



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., November 18, 2019

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

Commissioners absent: Danny Couch due to weather conditions of Hwy 12

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten
Asst. Finance Director, Sally DeFosse
Master Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester
Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Anby

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.

At 5:00 p.m. Chairman Woodard called the regularly scheduled meeting to order with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited George Lurie, from The Jewish Community of Outer Banks, to share a prayer, and 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:

Commissioner Couch would not be present due to Highway 12 conditions, but he would join the meeting via the Fessenden Center Annex connection.

NC Association of County Commissioners District met this month.

He attended the Southern Shore council meeting with the County Manager to share information concerning funding of their potential beach nourishment project.

He was the keynote speaker at the Outer Banks Home Builders Assoc. meeting where he shared an update on the College of the Albemarle project.

He attended the First Annual Educators and First Responders dinner.

He attended two local Veterans’ Day ceremonies and thanked the veterans for their service.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION BY SHERIFF J.D. “DOUG” DOUGHTIE (Att. #)

Sheriff J.D. Doughtie made a presentation with Kelli Harmon from the VFW to Cpt. Trey Piland with the VFW National Life Saving Award to recognize his heroism for the June 4, 2018 rescue of a young girl from the swimming hole in Manteo.

The Chairman asked for a motion to amend Agenda having Item 7 presented after Item 2.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to have Item 7 presented after Item 2.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 3 – ALBEMARLE COMMISSION

Melody Wilkins, Executive Director of the Albemarle Commission, provided an overview of the Commission, whose mission is to improve member governments the ability to enhance quality of lives of its citizens. They represent Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Tyrrell and Washington counties with fifteen board members. The Commission works closely with local governments and provides many assistance programs which include: grant applications, administrative services, workforce development, legal assistance, senior and caregiver programs, and as a regional ombudsman for long-term healthcare centers. In the ten-county region, the Commission served 116,030 congregate and home-delivered meals to 1,244 recipients. Ms. Wilkins also shared the termination of the Revolving Loan Fund Grant program, which had assisted businesses since 1994. A recent review of the program found it no longer cost effective, in part due to rising legal costs and staffing of the program. The Commission also provides youth tutoring along with medical and general transportation.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED SCHEDULES, STANDARDS AND RULES FOR REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL

At 5: 50 p.m. the Board held a Public Hearing to receive input concerning this agenda item. The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center Annex in Buxton.

No one from Manteo or Buxton responded to the invitation to address the Board of Commissioners on this issue. The County Manager closed the Public Hearing at 5:51 p.m.

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:51 p.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 can be viewed in their entirety in a video on the County website:

The following comment was made in Manteo

Penny Adams, President of the Dare County Association of Educators, asked the Board to fund a local supplement increase for teachers and noted the population and tourism activity had grown; however, teachers had not received a salary increase since 2008. She quoted the NCAE’s motto of “strong students, strong teachers and strong communities” and noted it was difficult to appear “strong” while working two or three jobs, as they contend with the area’s high cost of living.

There were no comments made in Buxton

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 5:56 p.m.

**ITEM 6 – DARE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF BUILDING COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE IN DARE COUNTY (Att. # 1)**

Nancy Griffin, Executive Director of the Children and Youth Partnership, presented an overview of the Pair of ACEs, Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adverse Community Environments. Research has provided evidence revealing children’s positive experiences are vital to forming a strong foundation, as their negative experiences bring greater risks for disease, substance abuse disorders, learning problems and other long-term impacts. In order to support the ongoing collaborative efforts of Be Resilient OBX, November 18-24, as Resilience Week, will raise awareness to support recovery from the impact of ACEs and help children, families and Dare County strengthen themselves with core life skills. A statewide broadcast of the film, “Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope” is available for presentation to further provide the basis of the research to help organizations build awareness and take responsive action.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to adopt a Resolution in Support of Building Community Resilience in Dare County and recognize Nov. 18-24 as Resilience Week in Dare County. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – MEDICAL PLAN UPDATE

Mark Browder, of Mark III Employee Benefits, Sarah Kershner, RN and Manager of the Wellness Clinic, along with Marielle Silk, nurse practitioner, presented an update on the performance of the medical coverage plan for the County. There had been no budget increase for 2019-20 and financially the plan realized a 22% reduction in emergency room costs for participants. Overall inpatient admissions were down by 5% and routine/preventive office visit compliance remained at 48%. Some of the services provided include prevention and wellness, health coaching, diabetes education as well as tobacco cessation support. The top three risks for Dare County employees were reported as their weight, cholesterol levels and blood pressure issues. The biometric results from 2018 to 2019 have greatly improved with 67 employees not passing the criteria in 2018 and only 35 employees not passing in 2019. With additional staff and now in a new location with three exam rooms, the clinic has improved early detection, disease prevention and provides a life-coach with nutrition counseling. The Center works hard with a continuum of care follow-up. They have not had any vaping cases; however, the Center has three tobacco treatment specialists on site to help members.

ITEM 8 – 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 (11.04.19) **(Att. # 2)**
- 2) Memorandum of Understanding between US Coast Guard Sector North Carolina and Dare County

- 3) Tax Collector's Report
- 4) DHHS – Social Services Division Budget Amendment

Commissioner Tobin 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 Ross

- Audit Committee met today and were presented with an extremely strong audit report.
- He attended an Aging Conference in Edenton with a presentation of senior lifestyle and home improvement recommendations, as well as nutrition counseling.
- He was impressed with the Wellness Center's reported results and the terrific improvement in the lives they touch.
- Albemarle Commission would meet this month and he congratulated Ms. Wilkins on a "stellar job" as the new executive director.
- Trillium Board would be meeting later this month.
- He attended the country/western music concert which benefited our area veterans.
- NC Aquarium Foundation hosted a program which showcased the operation of North Carolina aquariums.
- Capital Improvements Committee will be meeting on November 20.
- Motorcycle Toy Run group had raised over \$16,000 for area children.
- College of the Albemarle had a film screening of a local artist, Glenn Eure, with the Stations of the Cross he had created displayed in Kitty Hawk.
- Tourism Board Task Force would meet in December to begin a plan and objective for the new event property.

Commissioner Tobin

- He went to Houston for a tour of the new dredge with the naval architects and the corps personnel involved in the project for a Q & A regarding the specific systems of the boat, which included efficiencies and inefficiencies.
- He attended a Task Force meeting. NOAA representative introduced a digital navigational charting system to replace paper charts. The program would offer efficiency and permit rapidly changing bottom readings to be produced within a month or two. A digital chart of Oregon Inlet revealed that most of the traffic goes through "the crack", which is not a proper channel. It was discussed how to make "the crack" part of the system (or at least marked). This would involve a survey and a request to NOAA to have it included along with marking it by perhaps the Coast Guard.
- EJE had received a 95% complete dredge engineer plans and within a month the County may put out an RFQ to builders.
- He offered condolences to Susan Rose Evans, a former County employee, who recently lost her husband.

Commissioner Couch

- He attended the NCBIWA in Wilmington and the County Manager gave an overview of the dredge project which was well received.
- He saw a presentation from Wit Tuttell on hurricanes and their impact on tourism. He noted, however, since North Carolina has such outstanding beaches, hurricanes have been shown to actually have a minimal impact with regular, loyal tourists.
- Reminded of the upcoming dredge management presentation plan in December.
- Coastal Counties and the State were now looking at “dredge spoil” as a valuable resource to be used in many alternative ways, such as bird habitats.
- He congratulated the Wellness Center on their success and mentioned they had been an asset in his own health management.
- Mentioned the flooding experienced lately had become the “new normal” and he recognized County EMS & Sheriff’s departments along with the NCDOT Ferry Division as fully capable as they continued to work through these events.

Commissioner Bateman

- Thanked EMS, Sheriff’s Dept. and everyone who assisted with the recent marathon.
- He attended and enjoyed the First Responder and Educator event with Commissioner Ross and Chairman Woodard.
- Commented on the preview of local artist Glenn Eure’s remarkable work on the Stations of the Cross in Kitty Hawk.
- He congratulated Cpt. Trey Piland on receipt of National Life-Saving Award from VFW.
- He reported the Recovery Court currently had fifteen participants. The judge and team were working hard to help participants return to society and lead productive lives.
- Offered condolences to the family of Phil Ferguson who recently died.

Vice Chairman Overman

- Congratulated Trey Piland and noted it was a well-deserved award.
- Wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner House

- Congratulated Capt. Trey Piland and praised him for his heroism.
- Offered condolences to the family of Phil Ferguson.
- He attended the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council. The State expanded the program beyond age sixteen to eighteen and Dare County has received \$17,000 to help.
- He introduced a Resolution to Oppose the Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan, Amendment 3. Marine Fisheries contend the blue crab is 98% overfished. Federal commissions report endangerment of the turtles in the crab pots. This amendment would increase the crab pot escape holes from 2 5/16” to over 3”, and place additional financial burden on fisherman to either modify or purchase new crab pots. The County Manager read the resolution for consideration.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Resolution Opposing Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan, Amendment 3. **(Att. # 3)**

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

RECESS at 6:38 p.m. – Reconvened at 6:42 p.m.

Commissioner House

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission wanted to look at the lines which constitute inland and coastal waters. NC Marine Fisheries Commission had looked at the boundary waters and neither side in two joint meetings wanted to agree on the definition of the boundaries of jurisdictional waters. NC Wildlife Resources Commission released their report on delineation of water boundaries based on salinity. In his extensive research, Commissioner House could not find a state or country that based their coastal waters definition upon salinity. He stated the salinity of waters change from season to season with weather patterns. This amendment could lead to two different agencies regulating the waters and defining coastal water or inland waters boundaries. Commercial fishermen can only fish in coastal waters. The amendment would affect many local, state and federal agencies, to include CAMA permitting, changing regulations and result in other environmental impacts. This amendment could lead to the designation of a good portion of Currituck Sound, Albemarle Sound, all of the Alligator River and many estuaries to become defined as inland waters.

The County Manager read the proposed Resolution. Commissioner House mentioned the issue has “some weight behind it” and he wanted to send the adopted resolution to the following: NC Marine Fisheries Commission, Steve Murphey, Director of NC Marine Fisheries Division, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, Gordon S. Myers, Exc. Dir. of NC Wildlife Resources Commission, all of the Coastal Counties, Rep. Bobby Hanig, Rep. Edward Goodwin, House Speaker Tim Moore, Sen. Bob Steinburg, Sen. President Pro Temp. Phil Berger, Lt. Gov. Dan Forest, as well as to Governor Roy Cooper.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Resolution Opposing Reclassification of Jurisdictional Waters. **(Att. # 4)**

Commissioner Tobin declared point of order noting the presented resolution did not contain the words “square acres” in the reference of “144,984” at the fifth paragraph as read. Vice Chairman Overman also noted a correction to be made to the sixth paragraph, which should reflect “MFC”. Those corrections were made to the final resolution.

Commissioner Tobin and Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner House added the Division of Marine Fisheries would also be looking at amendments to the fisheries management plans. On December 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., there would be a Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3 Scoping Meeting; and local fisherman would be able to attend and provide both input and discussion.

Commissioner House concluded with two items he reported had taken place in history on November 18. In 1978, the Peoples Temple Founder, Jim Jones, led hundreds of his followers in a mass murder-suicide in Guyana and in 1928 Mickey Mouse had his debut with the premier showing of the film known as “Steamboat Willie”.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

County Manager read a letter he had received from a group of citizens who in October were scheduled to go to Ireland. Due to the storm conditions, Highway 12 was closed, proven impassable and they thought they would have to miss their scheduled flights. The County Manager notified Chief Deputy Derringer, who had expertly handled the situation with transportation enabling them to not miss their flight departures. The group greatly appreciated and praised the Sheriff's Department and County for their above and beyond assistance.

Dorothy Hester had nothing to report.

Sally DeFosse reported the full audit report would be presented on December 2, 2019.

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 7:04 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., December 2, 2019.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

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

By: *Robert H. 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 of Commissioners at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.