



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., July 19, 2021

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

Commissioners absent: None -- Cheryl Anby, Clerk to the Board was absent

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

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 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 may be viewed in their entirety in a video on the Dare County website:

- Reported the NC 12 Task Force met last week and afterward took a field trip to review the hotspots from south of the bridge to Hatteras Island. The goal of the group would be to prioritize the hotspots in order to decide how to tackle future mitigation efforts.
- He requested the community keep the Ohio family that lost their seven year-old child in the tragic elevator accident last week in their thoughts and prayers.
- Taylor Sugg, President of TowneBank Currituck & Outer Banks, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Board of Commissioners to recognize exemplary service and dedication to Dare County while serving as President of TowneBank of the Outer Banks. Chairman Woodard noted that over the last 10 years, Taylor Sugg had raised \$150,000 per year including \$100,000 for the College of the Albemarle. At the suggestion of Mr. Sugg, TowneBank corporate donorship recently announced an additional \$500,000 for the OBX Hospital.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

The Board recognized the following staff members for their service to Dare County

- 1) Gail Hutchison, Victims Advocate, Sheriff's Dept. – 10 year pin.
- 2) Timothy Langanke, Emergency Med. Tech Lieutenant, EMS – 10 year pin
- 3) Capt. Stephen Burritt, Emergency Med Tech Captain, EMS – 15 year pin
- 4) Jerry Allen, Distribution System Specialist – Water Dept. - 25 year pin

ITEM 3 – VFW AWARD PRESENTATION

Chief Jennie Collins provided the Board with the background of service for Lt. Joshua D. (Josh) McKenney. He had been selected by the Local VFW Post #10950 as the EMT Public Servant Citation Award winner. He had also been selected as the North Carolina VFW Emergency Medical Technician Public Servant Citation winner.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:33 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 citizen remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety in a video on the County website.

The following comments were made in Manteo:

1. M. Alison Joy, Founder of Float Don't Fight, explained the mission of the organization was to empower beachgoers to survive rip currents. She advocated for a "stop, drop and roll" message for the beach – "Bring a Float, Grab a Float and Be a Float". She suggested a partnership with Dare County to bring the message, awareness and tools to our beaches.
2. Ray Hollowell addressed the Board with regard to his offer of sand from his mine to Buxton and Hatteras, which he stated could possibly save Dare \$3-6 million dollars. He added the grain sizes were believed to be compatible and there were many opportunities for them to respond to the needs of the area.

There were no comments made in Buxton and Public Comments closed at 5:44 p.m.

ITEM 5 - DARE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT

The Chairman of the Airport Authority, Charles Davidson, provided the Board with an update of the operations at the airport. Dr. Davidson explained wholesale costs for aviation fuel dropped and markups were made on a fixed basis. The overall revenue appeared to drop although the net illustrated it was approximately at the same levels. He announced there were two pending projects. The first would begin late summer 2021 and would replace a portion of the 80-year old original concrete installed when the Navy built the base. Dr. Davidson explained the second project involved potential property purchases off the far end of the runway which encroach upon a runway protection zone.

ITEM 6 – COA FOUNDATION DARE GUARANTEE REPORT

Amy Alcocer, Executive Director of the COA Foundation, provided the Board with an update on the College of the Albemarle Dare Guarantee Report. She explained the program had seen an increase in just one year. There were seventy-seven students in spring of 2021 in comparison to the sixteen students in spring 2020. She outlined the promotions, ads and live events that were implemented to increase awareness in the program.

ITEM 7 – BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR SALE OF HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE CERTIFICATE OF NEED

Dave Clawson presented the Board with budget amendments to establish a sub-fund of the General Fund to budget and account for the Home Health & Hospice Certificate of Need sale proceeds. He explained that 10% of the gross sale price (\$290,000) could not be used for eighteen months and must be retained in restricted fund balance.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the two budget amendments presented.
Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – GENERAL FUND FIVE YEAR PROJECTION AND MODEL DASHBOARDS

Mr. Clawson explained a projection of the General Fund was favored by our debt rating agencies and had not been done last year due to the pandemic. The large five-year forecast of revenues, expenditures and fund balances along with the model dashboards for beach nourishment and water rates were also posted on the website. The projections illustrate the County does not have a structural imbalance in the budget.

ITEM 9 – RFQ FOR EMS LONG RANGE FACILITY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

CIP Committee met and reviewed the seven RFQ's from Boomerang, CPL Architecture, DJG, Inc., Guernsey Tingle, Moseley Architects, MW Studios and Oakley Collier. After a thorough review of each they recommended to the Board that Oakley Collier be selected. Oakley had done the original study of the facilities and were inherently familiar with the county's needs.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to select Oakley Collier as architect for the EMS Long Range Facility Capital Improvements

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10– 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 (06.21.21) (Att. #1-4)
- 2) Disaster Related Debris Removal Agreement with NCDOT
- 3) Sherriff Department – Budget amendment for GCC grant
- 4) Courthouse Computer Systems – Software license and support agreement
- 5) Dare County Transportation TITLE VI Plan – 2020
- 6) Opioids and COVID: Supporting Justice Involved Individuals with Substance Use Disorder during COVID – Health and Human Services – Public Health
- 7) Avon Beach Nourishment – Budget Amendment
- 8) Tax Collector's Report
- 9) 3 Year KnowBe4 Contract

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Dare County Waterways Commission
Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Michael Flynn and Kermit W. Skinner, Jr. to another term and appoint Kenneth P. Scott, III.
Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Jury Commission Board
Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Lou Ellen Quinn.
Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 3) Veterans Advisory Council
Commissioner Bateman motioned to appoint Dr. Kevin P. Wallace and Justin O’Sullivan.
Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner House seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 4) A.B.C. Board
Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Robert “Bobby” Owens, II, Joe Tauber and James Clark.
Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 5) Dare County Center Advisory Board
Commissioner Ross motioned to reappoint Flossie Tugwell, Mary Pendill and Tiffany Wescott and to appoint Marylou Harris and Teresa Griffin.
Commissioners House, Overman and Bateman seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 6) Upcoming Board Appointments
The upcoming Board appointments for August, September and October, 2021 were presented to the Board in their packet but were not announced by the County Manager.

ITEM 12 – CLOSED SESSION

The County Manager requested 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 by purchase, option, exchange, or lease in the matter of the Masonic Lodge and the Elizabethan Inn in Manteo.

MOTION

Chairman Woodard motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes cited by the County Manager.
Commissioner House seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 7:26 p.m., the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 8:12 p.m. and Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes and approved the contract to purchase the Manteo Masonic Lodge for \$767,700.00. County Attorney advised he would need a motion in open session to approve the contract as well as to add the cost of the purchase to budget amendments previously approved.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to approve the contract purchase price of \$767,700.00 for the Manteo Masonic Lodge and to move forward with the purchase.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to add the cost of the Manteo Masonic Lodge to the budget amendments and Capital Project Ordinance previously approved for the cost of the Kill Devil Hills site for the KDH EMS station \$1,961,700, renovation to Manteo property 201,300 and cost of debt issuance \$70,000.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous.

Mr. Outten also reported the Board gave guidance with respect to the Elizabethan Inn property and took no other action.

ITEM 12 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which may 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:

Vice-Chairman Overman

- He congratulated and thanked the employees who received service pins.
- Steve Coulter had reached out and requested a video be made with the stakeholders, to include charter captains, commercial fisherman and business owners on Hatteras Island regarding the importance of the inlet to their respective interests. He asked for and received a consensus from the Board to move forward with the project.
- He commented on a recent proclamation from the Marine Fisheries Commission regarding the 2021 flounder season which is only two weeks long for both recreational and commercial fisherman. The quoted purpose is noted to secure a “sustainable” fishery with the restrictions. He shared the requirements for both Virginia and South Carolina flounder fishing which were allowed year round with larger limits and size requirements. He opined NC’s requirements were a politically motivated decision.

Commissioner Couch

- He advised the Hatteras Bridge was almost completed and on schedule. The ocean views were going to be fantastic and should offer a boost to the 2022 tourism season.

- He noted he had attended the Kitty Hawk dog park dedication with the County Manager and Commissioner Ross and felt it was a great addition accomplished with grants and tourism funds.
- He noted his appreciation for Vice-Chairman Overman's passion for fishing and shared his past experiences of the lack of interest shown by legislators to help.

Commissioner House

- He announced the Pamlico Sound flounder season was September 15 - October 1st. Senate Bill 317, written by Sen. Sanderson, could reform the Marine Fisheries Commission; however, it had remained in the House since April. He encouraged the attendance to the July 21 virtual meeting of the Commission to voice opposition to the Marine Fisheries Commission's recommendations for further restrictions.
- Events in history: July 19, 1799 marked the discovery of the Rosetta Stone and 1848 was the first woman's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The creation of Tom and Jerry cartoon was also July, 1940. He concluded with presenting SPCA Pet of the Week.

Commissioner Ross

- After many months of meetings with the advisory board regarding the Soundside Event Center Site, there was approval of an event site with 20,000 square feet of usable space, 46,000 square feet gross and a construction cost of \$17-18 million. Lee Nettles would be providing a more detailed update at a follow-up meeting. Most of the earlier concerns regarding drainage, parking and wastewater have been addressed with the Town of Nags Head.

Commissioner Tobin

- He provided an update on the construction of the County's dredge with photographs and commentary. He would see the dredge in person on July 30 and provide a follow-up report. He reported the steel for the vessel had been purchased before the current shortages existed.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

- County Manager reported the culvert at the Fessenden Center was collapsing and the estimates to replace it ranged around \$51,000. He asked for authority to transfer funds from the capital account to cover the expense.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to authorize the County Manager to transfer funds not to exceed \$51,500.00 to cover the expense for replacing the culvert at the Fessenden Center.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- Advised the Board the CRS Grants required the Board's acceptance with authorization provided to the County Manager to manage the expenditures of the funds.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to accept the CRS Grant funds and authorize the County Manager to manage the expenditures of the awarded funds.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- He advised all of the oceanfront easements for the Avon beach nourishment project had been sent to property owners for execution and return. A projected deadline of August 30, 2021 had been provided to the owners.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 8:15 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., August 2, 2021.



Respectfully submitted,

By: Andrea DiLenge
Notes Transcribed by Andrea DiLenge
Acting Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

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

Notes: 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. Some agenda items were handled out of sequential order to the published packet. (Items 12 and 13).