resident of Nags Head, stated she had been involved with cat trapping and rescue for twenty years in Boston. The TNR program had worked very well there. She stated cats were territorial and it was important to release them to the original areas where they were caught. She suggested the community needed a better education on the problem in order to help curb the area’s cat population.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 10:29 a.m.

The meeting recessed at 10:29 a.m. and reconvened at 10:39 a.m.

ITEM 5– CAMP EMMANUEL – AMENDMENT TO SUP 3-2009 TO ADD FAMILY LIFE CENTER BUILDING TO EXISTING GROUP DEVELOPMENT (Att. #1)

The applicant, Planning Director and John Delucia were duly sworn by the Clerk. Mr. Gillam provided a summary of the amendment which requested the addition of a new 15,000 sq. foot family life center to be used by the church and summer camp attendees. John Delucia, the project engineer, introduced Pastor Scott Hobbs. Rev. Hobbs thanked the Board for their

consideration of the amendment and stated the building would be a welcome addition to host the large activities held there. The County Manager asked Pastor Hobbs if he agreed to the findings of facts listed in the Amended SUP, the supporting documents on file, and the facts presented by the Planning Director. Pastor Scott Hobbs indicated his agreement. Mr. DeLucia advised they hoped to move quickly on the project; however, there were expected delays with obtaining construction materials.

MOTION

Commissioner Bateman motioned to approve the amendment to SUP#3-2009 and the associated site plan for the proposed addition of a family life center building to the existing group development.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – DARE COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES – PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS PROPOSAL (Att. #2)

Dr. Sheila Davies provided a presentation to outline the history and process of the \$26 billion settlement with McKesson, Cardinal Health, Amerisource Bergen, and Johnson & Johnson for their part in the opioid epidemic. Pursuant to the Memorandum of Agreement, North Carolina would receive \$750 million of the settlement with 15% going to the state and 85% to the local governments. An eighteen-year payment schedule was presented to the Board which totaled \$3,433,424.00. Each year the Board would receive recommendations on how to utilize the settlement funds. This fiscal year request included \$70k for an overdose response coordinator, \$100k-probation officer, \$30 Naloxone, \$12k Fentanyl testing strips, \$40K awareness campaign, \$125k community initiatives and \$25k Linkage to Care.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve the Opioid Settlement Funds Proposal as presented and authorized the County Manager to sign any necessary budget amendments. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – A REQUEST TO CLOSE THE PAVED PORTION OF SEAGULL STREET IN RODANTHE (Att. #3)

Mr. Outten explained the property owners of Mirlo Beach Subdivision, Phase Two, wanted to move their properties westward to protect and extend the life of their homes. A public hearing would need to be set for September 6, 2022 to review comments.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt a resolution as required by G.S. 153A-241 to schedule a Public Hearing on the matter on September 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Commissioners Couch and Tobin

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – PROCLAMATION – CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

A proclamation recognizing August 2022 as “Child Support Awareness Month was presented.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to adopt the proclamation.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – RESOLUTION FOR DARE COUNTY TO JOIN THE NORTH CAROLINA INVESTMENT POOL (Att. #4)

Dave Clawson provided a summary to the Board. He explained use of the investment pool would provide the County with (1) slightly higher returns (2) provide additional portfolio diversification (3) and would lower the County's direct credit risk exposure from its commercial paper holdings.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Resolution for Dare County to Join the NC Investment Pool.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10 – RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF DARE, NC, AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION OF AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT, DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE WITH RESPECT THERETO, DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE COUNTY TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FROM PROCEEDS THEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS THERETO

Dave Clawson reported to the Board that Sally DeFosse, Andrew & Doug Carter (county financial advisors) and he had met with State Treasurer Debt Management staff regarding the debt issue for these projects. The Debt Management staff had declined to allow the two-year short-term debt to cover the construction period and the issuance of one set of bonds in 2024 upon completion. Their explanation was the concern over "price escalation". The new plan would be three separate bond issuances over two years with the first on the January, 2023. agenda. **No action taken by the Board with this item.**

ITEM 11 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (07.18.22) (Att. #5)
- 2) Tax Collector's Report

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 12 - BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Airport Authority

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Charles Davidson, Jack Shea and Fred Newberry for another term.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Parks and Recreation Advisory Council

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Dean Simmons, Justin Bateman and Allen Poole and to appoint Megan Vayette to fill the term of Stephanie Moxley.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for August, September and October, 2022 were announced.

ITEM 13 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

Following is a brief summary of the items mentioned by Commissioners, County Manager, Public Relations Officer and Finance Director during this segment:

Vice-Chairman Overman

- He congratulated the service pin recipients for their cumulative seventy years of dedicated service. He also congratulated Olga Roberts, the employee of the month.
- There was an interest in the installation of a multi-use path, a sidewalk and/or widening of Airport Road. The road was in poor shape and had become a safety concern for pedestrians. There was a NCDOT grant opening in September for a feasibility study for various projects. He requested a Special Board meeting be held on August 9th for public comment and to provide adequate time for NCDOT to prepare a grant request for Airport Road. Several commissioners had conflicts with August 9th and there was a consensus to hold the meeting on August 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. Notice would be sent.

Commissioner Bateman

- The “Surfing for Autism” event was July 23 and it was a rewarding experience
- Dare Challenge: The long-range plans would address the expansion for women students. Dare Challenge was having a lag time on steel delivery for the project.

Commissioner Couch

- National Aviation Day would be August 19th at Dare Regional Airport. It was always a great opportunity for locals and visitors to get a public feel for our airport.
- Congratulated the service pin recipients and employee of the month. It was evident their quality work made it easy for department heads and managers to do their jobs.
- He thanked the Chairman for the nourishment project update. The tourists were being understanding. More Beach to Love has been a great campaign.
- Current TV had been sharing the media message for cross-walk education. The expansion of the message would help alleviate the crush of traffic and improve safety

Commissioner Tobin

- Went to Morgan City for a sea trial on “Miss Katie” with Commissioner House and the County Manager. She had received her Certificate of Documentation from the Coast Guard and would be heading this way once a few fine turning repairs were addressed.
- The County had received emergency authorization to dredge the new channel in order to access the navigable span of Basnight Bridge. It would be three weeks before the “Snell” completes its work and then the “Merritt” would be here.

Commissioner House

- Commented the trip to Morgan City to experience the dredge was remarkable.
- Day in history: The Jeep was first introduced in 1941. In 1981, MTV (Music Television) first came on television.
- Announced the dog “Rambo” had found his forever home as he introduced a video with “Finn”, a ten-year old lab offered for adoption at the area’s SPCA.

Commissioner Ross

- On July 20th he addressed the attendees at the GEM (Gentle Expert Memory Care) program entitled, “Navigating the Maze of Eldercare”.
- Recommended the Board add the County’s commitment to our public schools to the list of this year’s legislative goals.
- Requested the Board consider the earlier discussion concerning Dare County’s feral cat problem. (See archived video for full discussion.)

MOTION (As amended)

Commissioner Ross motioned for the board’s approval to support the Dare County Homeless Cat TNR Project with up to and not exceeding \$70k and requested the Outer Banks SPCA coordinate efforts with the appropriate town authorities with independent animal agencies and nonprofits, such as those in Kill Devil Hills and Nags Head.

Commissioners Tobin and Bateman seconded the amended motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

County Manager Outten updated the Board on the crosswalk issues discussed at the last meeting. He had received input from the southern villages as to where they felt crosswalks were needed. The information would be provided to NCDOT for their vetting process.

There had been \$800,000 appropriated for lights at First Flight School for the fields. Staff had investigated the cost of artificial turf fields and found it prohibitive with estimates leaning at one million per field. With the prospect of creating three grass fields behind the school, he asked to move forward with utilizing the \$800,000 for lighting the playing fields.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to move forward with lighting the fields with the \$800,000. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion’

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Bateman asked if there were some grants available for cleaning the ditches in areas like East Lake and Stumpy Point. Mr. Outten offered the Soil and Water Conservation District had applied for grants and the Stormwater Management Plan would be identifying problem areas and setting priorities. He added NCDOT was responsible for keeping water off the road and did not maintain ditches, but they were willing to work with the County.

Dorothy Hester mentioned they had released cross walk safety videos; however, they would focus on Highway 12 in future videos and expand their messaging tactics. Referencing the earlier presentation regarding the opioid settlement, she commented Robert Outten had served on the panel and had recently received a NACo award.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Ross motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 12:29 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., September 6, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,



APPROVED:

By: Cheryl C Anby
Cheryl C. Anby, Clerk to the Board

By: Robert Woodard, Sr.
Robert Woodard, Sr., Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners

Note: Copies of attachments (Att.), ordinances, resolutions, contracts, presentations, and supporting material considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk.