



# County of Dare

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, NC 27954

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## MINUTES

### DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

**9:00 a.m., August 5th, 2024**

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., Rob Ross, Steve House, Bea Basnight, Danny Couch, Ervin Bateman

Commissioners absent: Vice Chairman Wally Overman

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten  
Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, David Clawson  
Master Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester  
Clerk, Skyler Foley

**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.gov](http://www.darenc.gov).**

At 9:01 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. Keith Dey 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:

- Recognized two Board of Education members Susan Bothwell and Mary Ellon Ballance.
- Provided an update on Vice-Chairman Overman, noting that he is making an excellent recovery.
- Shared information from the previous meeting regarding Marilyn Morrison, Chief of the Roanoke Hatteras Indians, who requested Greg Wilson, the Executive Director of the NC Commission on Indian Affairs, to officially recognize the Roanoke Hatteras Indian Tribe in Dare County. This request has not yet been approved. He mentioned that he sent a letter of support to Greg Wilson on July 17th, hoping it would assist in the recognition process.
- Explained that the Army Corps of Engineers had shared some findings regarding Buxton with himself and the Board. At the next BOC meeting (September 3<sup>rd</sup>) the Army Corps of Engineers will provide an update on their findings and discuss the next steps moving forward.
- He mentioned that he and other Board members participated in the State of the Child Conference this past March, highlighting it as an excellent event. He announced that there will be virtual workshops on August 20th, 21st, and 22nd, focusing on mental health and resiliency education. Additionally, on September 16th and 17th, workshops will be held that address Youth Mental Health and First Aid. From September 10th to 24th, there will

be Fear Less Triple P Workshops. He then read a letter from the Children and Youth Partnership aloud.

- He announced that the Ribbon Cutting and Open House for EMS Station 1, located in Kill Devil Hills, will take place following this meeting, beginning at 3:00 p.m.
- On July 27th, the Lost Colony marked a significant milestone by celebrating its 5,000th performance. The event featured a special guest, Dorita Balance, who was a cast member in the original 1937 production. Malcolm Fearing also made remarks being that he is the great nephew of Bradford Fearing who was one of the original producers of the Lost Colony.
- Noted that Hurricane Debby has made landfall, warning that it may bring substantial rainfall to the area.

## **ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS**

- 1) Emily Gould, received a 15-year pin.

## **ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – August, 2024 – Postponed until September.**

## **ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At 9:21 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. Following is a summary of all citizen remarks, which may be viewed in their entirety in a video on the County website:

*The following comments were made in Manteo:*

1. Brian Harris expressed his gratitude to the Board for their ongoing discussions about Buxton and mentioned his anticipation for the meeting scheduled on September 3rd with Col. Sturgeon. He also conveyed his hope that Ms. Sarah Keisler would be present at the meeting now that she has succeeded Mr. Dockter. Ms. Keisler informed him that a contract for the RAB will be awarded on August 30th. Additionally, he announced that the Buxton Civic Association will hold a meeting on Monday, August 12th, at 7:00 p.m. in Buxton. During this meeting, Liz Rasheed from the SELC will be speaking, and NPS Superintendent Dave Hallac will deliver another presentation. He suggested that it might be beneficial to have the meeting televised and recorded on Current TV, if feasible. He also referenced "Salvo Joe," mentioning that their approach differs and that a lawsuit is not being considered from his perspective.
2. Lee Goldman has announced that he is seeking support for the 3rd Annual 9/11 Memorial Walk, scheduled for September 11th, 2024, with the event beginning promptly at 8:46 a.m. The route will start behind the new EMS Facility in KDH and will extend to the top of the monument and back, making it a qualifying 5k walk. He emphasized that this event was established to honor the memory of those we lost and to ensure that we never forget. Lee encourages the Board, staff, and all citizens to participate in this meaningful event.
3. Mary Ellon Balance shared that School Board Chairman David Twiddy could not be present at the meeting. However, he wanted the Board to be informed about the establishment of a Recruitment and Retention Committee. This committee is tasked with exploring various strategies and options to better support and engage staff, and they have already brainstormed some excellent ideas. Additionally, Chairman Twiddy

wanted to express his gratitude to the Board for the supplemental support provided to the teachers.

*The following comments were made in Buxton – There were no comments made in Buxton*

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 9:32 a.m.

**ITEM 5 - PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT TO SECTION 22-27.14  
HARBOR RD. MARINE COMMERCIAL (Att. #1)**

Commissioner House expressed concern about this item not being brought up in previous meetings to conduct a Public Hearing. Outten clarified that there is no obligation for the Board to formally motion for a Public Hearing; however, it is mandatory for the Board to hold a Public Hearing before proceeding with a text amendment. Commissioner House emphasized the importance of informing the public, especially since the matter pertains to Wanchese. He noted that during the last situation involving Wanchese, the Board had requested that notifications be posted at the community center and on the property.

**MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to table this Item until the September 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: Ayes unanimous

**ITEM 6 – PRESENTATION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING**

The Dare County Finance Department was awarded the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for the department's comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2023. In 1945, the Government Finance Officers Association established the annual Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program to encourage local governments to take complex financial information and produce a CAFR that provides citizens with a document that is both accessible and easy for everyone to understand, even those who are unfamiliar with finance. This year marks the 33<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year that Dare County has received the prestigious Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting—earning recognition every year since David Clawson began serving as the county's finance director.

Chairman Woodard presented the awards to Finance Director David Clawson and Assistant Finance Director Sally DeFosse.

**ITEM 7 – DARE COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Sandy Pace recognized the athletes and coaches who participated in the 2024 Summer Games, while acknowledging that some were unable to attend. She mentioned that a total of 27 athletes represented the team at the State Summer Games held during the first weekend of June. Sandy shared that training and practice sessions began every week in January to prepare for this event. The athletes competed in swimming, track and field, bowling, and basketball at the State Summer Games. She also highlighted various other activities taking place throughout the year and presented the Board with a plaque in recognition of their steadfast support for the Dare County Special Olympics.

### **ITEM 8 – BLUE ZONES IGNITE PRESENTATION**

Outer Banks Health and Dare County Department of Health & Human Services have joined forces with Blue Zones, the global leader in longevity research and community well-being transformation, to launch Blue Zones Ignite™ Outer Banks. Sheila Davies and Amy Montgomery gave a presentation highlighting the Blue Zones across the world, the story and science behind it, lifestyle commonalities shared amongst all blue zones, the Blue Zones Certification, and the Blue Zones Challenge App. They announced that on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> at Jennette’s Pier there will be a Blue Zone Event with Blue Zone expert speakers that individuals can RSVP to.

### **ITEM 9 – SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE**

Delegate Kaye White presented an annual report to the Board, which emphasized several key points: The North Carolina House and Senate were unable to reach an agreement on the budget, resulting in no additional funding for the prioritized initiatives aimed at supporting seniors. While standard funding will continue as usual, extra financial resources were requested to better address the needs of the senior population. The five main priorities identified include: 1. Allocate an additional \$8 million in recurring funds for Adult Protective Services to address staff shortages. 2. Increase funding for Senior Centers by \$1,265,316 in recurring funds. 3. Allocate an additional \$8 million in recurring funds for the Home and Community Care Block Grant. 4. Allocate an additional \$1.5 million in recurring funds to support 11 additional long-term care ombudsmen. 5. Strengthen staffing standards in long-term care facilities. In addition, Delegate White serves as Chair of the legislative committee for the Senior Tar Heel Legislature, which is currently busy preparing priorities for the upcoming two years (2025-2026) in the General Assembly. She informed the Board that decisions regarding these priorities will be made in October, with housing for senior citizens being a notable focus. In June, she attended a meeting in Raleigh with several speakers, including Representative Sossamon, who provided valuable insights on advocacy issues affecting older adults in North Carolina. A key highlight from the meeting was presented by Jill Lawrence, the newly appointed Deputy Director of the Division of Aging. She discussed the “All Ages, All Stages” initiative, a groundbreaking multi-sector plan launched in May 2023 aimed at improving the coordination of services across various state agencies for the aging population. Given that 24% of North Carolina's population is aged 60 or older, it is crucial to enhance service coordination to meet this rising demand. North Carolina is one of ten states involved in this multi-sector plan, which aims to ensure all Americans can access coordinated care and support services that promote healthy and dignified aging. The plan's priorities for the next two years include ensuring affordable aging, optimizing health and well-being, and strengthening community support for older adults and their families through housing, Adult Protective Services, and age-friendly initiatives. Delegate White announced that a report on the “All Ages, All Stages” NC Plan is set to be released in September, showcasing a commitment to creating an age-friendly state. This plan will undergo annual reviews and updates, with recommendations presented to the General Assembly.

White announced her decision to step down after 16 years of dedicated service. She will continue to collaborate with the three senior centers to assist in finding her successor. Alternate Sue Kelly expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to work alongside White, praising her contributions to STHL over the years. She highlighted White's exceptional skills as a writer and speaker, noting how well she has served the county.

Kelly referenced her attendance at the March meeting, where she reported that the fastest-growing segment of the senior population is individuals aged 85 and older. She emphasized that STHL has been actively developing and expanding its initiatives, with plans for future growth still underway. Kelly stated that one of their primary goals is to raise awareness among the community. She acknowledged that many of the issues brought to light are often related to the challenges faced by disadvantaged citizens in North Carolina. However, she pointed out that as people age, both they and their families may encounter unforeseen challenges. One significant concern is the issue of caregivers. At the meeting, they discussed the high number of unpaid caregivers within the senior community. Kelly outlined the various committees within STHL, which include advocacy, elections and candidates, public relations, resolutions, rules and bylaws, and finance. She concluded by urging the Board to consider providing funding for the alternate position in the same manner as the delegate position, suggesting that it would result in only a modest increase in expenses.

*Dorothy Hester, Public Information Officer, left the room at 10:23 a.m., she returned at 10:29 a.m.*

**ITEM 10 – TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES**

Dave Peterson, the North Central Regional Director, presented the annual report for Trillium Health Resources. His update covered several key topics, including the populations they had served, changes related to Medicaid transformation, consolidation efforts, information about the five regions, the tailored plan, modifications in care management, updates on current projects, upcoming initiatives, and statistics on consumers served in Dare County.

**ITEM 11 – GEORGE HYDE – NUISANCE ORDINANCE VIOLATION**

The County Attorney updated the Board regarding this Item and Item 12, both of which involve nuisance actions related to properties requiring cleanup. He detailed that Gillam and his team have taken all possible steps to enforce the ordinance and encourage the property owners to address the issues. We have now reached a stage where it is necessary to proceed with legal action, he explained that he needed the Board's authority to move forward.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Ross motioned to authorize the County Attorney to proceed with legal action with the George Hyde and Lindwood Bowser properties.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Chairman Woodard asked whether there had been any updates regarding the concerns raised by Michelle Lewis about the cemeteries and her intention to provide the Board with a list. Outten replied that he had not yet received any communication from her. Commissioner Couch remarked that the county's involvement in such matters can be complicated, citing the Meekins and Baum Cemetery in Martha's Vineyard, which ultimately became a private effort. Commissioner House pointed out that Article 12 of the North Carolina General Statutes outlines the responsibilities of County Commissioners with respect to cemeteries. He noted that the statute is detailed, stating that all county commissioners are responsible for public cemeteries, which must be recorded in the Register of Deeds. However, he highlighted that there are currently no public cemeteries recorded in the Register of Deeds for Dare County; most cemeteries in the area are privately or family owned. Outten added that the statute permits the county to fund certain things—specifically \$50 per year—which is not substantial

amount. He further explained that if a public cemetery is abandoned, the county can do some things; however, two conditions must be met: 1) it must have been a public cemetery, and 2) it must have been abandoned by its owner. However, he explained that the county does not have a role in addressing private cemeteries. He communicated this information to Ms. Lewis and discussed that, with the cemeteries that are located on Dare County property, the county could potentially provide cleanup efforts and possibly engage in public outreach initiatives.

**ITEM 12 – LINWOOD BOWSER – NUISANCE ORDINANCE VIOLATION**

This Item was handled during Item 11.

**ITEM 13 – MAINTENANCE FUNDING SOURCES**

Outten explained that through the last five years with COVID and staff shortages, maintenance on some of the Dare County buildings have gotten behind and it needs to be taken care of. To facilitate this, he tasked Dustin Peele and Shanna Fullmer to compile a report detailing all necessary maintenance work, which they have been diligently working on for the last six to nine months. Upon reviewing their report, it was revealed that the total cost of the required maintenance would amount to \$1.9 million, noting that two big ticket items that were identified in the report include the addition of office space at the Fessenden Center and the replacement of the outdoor restroom at Recreation Park. Other tasks include: painting, caulking, flooring, bathroom fixtures, etc. With new staff and a superintendent now in place, Outten emphasized the importance of tackling these projects efficiently. However, he acknowledged that completing all tasks with existing staff would be a lengthy process and there are some tasks staff cannot do. Therefore, he sought authorization to allocate funds to expedite these projects, aiming to complete them as quickly as possible. Additionally, he mentioned that the county has \$13 million available in an account designated for housing projects that are no longer being pursued, with \$1 million specifically allocated for teacher housing. This leaves a total of \$12 million in the fund. Outten requested permission to utilize up to \$2 million from this fund to support the maintenance projects outlined in the report.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Couch motioned to authorize the County Manager to use up to \$2 million out of the housing fund to address the maintenance projects outlined in the report.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Clawson asked for the Board to amend the motion to authorize the County Manger to do a Budget Amendment in that housing fund and then a Capital Project Ordinance.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Couch motioned to agree to amend the motion to allow the County Manager to create a Budget Amendment out of the Housing Fund and then a Capital Project Ordinance.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the amended motion.

VOTE: Ayes unanimous

**ITEM 14 – PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT RFQ RECOMMENDATION**

The County Manager explained that the Board had discussed several times about finding out what the community wants in terms of Parks & Recreation needs so that we could prioritize the funding. We received a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from several firms to come in

and do this assessment for the county. He noted that Dustin Peele and his team reviewed the submissions and made recommendations. McGill and Associates was selected as the top choice, followed by Design Workshop as their second choice, and Withers and Ravenel as their third. Commissioner Ross expressed that he was impressed with Withers Ravenel and asked for clarification on why they were not chosen over the other companies. Peele explained that Withers Ravenel's primary experience in Dare County and Eastern North Carolina is with stormwater management, versus the specific needs for a Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. Chairman Woodard added that he appreciated McGill's plan to conduct public meetings in various locations, contrasting it with Withers Ravenel's approach of holding virtual meetings. He raised concerns about the level of community input that could be gathered from a virtual format. Outten pointed out that Withers Ravenel was also dedicating fewer resources.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Couch motioned to give authorization to move forward with McGill and Associates for the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 15 – CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR ARCHITECTURAL CONTRACT FOR DARE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT**

Clawson explained that this Capital Project Ordinance was to establish an initial budget for architectural services for the FY2025 CIP projects.

**MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Capital Project Ordinance.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 16 – PUBLIC WORKS & BUXTON TRANSFER CONSTRUCTION DESIGN CONTRACT**

Dustin Peele announced that Oakley Collier Architects, based out of Rocky Mount NC, was selected to be the design firm of choice for the Public Works and Buxton Transfer Construction projects and the design contract needed to be approved.

**MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to approve the design contract and authorize the County Manager to sign.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 17 – FIVE YEAR GENERAL FUND PROJECTION**

Clawson gave a presentation on the Five-Year General Fund Projection which highlighted the following: 1) fund balance should be stable with a small decrease over the five years; 2) debt service as a percentage of total expenditures should remain below rating agencies benchmark of 15% of expenditures; and 3) the last ten years have seen much variability of revenues and expenditures (economics, Covid19, and the C19 recovery) resulting in very wide spreads between the low growth forecast and the high growth forecast - concentrate on the mid-line forecast.

## ITEM 18– 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 (07.16.24) **(Att. #2)**
- 2) Spectrum Cable TV Contract
- 3) 2024 Update to CRS Program Application **(Att. #3)**
- 4) Great Trails State Program Application
- 5) Budget Amendment – Soil and Water StRAP Funding
- 6) Budget Amendment – Register of Deeds Grant
- 7) Budget Amendment – Dredge Loan Forgiveness
- 8) Budget Amendment – Salvo RCCP Grant
- 9) Budget Amendment – Hatteras Village RCCP Grant
- 10) Budget Amendment – CSDM Grant 4-Towns Beach Nourishment
- 11) Budget Amendment – CSDM Grant Southern Hatteras Sand Search
- 12) Resolution & Budget Amendment – Rodanthe Emergency Ferry Channel Grant Application **(Att. #4)**
- 13) Health – Budget Amendment – Public Health Services Grant Year II
- 14) DHHS – Social Services – Northwoods Consulting Partners Software as a Service Agreement (SaaS) Three-Year Agreement

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

## ITEM 19 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

### 1) A.B.C. Board

Commissioner Bateman motioned to reappoint Earl Shearin, Jr. and Don Twyne Jr.  
Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

### 2) Fessenden Center Advisory Board

Commissioner Couch motioned to appoint Karen Scroggin.  
Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

### 3) Game and Wildlife Commission

Commissioner Bateman motioned to reappoint Dr. Andrew Horne.  
Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

### 4) Virginia S. Tillett Community Advisory Board

Commissioner Ross motioned to reappoint Marylou Harris, Mary Pendill, Flossie Tugwell,  
Tiffany Wescott.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

### 5) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for September, October, and November, 2024 were announced.



## **ITEM 20 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS**

Following is a brief summary outline of the items mentioned by Commissioners and the County Manager during this segment:

### **MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS**

- He provided an overview of the Recovery Court and mentioned that there are two positions that report directly to the Resident Superior Court Judge. These positions are managed through the State Administrative Offices of the Court. He clarified that the county funds these roles through a contractual agreement with the state. Under this arrangement, the county sends salary funds to the state, which then pays the employees as state workers to oversee the Recovery Court. Upon reviewing the contract, he noticed that it included stipulations stating that, in addition to salary payments, the county would also be responsible for covering costs related to Workers' Compensation, Disability, and other potential expenses incurred by the state. He expressed concern about this broad expense and the potential liability it could create. To address his concerns, he reached out to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and had several discussions with their staff. They informed him that the terms were non-negotiable, to which he responded that the county could not agree to those terms. Subsequently, the AOC indicated they would consider the issue, but they suggested that the risks may not be as significant as the county believes it is and then stated that they have a provision in the contract that they enter into with the people they hire which states that any benefits provided to the employees would only remain in effect while they are under contract, which typically lasts for one year. This means the risk would be limited to one year, and once the contract expires, any associated benefits would no longer be valid. Outten requested that this information be put in writing so that he could present it to the Board, allowing them to evaluate whether this risk was acceptable.
- He stated that during the last meeting, it was discussed that there is a potential grant for bathrooms in Rodanthe, involving OBX Forever and the National Park Service (NPS). However, it's important to note that the NPS does not have the authority to provide indemnities; but OBX Forever can, and they have indicated that they will. The significant risk is that we have a grant of \$114,000. If the National Park Service were to remove the bathrooms, the granting authority might require us to reimburse at least the prorated amount of the grant. Despite this concern, he expressed confidence that they could successfully make this happen, explaining that the overall risk would diminish over the next 25 years.

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Ross motioned to authorize the County Manager to move forward  
Seconded by Commissioner Bateman.

VOTE: Ayes unanimous

- In the Consent Agenda, he explained that the Board approved a Budget Amendment for the Hatteras Emergency Ferry. He went on to state that the Corps and the Ferry Division had not done the maintenance on the Rodanthe Ferry Channel. Their strategy was to wait for an emergency declaration before acting. Both he and Drew Pearson felt uneasy about this approach, so they inquired about the requirements for obtaining a permit for the county to address the issue proactively. He announced that he and Barton Grover conducted research and discovered a nationwide permit available for projects that are under a certain number of cubic yards. The number of cubic yards in this case is below

the threshold, indicating that they can secure this Nationwide permit relatively quickly. This would allow them to act before the hurricane season, rather than waiting for an emergency situation.

- He went on to explain that, given their concerns about the upcoming season, we were uncertain about how quickly the Army Corps could obtain the necessary emergency permits. He had Drew Pearson meet with individuals from the Fort Myers area. After the region experienced significant damage to its bridges and infrastructure due to a storm, they collaborated with companies that operated shallow-draft barges and tugs. These vessels are capable of navigating close to the shore, allowing for the unloading of trucks, fuel, and other essential supplies directly on the beach. He noted that they were making inquiries to establish this option in advance, ensuring that if another storm were to hit, we would not be left without crucial support.
- In conclusion, he noted that he had discussions with the Southern Environmental Law Center. They have been in contact with Congressman Rousers' committee, which is a subcommittee that he is in charge of that has oversight over the Corps and individuals involved in related activities. They are actively working to assist us. Additionally, he reached out to Congressman Murphy's staff, where they informed him that he visited the area in person on Friday, August 2nd. The County Manager advised them to connect with Rousers' office to ensure that Congressman Rousers is aware of the support from our area's representative and to maintain momentum in their efforts.

**Dorothy Hester:** None

**Dave Clawson:** None

Commissioner Basnight

- Reiterated Chairman Woodard's remarks on the significance of the 5,000th performance at the Lost Colony, encouraging everyone to attend if they haven't yet, while describing it as a truly outstanding production
- Expressed her eagerness to start the Recreation Study.
- Announced that this was the final meeting before the school year begins, reminding everyone that the first day is August 26th and wishing them all the best for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Ross:

- He referred to the Early College Town Hall presentation, noting that it contained a wealth of useful information. He highlighted Superintendent Basnight's explanation of the distinctions between Early College and Dual Enrollment, which he found particularly significant.
- On July 31st, he attended a reception for the East Carolina University Trustees at the Coastal Studies Institute, where Chancellor Philip Rodgers and a large group gathered. He highlighted the benefits that the CSI facility and its staff, particularly Dr. Reed Corbett, are providing for Dare County in the areas of coastal resilience and studies.
- He mentioned public comment speaker Lee Goldman, praising him as a remarkable individual and a passionate advocate for Toys for Tots. As the holiday season approaches, they are looking for potential storage options for toy storage. Additionally, he

reiterated about the commemorative walk on September 11th at 8:46 a.m. to honor those who were lost on that day.

- He concluded by discussing the Trillium Report presented by Dave Peterson, and stated that the county has really exploded the size for Trillium in its coverage. He then voiced his frustration regarding the actions taken by the management and legal firm at East Point, which he described as an unconscionable act of self-enrichment. He noted that lawsuits have been filed, and the State Attorney General may be involved, with the combined amount related to the CEO and the law firm's actions nearing \$5 million.

#### Commissioner House

- On July 26th, EJE Dredging Services shared updates from the fiscal year 2023-2024. He highlighted that the Miss Katie dredge vessel was acquired through a forgivable loan agreement, with the understanding that the costs would be offset by savings to both Dare County and the state as part of the dredge work plan. EJE Dredging Services has billed Dare County at least \$1.50 less than the standard rates for services provided by the Miss Katie. To date, Miss Katie has successfully dredged 765,219 cubic yards of material from the channel and connector channels at Oregon Inlet, as well as 46,365 cubic yards from the connector channel at Hatteras Inlet. The total savings achieved by utilizing EJE's lower rates compared to standard dredging service fees for this fiscal year amounted to an impressive \$4,131,348, benefiting both the county and the state.
- The North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries has published its 2023 Management Plan Review. Upon a brief review of the highlights, he has already identified two discrepancies.
- On August 1st, some of the sanctuary laws enacted by the NCDMF came into effect. One significant update relevant to Dare County is the Oyster Sanctuary near Pea Island.
- He mentioned that the performance of the Lost Colony is outstanding this year. The improvements, including a new sound system, enhanced projections, and upgraded seating, have contributed to an exceptional experience for the audience.
- Noted that the Jennette's Pier Advisory Council has one open seat that Dare County can appoint a member to fill.
- Our Day in History: In 2022 the gun turret of the USS Monitor was successfully raised from the water.
- Sent his thoughts and prayers to Vice-Chairman Overman.
- SPCA Pet of the Week: Penne, Ravioli, and Rigatoni "The Pasta Dogs" are available for adoption at the OBX SPCA.

#### Commissioner Bateman:

- Inquired with the County Manager about any updates regarding the Wanchese Boat Ramp. The County Manager informed that there have been no new updates since the last Board Meeting. He mentioned that he had attempted to make contact but had yet to receive a response. Bateman noted that individuals are utilizing the area, regardless of any official designation and his vision is to eventually stabilize the turf and designate a marked area for use.
- Announced that he would be participating in the 9/11 Memorial Walk.

#### Commissioner Couch

- Recognized Dr. Beth Rooks, Principal of the CHSS, for completing her PhD from Vanderbilt University. He expressed immense pride in her achievement.

- Talked about the Scarborough Cemetery, highlighting the historic individual Mark Scarborough and emphasized the hope for preserving the cemeteries.
- Discussed the Monitor turret and recalled that in the 1980s, the then-Superintendent of the Park, Tom Harman, encouraged Hatteras Village to pursue the recovery of Monitor artifacts.
- Mentioned that Congressman Murphy had the opportunity to visit the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum
- Remembered and honored the life of Janet Gaskins, who has recently passed away.

**ITEM 21 – CLOSED SESSION**

The County Manager 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 in the matters of the Schiffman Property in Manteo and the Dare Concrete Property in Rodanthe.

**MOTION**

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

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 11:34 a.m., the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 12:20 p.m. and Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes, gave the County Attorney information on the negotiating price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the Schiffman Property and the Dare Concrete Property and took no other action.

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Bateman motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

At 12:21p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Skyler Foley, Clerk to the Board

By: \_\_\_\_\_

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 of Commissioners at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk. Attempts have been made to accurately spell each podium speaker.