



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., April 20, 2020

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

Commissioners present
via remote connection: Jim Tobin, Danny Couch and 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 (remotely)
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 to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He read the prayer offered by Father Fred Smuda, from Our Lady of the Seas Catholic Parish in Buxton, 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 noted the federal economic impact funds had been received by many and inquiry as to the status of payments could be monitored by going to irs.gov. Additional assistance can be provided by the many community resources offered at darenc.com. He offered that although the weather is warming and everyone is anxious to get outside, they should avoid close contact, maintain suggested distancing, wear a cloth face covering when making trips for essentials and continue to wash their hands. Although recent Dare County test results had been negative, the CDC reports reflect that 25% of all patients with Covid-19 do not show symptoms. Social distancing had been effective and the community should keep following the guidelines.

He encouraged everyone to complete the census at my2020census.gov. The results of the 2020 Census will determine how many federal funds are allocated for the next ten years.

The Dare County “Stay Healthy Stay Home” Orders align with the Governor’s Executive Orders and the Dare County Control Group continued to meet frequently for updates to address all related issues and concerns. As April 29, 2020 approached, their serious discussions and decisions regarding the virus impacts would continue for the best interest of all. A staged entry process would be implemented for non-resident homeowners and updates would be provided to the community with a timeline when established. Updates could be noted by visiting darenc.com for details.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:09 p.m. the Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and the Fessenden Center Annex in Buxton, as well as through emails to dcboc@darenc.com. No one appeared in person for public comments. The Board paused to review the incoming emails and made no additional responses during the meeting. Following is a summary of citizen email remarks:

- Dr. Paul J. Pontier, Kitty Dove, Mary Foreman, Laura Rainey, Ray and Cyndee Walzer, Chris Rogers, James and Estelita Buie, Jim McIntosh, David Gallagher, Rodger L. Smith, Amanda Mille and Jennie Rogers provided emails to express their opposition to current closure and restriction to non-resident property owners.
- Laura Singletary and Linda Matason provided emails to oppose opening the County to non-resident property owners and visitors.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 5:11 p.m.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC HEARING – SERIES 2020A REFUNDING LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS (Att. # 1)

At 5:11 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 the Fessenden Center Annex in Buxton. Email comments could be received via the County-Commissioners-meeting information calendar website or by calling 252-475-5731. No one appeared in person to respond in Manteo or Buxton to the invitation to address the Board of Commissioners on this issue. One email had been received; however, it was not relevant to the purpose of the Public Hearing.

The County Manager closed the Public Hearing at 5:11 p.m.

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDA

The Manager announced the items as they were visually displayed in the meeting room. He reminded Commissioners to request with a motion to remove any items of concern, which required further question or discussion, from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Resolution of the County of Dare, North Carolina Approving an Amendment to an Installment Financing Contract to Provide for the Refinancing of Existing County Obligations and Related Matters **(Att. #2)**
- 2) DDHS - Public Health Division – Additional Funding for the Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF-Rx)
- 3) DDHS - Public Health Division – COVID-19 Crisis Response Funding

- 4) DHHS – Social Services Division – Medicaid Transportation Budget Amendment
- 5) Designation of Applicant’s Agent for Public Assistance for FEMA and NCEM
- 6) Request to Waive Late Listing Penalty for Personal Property Listings
- 7) Approval of Minutes – (4/6/2020) **(Att. #3)**
- 8) Re-adoption of Dare County Conflict of Interest Policy **(Att. #4)**
- 9) Budget Amendment – Emergency Management
- 10) Tax Collector’s Report

Commissioners House and Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Ross noted Item 3 of the Consent Agenda (DHHS – COVID-19 Crisis Response Funding) was significant. For emphasis, he reiterated the purpose of the funding was for our Local Health Department to work to prevent, prepare for and respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 by carrying out surveillance, epidemiology, laboratory capacity, infection control, mitigation, communications and other preparedness and response activities. This funding would be used to cover salary/benefits of direct clinic staff and to purchase equipment and medical supplies.

ITEM 5 – 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 House

- Throughout the crisis many workers had been laid off or furloughed and many were receiving unemployment benefits. As commercial fisherman were categorized as self-employed, they are not covered with assistance. U.S. Dept. of Labor through the Federal Cares Act had implemented a Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program to provide compensation for those not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits. The program would begin accepting claims around April 25, 2020.
- The Covid-19 House Select Committee in Raleigh had also been looking into funding sources to aid the commercial fishing industry as a whole.
- He noted the recent passing of Denny Shoup and Billy Deans. Both had served and retired as EMS captains for Dare County.

Commissioner Ross

- He provided an update regarding the Albemarle Commission, whose Executive Committee continued to meet weekly by telephone conference. With the growing significant need of recipients of meals on wheels and related food services, the Board had approved a \$2,000 expenditure for personal care and hygiene items. The Commission had deferred the search for a new executive director at this time.
- The scheduled breakfast with Governor Roy Cooper on May 13, 2020 had been cancelled during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Vice-Chairman Overman

- Thanked everyone for following the social distancing guidelines. Continued mitigation efforts would be answer now and for the unforeseeable future. We would be returning to a new normal with a careful and measured approach to reopening the economy. Personal responsibility regarding all mitigation efforts would be necessary by everyone. He added no one wanted to see a significant spike of cases; therefore, while maintaining the mitigation guidelines, we could move forward. We would need to remain cautious and vigilant to avoid virus transmission, as we Stay Safe and Stay Secure.

Commissioner Bateman

- Reminded everyone to be safe, stay healthy and continue to take care of themselves.

Commissioner Tobin

- He reported the Dredge Currituck was on site and would be here for twenty-four days, while working 24 hours a day.
- Additional shipyard and manufacturer bids for dredge construction had been received, and were being reviewed and analyzed.
- Next week a trip to one of the Florida shipyards had been scheduled.

Commissioner Couch

- In this extraordinary time he is proud of the power of our personnel in Dare County.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

County Manager Outten and Dave Clawson, Finance Director had no new business to add.

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 5:26 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., May 5, 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.), ordinances, resolutions, contracts, and supporting material considered by the Board of Commissioners at this meeting are on file in the Office of the Clerk to the Board.