



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., August 16, 2021

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 C. 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 5:01 p.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. George Lurie from the Jewish Community of the Outer Banks 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:

- Reported on the completion of the main roof of the COA project as a “major milestone” in the ongoing construction of the brand new campus. He shared pictures of the site.
- The NC 12 Task Force and stakeholders continue to meet on a regular basis. They have begun prioritizing the seven hotspots along NC 12 highway and he would provide updates as available.
- Remembered the passing of Mary Magdeline Turcich Utz. She had been only eight days from her ninetieth birthday and had been a great supporter to his mother while at Spring Arbor of the Outer Banks.
- Announced Dare County would soon offer COVID-19 booster shots for those with compromised immune systems. DCHHS was accepting registrations and he suggested registration on the website or call for an appointment.
- On August 11, 2021 the Dare County senior leaders had met with Dr. Sheila Davies to discuss the escalating numbers of COVID-19 positive cases in Dare with a high level of community infection. With the third largest daily number of new cases since the pandemic

began, the group agreed to take measures to protect both the community and county employees. Beginning August 12, masks would be required for all county employees and visitors to county offices. He recommended the Dare website for more information or contacting the health department at 252-475-5008 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:20 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. George Lurie addressed the Board and stated the schools, hospital, expansion of the local COA and construction of a county dredge were all things which made Dare a great place to live. We still have no relatively low cost places for residents. He stated there had been very little progress and asked for a major effort to Dare's infrastructure by the Board in this area of concern.
2. Ray Hollowell spoke about the possibilities of supplying \$3-6 million dollars of sand for the beach nourishment project. He would like to save the county money and stated they had the sand and the economics to cover it and meet the needs for beach nourishment. As to any environmental concerns, he stated the sand was definitely in the ball park of quality.
3. Jeanine Emery, resident of Manteo, commended the Board for their efforts during the pandemic, as well as the other good projects of schools and the hospital, as mentioned by Rev. Lurie. However, she felt the problems of affordable housing issues had not been adequately addressed by the Board.

There were no comments made in Buxton and Public Comments closed at 5:36 p.m.

ITEM 3 – REIMBURSEMENT RESOLUTION FOR SERIES 2021B LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS AND CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR JUSTICE CENTER IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Clawson explained the County's share towards the beach nourishment projects for the towns of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills along with improvements to the Justice Center would be financed by the Series 2021B LOBs. A deed of trust would be held against the Justice Center as collateral. The improvements would include roof and carpet replacement, improvements in the Clerk area, as well as sound panel replacements in courtrooms A, B and D. The Justice Center renovations would not be obligated until the beach nourishment bids were opened and determined feasible.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Reimbursement Resolution and the Capital Project Ordinance for Justice Center improvements.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 4 – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD EVENT CENTER CONCEPT (Att. #1)

At the last meeting of the Board, August 2, 2021, Lee Nettles had made a presentation regarding a proposed concept for the Nags Head Soundside Event Site. At that meeting, Commissioner Couch had offered a resolution of support with the consensus of the Board. Mr. Outten read the proposed resolution.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to adopt the resolution in support of the Dare County Tourism Board event center concept as presented.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 5 – 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 (08.02.21) (Att. #2)
- 2) Southern Albemarle Assoc. Annual Meeting Invitation List
- 3) Charge to the Tax Collector
- 4) Tax Collector's Report
- 5) Dare County Transportation – Additional Full-time Driver
- 6) Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 - CLOSED SESSION

The Manager asked for a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the County in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege regarding the opioid settlement; and to approve the minutes of the last Closed Session.

At 5:55 p.m., the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 6:20 p.m. and Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes, had discussion with the County Attorney, and took no action.

ITEM 7 – 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 Bateman and Vice-Chairman Overman – had nothing new to report.

Commissioner House

- For a day in history: He remembered the birth of his youngest daughter, Brittney. He also recalled the lasting influence of Elvis Presley who died August 16, 1977.
- Shared the Pet of the Week from SPCA, a ten-year old cat named Baby, and urged everyone to visit the new location to check out adoptable pets.

Commissioner Ross

- Expressed his displeasure with the current events in Afghanistan and stated he often thinks about the words in the U.S. pledge and national anthem and what it means to stand behind them, not just when convenient but when it was tough.

Commissioner Tobin

- Shared an update on the dredge construction with pictures. The interior machinery equipment and thruster motor had been installed. Mid-sections were also being attached to the stern sections. He stated the project was still on track for completion. He had successfully worked with Congressman Murphy and Senator Burr's office to expedite the FOIA request to make patterns from the Corps dredge drag head available.
- Reported the fishing tournament had been successful with 144 boats in the ladies tournament and 99 boats in the billfish event.

Commissioner Couch

- Reported on the winding down of the summer season with the start of schools in many areas.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

County Manager Outten had nothing further to report.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:33 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., September 7, 2021.



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.) and supporting material considered by the Board of Commissioners at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board.