



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., January 21, 2020

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 Anby

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

At 5:00 p.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. Spottswood Graves 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:

- He gave his COA presentation to the COA Foundation Board in Elizabeth City. The foundation now issues 140 scholarships annually. Last year they awarded 104 scholarships.
- He attended the Board of Education meeting with Commissioner Ross and was very impressed to note the awards presented to both teachers and students on a monthly basis. The Spanish program teaching kindergarteners was particularly exciting.
- He advised he will be presenting the State of the County address again for the citizens of Hatteras Island with a date to be announced later.
- He attended a meeting with the Town of Manteo, accompanied by the County Manager to discuss the new College of the Albemarle plans. The architect provided options and recommendations of what the facility could look like, keeping in mind the desire for the finished project to have a modern and inviting look.
- He was unable to attend the Martin Luther King 29th celebration, but heard they had a good attendance with an uplifting service of remembrance.

Chairman Woodard made a presentation to Rev. Robert Lee Pitsch, who celebrated his 100th birthday, with a certificate to honor his years of service as a “tireless advocate for the forgotten in the community” with a true moral compass. His amazing career included pastoral service to the Colington United Methodist Church and over twenty-five years of weekly meetings with a non-denominational group for breakfast devotionals.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:15 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 comments were made in Manteo:

1. Rob Rollason, from Kill Devil Hills, commented eleven North Carolina counties had confirmed their intent to announce themselves as second amendment sanctuaries. He stated plenty of Dare County citizens hunt and many supplement their incomes with hunting. He felt the Board should adopt a second amendment sanctuary resolution and provided a draft sample for their consideration.
2. Rev. Spottswood Graves recapped the recent 29th celebration of the observance of Dr. Martin Luther King and stated it was well attended. There were musical performances by Echoes of Heritage, First Flight High School chorus and The Voices of Truth. He expressed his hope for conversations to continue among the citizens of Dare County and the nation for a better understanding of one another.
3. George Carver, Executive Director of the Dare County Minority Coalition, explained their efforts continue to seek assessable housing options to the area’s residents. The thirty-acre parcel, considered by the association as a possible site, did not meet the standards for low income tax credits. Another site considered was found to be too close to the water treatment plan and, therefore, also did not fit the necessary criteria. The coalition has two developer partners assisting them who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. He presented the MOU to the Board for their consideration and support.
4. Michelle Lewis, daughter of Clarence and Ruth Lewis, offered her thanks to the Board and Dare County citizens who have supported the yearly Martin Luther King program of celebration. The program, which started at Haven Creek Missionary Baptist Church, continues to honor and speak to the legacy of Dr. King at the Dare Center event. She stated all too often people tend to “self-segregate”; and this celebration continues to bring the community together.

There were no comments made in Buxton.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 5:31 p.m.

ITEM 3 – UPDATE – SENIOR TAR HEEL LEGISLATURE

Kaye White, as Dare County Delegate and to the NC Senior Tar Heel Legislature, and Sue Kelley, Alternative Delegate, provided an annual report. She noted they also serve area senior citizens with attendance to the Dementia Task Force, and the Dare and Baum Centers to ascertain senior needed services and concerns. They outlined the accomplishments of the 2019 meetings to include the importance of combatting the problems of senior social isolation; extension of the property tax homestead exemption; and a prescription drug assistance program. Several legislation actions were passed which included required criminal background checks for employees in adult care nursing homes and agencies; appropriated funding for area Agencies on Aging; and expanded funding to improve the timeliness of complaint investigations. Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternatives to Running on Empty) was considered for additional funding. Commissioner Ross inquired as to the additional amount and Ms. White explained the 2018 appropriations were 1 million dollars for the State of North Carolina. The 2020 NC Senior Tar Heel legislative priorities for Project C.A.R.E. would include increase of funding by \$500,000 in future years with increase funding by 10% annually. Other priorities noted were an increase funding for HN Home and Community Care Block Grant; increased funding for senior centers and efforts to strengthen and fund NC Adult Protective Services Program with a recommended \$7 million recurring funds in the State budget. North Carolina ranks 9th nationally in total population and the number of individuals who are age sixty-five. Commissioner Tobin commented his concerns regarding staff to patient ratios along with staff guidelines in adult assisted-living facilities. He added more dementia patients were being blended into adult assisted-living locations because Alzheimer's units did not have the capacity for the growing population and requested legislature recommendations be made by our delegate and alternate this year.

ITEM 4 – APPROVAL OF ARCHITECT CONTRACT AMENDMENT FOR COA PROJECT AND AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE (Att. # 1)

David Clawson, Finance Director, reviewed the Board had approved an increase in the scope of the COA project in October, 2019 from 26,000 square feet to 36,500 square feet along with a new cost estimate which included an increase in the cost of the architect, Boomerang Design. He presented a contract amendment and an amendment to the capital project ordinance. The architect's increase, which totaled \$264,209, would bring the total to \$937,969. Construction testing increased \$45,000 for a new total of \$150,000; and owner costs increased \$39,500 for a new total of \$80,500. He also provided a budget summary which reflected expenditures to date of the various projects financed by the Series 2020 LOBs debt issue.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to approve the Boomerang Design contract amendment, authorize the County Manager to execute the amendment and approve the amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 5 – UNC CHAPEL HILL SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT ESSENTIAL HOUSING NEEDS PRE-DEVELOPMENT & OPPORTUNITY SITE IDENTIFICATION (Att. # 2)

County Manager Outten presented the University of North Carolina School of Government Service Agreement, which would provide consultant assistance with the County's study and efforts for essential housing issues. Finance Director, Dave Clawson

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the Service Agreement terms with the UNC School of Government and authorize the County Manager to execute the final agreement. Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – CONSENT AGENDA

The Manager announced the items as they were visually displayed in the meeting room. The Board unanimously consented to have Item 4 excluded from the Consent Agenda to allow for an explanation of the report from Chuck Lycett and Dr. Sheila Davies.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (01.06.20) (Att. # 3)
- 2) Roanoke Island Water Project Assessment Deletion
- 3) Budget Amendment – Emergency Management Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)
- 4) DHHS – Child Protection Team and Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report
- 5) Tax Collector's Report

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Consent Item 4) DHHS – Child Protection Team and Child Fatality Prevention Team Annual Report – Chuck Lycett, Director of Social Services, and Dr. Sheila Davies, Director of Health and Human Services presented a brief explanation of the reports which summarize the three issues encountered in 2019. Mr. Lycett noted the Child Protection Team reviewed fatalities or abuse in complicated child protective services cases. The Child Fatality Prevention Team, associated with the Health Department, investigates whether there were county issues to be addressed to prevent future fatalities. These teams are composed of eighteen members. The cases selected for review are involved with the child welfare system. Priority is given to cases involving a fatality and there were none this year. Review also targeted difficult cases, with repeat neglect, that had yet not reached the need for legal action, but suggest the requisite components for added consult. Child Protective Services select the cases to be reviewed. Mr. Lycett added a large concern was finding qualified therapists for the Hispanic community. There was a continued need to hire one or two interpreters for effective counseling. Commissioner thanked Mr. Lycett and Dr. Davies for answering questions and providing the Board with additional regarding the teams and their efforts for the community. It was the consensus and agreement of the Board for future reports to be provided as a regular agenda item.

MOTION

Commissioner Ross motioned to approve items 4 of the Consent Agenda:

Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS - Dare County Tourism Board

Town of Kill Devil Hills Representative:

At the January 6, 2020 Board meeting, the appointment of the Town of Kill Devil Hills representative had been tabled pending an opportunity for the Board to contact the prospective appointees.

Commissioner House motioned to approve the appointment of Commissioner Ivy Ingram Commissioner Bateman and Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – 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

- The Oregon Inlet Task Force met and was informed the dredge the *Merritt* would be here in mid-February for a month and afterward in mid-March the *Currituck* would be here and operating 24-hour shifts because the *Murden* is currently dry docked.
- The final plans for the dredge should be completed this week with an anticipated RFP issued soon for prospective shipyards. The Oregon Inlet Task force will approve the final plans.
- Today he visited both Peake Resources and Spring Arbor. During these mid-day visits, it was uplifting to see everyone in a good mood with prayer meetings, smiles and dancing. There was nothing negative to report with either facility. Neither facility is fully occupied.

Commissioner Ross

- Updated the Albemarle Commission held their election of officers and the newly hired executive director, Melody Wilkins, has resigned to take a new position closer to her family.
- He will be attending a broadband in rural counties workshop later this month in Herndon and will provide an update on any availability for infrastructure funding.
- He also attended a focus group of the Healthy Carolinians of the Outer Banks. They reviewed four important issues: Access to healthcare, cost of healthcare, transportation to receive the care together with housing for seniors with special needs. He thanked County Manager for the public transformation information on what Dare County currently provides at the affordable rate of \$6 round trip.
- A citizen recently called requesting a need to resurface of the bypass from the bridge down to Whalebone Junction. Commissioner Ross' inquired further and reported there would soon be resurfacing from the bridge to Walmart.
- When he attended the Board of Education meeting, he found the experience moving with recognition and enthusiasm from both students and teachers. He urged citizens to attend a meeting to view how Dare County is educating our children.

Commissioner House

- Thanked Chairman Woodard for a professional, enlightening and entertaining presentation of the State of the County address.
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council met and is doing well. The Council is looking for additional avenues to help Dare County children and welcome any program suggestions.

- He attended the Martin Luther King celebration at the Dare Center and thought the music and messages presented were excellent and enlightening.
- Southern Atlantic Council for the fisheries will accept Spanish mackerel comments until February 7. He urged everyone to provide comment, as a reduction of 2,000 pounds for the Northern Zone is being considered. He added shrimp scoping comment ends tonight. Shrimping is very good right now and North Carolina is leading the nation and world in bycatch reductions in our shrimping industry.
- Presented the SPCA Pet of the Week, a seven month old black kitten named Toby ready for adoption.

Vice Chairman Overman: No new business to report

Commissioner Bateman:

- He attended the Martin Luther King celebration and noted the music, to include the performances of First Flight School and Echoes of Heritage, were inspiring and the speaker very motivational.
- Positive results continue in the Recovery Court. He noted one participant had reached the stage where he no longer needed the court's monitor system. The next Recovery Court would be held February 13, 2020.

Commissioner Couch:

- He noted there was a lot of construction in Hatteras and looks great. He thanked the charity relief group which is sending sixty people to Ocracoke to provide them assistance.
- Property management companies are reporting is steady growth with one reporting a 19% increase. He expects 2020 to be a strong year for Hatteras. 2019 stats are not yet available, but they should be good.
- He serves on the Code Officials Qualification Board. They approved live remotes to help the municipalities. He praised the Planning Department's current efficiency noting they were firm but fair.

Chairman Woodard expressed his respect and pride in the Board's continued and concerted efforts to act in a unified, bipartisan manner for the good of Dare County. He thanked Dorothy Hester and her staff for their assistance with the State of the County event.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS:

Robert Outten, County Manager/Attorney, thanked Sharon Flatt, Transportation Program Supervisor, for her fine job in preparation of the white paper reviewed and commented upon by Commissioner Ross.

He reviewed the Manteo dredging project's initial soil tests have been completed and there is a need to test the soil for compatibility with the selected spoil site. Testing results will determine what spoil sites are used. The tests cost in range from \$11,000-\$40,000, depending upon how many levels of testing would be necessary. He requested authorization to enter into an agreement with APTIM for incremental testing up to a \$40,251.00. Vice Chairman Overman asked what determines the range of the test cost. Mr. Outten explained the cost would partially be determined by what level of testing is necessary and where the proposed soil may be safely placed. Commissioner Tobin asked if testing would be for

temporary or permanent site disposal. Mr. Outten stated they would be for both; however, upon removal of the soil, it would be necessary to restore the land to its original condition, if leased property. Commissioner Couch mentioned this would be a foundational component of the dredge management plan.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch moved to approve the County Manager to enter into an agreement with APTIM for incremental soil testing relative to the Manteo dredging project in a total amount not to exceed \$40,251.00.

Commissioners Bateman and House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Dave Clawson, Finance Director, had no additional business.

Dorothy Hester reminded the Board the 150th celebration of the establishment of Dare County had begun with the kickoff of the Chairman’s State of County address. The County website would soon have a list of 150 ways to celebrate the anniversary. There will also be a timeline of events to follow along with a family event of reenacting life in 1870 at the Island Farm in the first day of May. Commissioner Couch is expected to act as one of the storytellers on the farm porch. There will be several publications providing features of the anniversary.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:37 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., February 4, 2020.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

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.), 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.