



# County of Dare

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, NC 27954

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## MINUTES

### DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

**5:00 p.m., October 18, 2021**

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

Commissioners absent: Rob Ross

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten  
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 at [www.darenc.com](http://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. Tom Wilson 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 items mentioned by Chairman Woodard.

Chairman Woodard remembered Virginia Simmons Tillett, a former educator and Dare County Commissioner, who had passed away on October 7, 2021. He stated she had touched his life and those of many others in her service and love for Dare County.

#### **ITEM 2– PUBLIC HEARING – BUFFER STANDARDS OF TRAVEL TRAILER PARK AND CAMPGROUND ORDINANCE (Att. #1)**

At 5:08 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 for both Items 2 and 3. Following is a summary of all citizen remarks, which may be viewed in their entirety on the County website:

*The following comment was made in Manteo.*

1. Joe Thompson, the applicant, explained the vegetative buffer standards had not been fully addressed with the original ordinance amendment due to the effect of the time table of the process. Construction had halted this summer due to supply chain issues. The buffering issue was not with adjacent property owners, but rather was with the owner’s limit of 600 feet that would need buffering with their own operations. The parking area and the septic field were currently problematic with the current ordinance.

No comments were made from Buxton. The Public Hearing was closed at 5:11 p.m.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Tobin motioned to adopt the proposed amendments to the buffer standards of the Travel Trailer Park and Campground Ordinance, as recommended by the Planning Board.

Commissioner Couch and Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 3– PUBLIC HEARING – SECTION 22-58.5 FOOD STANDS AND MOBILE FOOD UNITS (Att. #2)**

At 5:12 p.m. the Board held a Public Hearing to receive input concerning this agenda item. A summary of all citizen remarks, which may be viewed in their entirety in a video on the county website, follows here. The following comments were made in Manteo:

1. Stephen Bonnie, owner of Stu’s Food Truck, stated he felt it was a great idea to have more than one truck on site. Competition was great for business and he had been doing it for three years. The location at the foot of the pier was great.
2. Luke and Natalie Harris told the Board they had relocated to the Outer Banks in June and operated a food truck. They stated the business model did well with competition and added the amendment would also provide more venues in a small location for customers to have additional food choices.
3. Joe Thompson, the applicant for the item, felt the amendment would help the community and the food truck industry.

Commissioner Bateman asked Mr. Thompson if five food trucks were too many. He responded the number seemed appropriate when all the other parameters were applied to what was required to qualify to operate a food truck. Commissioner Couch added there were no staffing problems with food trucks as with restaurants.

With no comments from Buxton, the County Manager closed the Public Hearing at 5:25 p.m.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Bateman motioned to adopt the draft amendments to Section 22-58.5 as drafted and adopt the statement of consistency and reasonableness as prepared by the Planning Department.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

At 5:26 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 may be each be viewed in their entirety in a video on the County website:



1. Liza Yowell stated she and Amanda Lotas addressed the Board on June 7, 2021 and had requested the Dare County Resolution Opposing United Nations Agenda 21, adopted in 2012, be revisited and updated. She stated Dare County was no longer a safe place. She spoke against the COVID-19 vaccine mandates, which she commented did not prevent the virus or its spread.
2. Amanda Lotas continued comments concerning Agenda 21. She stated in New York City and Los Angeles unvaccinated citizens were barred from entering restaurants, bars and gyms. She stated the 2012 resolution had been "tossed and no longer recognized" because "people were in fear". She stated Agenda 21 was unconstitutional and asked the Board to revisit it to protect basic human rights.
3. Melanie Brewer spoke against the requirement of the Board of Education for children to wear masks. She stated children were still wearing "breathing restrictions" and only sixteen residents had died from COVID-19. She reported that was low in comparison to other deaths caused by cardiac illness. She asked the Board why masks were required for children when no children had died from COVID in the county.
4. Reese Stecher stated 95% of teachers were vaccinated and the area children had a 99.974% chance of "being fine with COVID" and they were still required to wear masks. He stated Superintendent Farrelly and the teachers' association had put the ESSER funds ahead of concern for school children. He felt children were collateral damage for politics and money.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 5:46 p.m.

#### **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 (10.04.21) **(Att. #3)**
- 2) 5311 Designee Certification for FY2023-FY2027 – Amended
- 3) Res. of the County of Dare, NC for the LEOSSA Trust to Participate in AGPIP **(Att. #4)**
- 4) DHHS – Public Health Div. – Bright Ideas Grant
- 5) DHHS – Public Health Div. – Trillium SPF – Rx Grant
- 6) Tax Collector's Report
- 7) DHHS – Funding for Transportation to COVID-19 Vaccine Sites
- 8) Emergency Management Budget Amendment

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

#### **ITEM 6– BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- 1) Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Center

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Jason Brian Heilig and Roberta Midgett.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Older Adult Services Advisory Council

Commissioner Tobin motioned to reappoint Cynthia Harris and Claudia Hennessey for another term.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) Dare County Tourism Board

Town of Kitty Hawk

Commissioner Bateman motioned to appoint Councilman David Hines.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Hatteras Island/Member at Large

Commissioner Couch motioned to appoint Dennis Robinson to complete the term of Donna Peele.

Commissioners House and Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Dare County Commissioner Seat

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Ervin Bateman for another term.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Member at Large

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Timothy M. Cafferty for another term.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 7 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS**

Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which may be viewed in a video on the website. Chairman Woodard requested the County Manager begin this segment.

Mr. Outten stated the Board had approved the need to upgrade and facelift the county recreation centers several meetings ago. Oakley Collier had completed the architectural work and provided a \$47,000 estimate to upgrade the facilities.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve the Oakley Collier architectural estimate of \$47,000 for upgrades to the county recreation centers.

Commissioners Bateman and House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous



Staffing difficulties had continued to be problematic for trash and recycling services. As a result, several recycling centers had to be closed. County Manager suggested an RFP be sought to provide private outside hauling. There were currently not enough county drivers to handle the disposal of trash and recycling.

**MOTION**

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned for an RFP for outside hauling of recycling.  
Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Mr. Outten advised the large item pickup in the spring could also benefit from assistance from a private company to ensure the county would be able to have the pickup. He explained many homeowners rely upon this service to get homes ready for the summer season. Typically the county used public works staff to handle the spring large item pickup.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Couch motioned for an RFP to seek large item pick up services.  
Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Mr. Outten presented to the Board that he had been contacted by the owner of a three-quarter acre parcel near the Wescott Park Youth Center. The value was approximately \$80-\$100,000. At one time the Board had discussed expanding the facility; however, the recent purchase of the Masonic Lodge in Manteo fulfills the need for additional facility space. After a brief discussion, the Board declined to take any further action.

**Commissioner Couch**

- He cautioned everyone to not let their guard down, even though there were approximately only thirty days left to the typical hurricane season.
- Commented the report for county taxable sales was a significant number. The growth was off the charts.
- Invited Commissioner Tobin to speak to the Dare County Waterways Commission.
- The bridge in Rodanthe would be completed soon. The completed project would provide another occasion for NCDOT and the collective Outer Banks community to commemorate our heritage with the naming opportunity of the bridge.

**Commissioner Bateman and Vice-Chairman Overman** had no further items to present.

**Commissioner House**

- Virginia Tillett would be missed by her family and extended family of Dare County. He also remembered both Capt. Bob Carter and General Colin Powell who had recently died.
- Metro Aviation, an international company that dealt with air medical transportation, recognized Dare County on October 10<sup>th</sup> as "an innovative pioneer in providing air medical transportation services".
- The "day in history" was the recollection of the 1967 Soviet unmanned spacecraft, which had transmitted images from the surface of Venus.
- The SPCA Pet of the Week was an adoptable dog named Roger. The video also presented a reminder the shelter would be holding a volunteer orientation on October 23.

**Commissioner Tobin**

- Provided an update on the change in requirements for the CAC board. As a result, the council now had only two members. Volunteers were now required to have increased hours of training and certification and four had now resigned. Peake Resources and Spring Arbor currently decline allowing in-person visits and observation of services, even with the council's willingness to comply with any additional COVID-19 safety requirements for the residents.
- He attended the first WATERS (Water Adaptations to Ensure Regional Success) Summit in Greenville presented by Congressman Greg Murphy with County Manager Outten and Superintendent Hallac on October 13. It was an all-day event, very informative and educational. He spoke with Col. Bennett from the Corps and some experts regarding thin layer placement of dredge materials. He hoped to schedule further discussion with them regarding fortification of the area's marshes with dredge spoil.

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Tobin motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:14 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., November 1, 2021.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

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

By: *Robert A. 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 at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk to the Board. Attempts have been made to accurately reflect the spelling of each name as spoken at the podium or based on the legibility of the sign-in sheet.