



County of Dare

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, NC 27954

MINUTES DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:00 a.m., June 5, 2023

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

Commissioners absent: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten

Others present: Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, David Clawson
Master Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester
Clerk to the Board, Cheryl Anby
Deputy Clerk, Skyler Foley

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

At 9:04 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. Wayne Berry to share a prayer, and then Chairman 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:

- Announced Mr. Outten would not be at the meeting and Commissioner Tobin was online.
- The new Manteo Masonic Lodge would be celebrating the opening in their new building on June 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.
- Manteo High School women’s soccer scored 5 goals in the second half to beat Wheatmore at the N.C. High School Athletic Assoc. The 2A title match was held in Greensboro.
- First Flight Hunter Safety and Shooting Team placed third in the 2023 District Tournament held at the 4H Center in Columbia. He introduced the players and coaches present.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Julie Anderson received a 20-year pin.

ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – May and June, 2023

Dustin Peele, Special Projects and Purchasing Manager, received the Employee of the Month award for June from Dave Clawson.

Carleen Darsee, Administrative Assistant for EMS, received the Employee of the Month award for May from Jennie Collins.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 9:38 a.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 made in Manteo:

1. Janice Booth voiced concern over the many changes in the Outer Banks and attributed many problems to new residents insisting on amenities they had in the communities they had moved here from. She urged the Board to protect the quality of life here.
2. Marcie Chovaz was concerned with schools, gun safety, and urged attention to the threats of SB 406 and HB756. She asked for continued Commissioner advocacy for the schools and children. She also wanted current soccer fields to remain for child use.
3. Hannah Bunn West addressed the childcare shortage. She stated there was not enough programs in the area and the cost of daycare was prohibitive for most families.
4. Tianna Stathis urged the Board to continue their support of the school system. She disagreed with the voucher program and stated teachers deserved better pay and housing. She opposed using Satterfield Landing for pickleball courts.
5. Jamie Wegener thanked the Board for their support of local schools but stated concern for the direction of public education and issuance of school vouchers. She applauded the work on the collection of concerns over the Wanchese development.
6. Brian Mervine opposed the Manns Harbor cluster development and was concerned with fire safety in Manns Harbor with the proposed homes being so close together.
7. Michele Lewis stated there would be a Juneteenth celebration the Pea Island Cookhouse on June 17. She applauded the child partnership for their work and other daycares providing services in the community.
8. Amy Stone, a member of the Wanchese Preservation Alliance, opposed the proposed Manns Harbor cluster home development. She also voiced concerns about the fire safety in Manns Harbor with more cluster homes being built.

With no comments made in Buxton, the Chairman closed Public Comments at 10:06 a.m.

ITEM 5 – PUBLIC HEARING – MANAGER’S PROPOSED FY2024 BUDGET (Att. #1)

At 10:06 a.m. the Board held a Public Hearing to receive input concerning this item. No one responded to the invitation to address the Board. The public hearing was closed at 10:07 a.m.

A handout was provided the Board and Mr. Clawson explained there were only two items changed from the May presentation of the budget to the Board. The Sheriff’s office had requested to reclassify a telecommunicator position to an assistant analyst position. The change would net a zero change except in FY25 with a proposed increase to \$15,797. The Manager had allocated an increase of \$667,181 to the EMS Department, as he presented in May. The Board was given a detailed listing of how the EMS Department wanted those funds assigned. Chairman Woodard stated the Board had received a presentation of the Manager’s Budget in May, the public hearing had been held today, and the budget had been available for public review. He asked the pleasure of the Board with regard to the FY2024 budget.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve the FY2024 Manager's Budget.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES – ANNUAL REPORT

Vice-Chairman Overman left the meeting at 10:11 a.m. and returned 10:13

Mr. Peterson, Central Regional Director, gave an overview of Trillium's area of coverage, with 28 counties and approximately 550 behavioral health and intellectual development disability providers. The original date to go live with Medicaid Transformation was July, 2022, which was moved to October, 2023. They were allowed to launch Care Management in December, 2022 for individuals with severe behavioral health, substance use and I/DD. He provided project updates on opioid settlements, mobile clinics, tribal engagement, co-responder pilots, and the Healing Place in New Hanover. The Healing Place provides recovery services with an eighteen-month program and a high success rate. See PowerPoint presentation for statistics and details.

ITEM 7 – CHILDREN & YOUTH PARTNERSHIP FOR DARE COUNTY

Sara Sampson, Jennifer Bradshaw Garrett and Bonnie Brumbeloe provided a PowerPoint presentation. They focused on the early care program and daycare situation in Dare County. There were over 1,600 attendees at this years Kids Fest. CYP had distributed over 6,700 diapers to families through their diaper program. One hundred families were served each month through private and corporate donations. Jennifer and Bonnie spoke about childcare-related services in the area and stated North Carolina was a childcare desert. Dare County had 1,594 children under the age of five in daycare. There were twenty-six licensed programs in the area. It was estimated there were eight children waiting on each potential space in current facilities. Some specific challenges to improving and increasing the number of facilities included: wages, lack of benefits, lack of real estate for new daycares, and employee turnover. Grant funds were available to aid in the upstart of new centers. Ms. Bradshaw Garrett estimated there were approximately 1,100 needed daycare slots from Southern Shores to Hatteras. There was approximately 75 in the workforce now. Some businesses had slots but not enough teachers for proper child provider ratios. There were plans to host a child conference in 2024.

At 10:56 a.m., the Board meeting recessed and reconvened at 11:04 a.m.

Chairman Woodard had several County Manager items to present.

The Old Swimming Hole had been addressed several times. It was proposed to close the area to swimming, move the lifeguard assigned there to Rodanthe. The picnic grounds and gazebo would remain open to the public.

MOTION

Commissioner Ross motioned to close the swimming hole, leave the picnic grounds open, remove the life guard and move him to serve in Rodanthe.

Commissioner Couch seconded

Vote: AYES unanimous

There were not enough available funds in the Beach Nourishment Fund to prepare for or complete a project in Rodanthe. Congressman Murphy's office had reached out explaining there could possibly be a pot of federal funds to be used for a Rodanthe project. Murphy did not want

to pursue further without a specific request from the Board. The Board briefly discussed briefly the opportunity. The county's fund would be used to continue providing maintenance to other previously nourished areas. Mr. Clawson affirmed the model for the beach nourishment fund could handle covering maintenance on any future Rodanthe project.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned for Board to send a letter of support to Congressman Murphy for inquiry into federal funding for a Rodanthe beach nourishment project. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

The Lions Club had requested the donation of a truck. Dustin Peele provided the Board with more information about three possible options of trucks available to them.

MOTION

Commissioner Bateman motioned to provide The Lions Club with accessibility to a truck that could be donated by the County for their use. Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

The Health Director advised there were three additional positions needed in the county in advance of the implementation of Medicaid expansion. Dr. Davies explained they would need income maintenance assistants. At the July meeting she and Chuck Lycett would provide an overview of the impact of Medicaid expansion in the county.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to authorize the County Manager to sign the budget amendments necessary to implement the hiring of three new positions as requested. Commissioners Bateman and House seconded the motion

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – “THE WALL THAT HEALS”

Vice-Chairman Overman and Patricia O’Sullivan provided the Board with a presentation. Several Veterans advisory council members were present. A video showing how the event would work was shown. There were several thousand veterans in the area, many unable to travel to DC to have an opportunity to see the wall. There would also be a war timeline and artifacts in the mobile information trailer. The opening would be November 16 and more volunteers were needed. Ms. Sullivan thanked Dare County for their help. Vice-Chairman Overman commented all the towns had been receptive and many had pledged donations. The smaller wall had begun its tour in California and Dare county would be its final stop.

ITEM 9 – “THE WALL THAT HEALS” – EVENT GRANT

The Dare County Tourism Board approved to award an Event Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for the “The Wall That Heals” project to be held November 15-19, 2023.

MOTION

Commissioner Bateman motioned to approve the Event Grant Contract from Dare County Tourism Board to Dare County Veterans Advisory Council. Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10– ANCHOR COMMERCIAL LLC CLUSTER HOME DEVELOPMENT – SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION #4-2023 (Att. #2)

This agenda item was handled as a quasi-judicial proceeding. Before offering any testimony, Planning Director Noah Gillam, the applicant Mike Nice and engineer, Mike Robinson were duly sworn by the Clerk to the Board. Planning Director Gillam outlined a Special Use Permit (SUP) application for Anchor Commercial LLC for a development to be built consisting of twelve single family dwellings. There would also be a boat ramp/docking facility and trailer storage. The developments' combined parcels totaled 3.14 acres. Chairman Woodard asked the applicant if he agreed to the findings of fact listed in the SUP, the supporting documents on file, and the facts presented by the Planning Director. Mike Nice indicated his agreement. Vice-Chairman Overman stated there was a one-year minimum occupancy requirement for the Wanchese development, recently heard by the Board. He asked the developer if he would agree to the same and Mr. Nice agreed. Board members addressed the applicant with approval of the community look of the proposed development with amenities. Commissioner Tobin commented the development was a good opportunity to meet the housing need for the area's permanent workforce. There would eventually be an HOA with covenants to maintain the common areas. Mike Robinson, project engineer, addressed Commissioner House's questions and concerns relative to the dry hydrant. The engineer did not know the depth of the ditch; however, survey data would be obtained. Commissioner Tobin commented the canal depth was pretty stable.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned that SUP #4-2023 and the associated site plan for the proposed cluster home group development be approved as amended.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – DHHS – PUBLIC HEALTH OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDATION FY2024

Roxana Ballinger presented an overview of the FY2023 expenditures of the funds disbursed to Dare County thus far from the opioid settlement. She also provided the names of the organizations who received FY22-23 grant funds. In April 2023, a stakeholder survey was conducted regarding how to prioritize the allocation of settlement funds. The top three priorities were residential local treatment, agency support to increase capacity, and medication assistance for treatment. There were many who still did not understand the toxicity of fentanyl. She also reviewed other initiatives to be considered for funding, harm reduction, prevention treatment, and transportation.

Chairman Woodard left the meeting at 12:07 p.m. Vice-Chairman Overman chaired the remainder of the meeting. Commissioner Ross left meeting at 12:11 p.m. and returned at 12:13 p.m.

There would be a fentanyl kills campaign posted with The Coastland Times. She reviewed the FY23/24 priorities for how funds will be spent from the opioid settlement. Commissioner Ross asked about the vending machine proposal with Narcan and fentanyl test strips. The applicant for the project did not ratify the award grant to purchase the vending machines. They were also working with lifeguards on the beach to have the naloxone nasal spray available. The proposed FY2024 opioid expenditures totaled \$423,000.

MOTION

Commissioner Bateman motioned to approve the proposed opioid settlement funds recommendations for FY23/24.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 12 – BRIGHTSPEED SERVICE DELIVERY UPDATE

Steve Brewer provided a presentation update for Brightspeed plans to build 800k fiber to pass through North Carolina. He provided the history of transition over to Brightspeed. The time to repair and install services had improved with the new provider. County storm damages included exposed fiber and some lines were exposed during removing sand from roadways. They had applied for a \$13 million dollar grant to put submarine cable from Ocracoke to Cedar Island to keep services available. Microwave links were in the works to allow voice traffic to continue after a storm. He reviewed a map of deployment of fiber installation in the county. He noted the 7,500 fiber locations in KDH were currently on hold. There was discussion regarding the determination of what areas would be covered with future improvements and towers to provide backup for voice calls for Hatteras in an emergency. The best long-term fix would be the installation of submarine cable. They should hear soon on the grant application.

ITEM 13 – HATTERAS HARBOR EMERGENCY DREDGING (Att.#3)

Barton Grover, Grants and Waterways Administrator explained the Waterways Commission's request for emergency dredging by the Corps due to shoaling which was impeding vessels leaving Hatteras Harbor. The Corps currently held \$217,000 in Dare County/State funds for the Hatteras Connector Channel. Proposed dredging would take one day to complete.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to adopt the resolution as presented.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 14 – BUDGET AMENDMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR RECREATION PICKLEBALL COURTS

During the May, 2023 CIP meeting, it was recommended to allocate a not-to-exceed amount of \$500,000 for pickleball courts in the county. The budgeted funds would be used for professional service fees and construction costs of any proposed pickleball courts.

MOTION

Commissioner Ross motioned to approve the budget amendment and adopt the capital project ordinance for the creation of pickleball courts.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 15 – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE CREATION OF PICKLEBALL COURTS

Dustin Peele provided the Albemarle & Associates professional service contract for \$41,775.00 to design and pickleball courts with location(s) to be determined at a later date.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve the professional services contract and authorize the County Manager to sign the final agreement.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 16 – 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 (4/28/23, 05/01/23) **(Att. #4 and 5)**
- 2) Budget Amendment – Rodanthe Bulkhead Project
- 3) Public Works – Fuel, Maintenance and Repair Budget Amendment
- 4) Avon Property Owners Association “Fourth of July” 2023 Fireworks Display
- 5) Quitclaim Deed - 48944 NC Hwy 12 – Parcel 026511000 – Buxton Harbor
- 6) Water Dept. NC Div. of Water Resources Local Water Supply Resolution **(Att. #6)**
- 7) Water Dept. NC Div. of Water Resources Water Shortage Response Plan Res **(Att. #7)**
- 8) East Albemarle Regional Library Agreement
- 9) Budget Amendment for Equipment Leases
- 10) Grant Application – Oregon Inlet Construction Admin. Services **(Att.# 8)**
- 11) Grant Application – Hatteras Inlet Construction Admin. Services **(Att.# 9)**
- 12) DC Tourism Board Request Consent Expenditure from Restricted Fund Line Item 4503

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 17 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ET) District Town of Nags Head

Commissioner Bateman motioned to appoint Gary Ferguson.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Airport Authority

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint George Henderson, Joseph Blakaitis, Walton “Pete” Burkheimer, Jr. and David Crownover for another term.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 3) Dare County Waterways Commission

Commissioner Couch motioned to appoint John K. Berquist.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 4) Roanoke Island Community Center

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Jonique Lee, Betty Shelby and Clarence Lewis.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 5) Game and Wildlife Commission

Commissioner Couch motioned to reappoint Kyle Perry, Missy McPherson, Robert Owens and George Henderson.

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

6) Hatteras Community Center

Commissioner Bateman motioned to reappoint George Banks, Dennis Robinson and Jeff Oden.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

7) Dare County Transportation Advisory Board

Commissioner Ross motioned to appoint Jenna Wienert, to replace retired Brandi Bohanan, and Steve House to temporary replace Commissioner Jim Tobin.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

8) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for July, August, and September 2023 were announced.

ITEM 18 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

Following is a brief summary outline of the items mentioned by Commissioners during this segment:

Commissioner Ross

- Nags Head Links Ladies had a drive for the cure for local breast cancer.
- He had recently recorded a short radio announcement for OBX Hotline in support of their campaign against interpersonal violence.
- On June 3rd the Virginia Tillet Center sent their 2023 Special Olympic team with chaperones to compete in the summer games. He wished them the very best.
- He congratulated Manteo soccer team.
- He had recently visited the NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island and said it was a great facility with updated exhibits. He encouraged everyone to visit.

Commissioner House

- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council would be meeting June 6, 2023.
- He offered congratulations to the Manteo soccer team for their championship win.
- Special Olympics – 2 bronze one four and one fifth – (results)
- Day in History: The assassination of presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy on 6/6/1968.

Commissioner Bateman

- He attended the 100th birthday in East Lake of Minnie Spruill on May 27th.

Commissioner Couch

- Attended the celebration of a convenience store in Kill Devil Hills.
- He had been attending baccalaureate ceremonies with good messages for graduates.
- He congratulated the Manteo soccer team on their recent state win.

Commissioner Couch

- The 120th anniversary of the Wright's first flight was being planned for 2028. He read a resolution to add Katharine Wright to the co-celebration for her contributions.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the resolution honoring Katharine Wright and to recognize her birthday to be co-celebrated on National Aviation Day.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous (**Att.#10**)

Commissioner Tobin

- Mentioned the Channel out of Oregon Inlet and the little connector channel had been working well. We should be proud of the work performed by Miss Katie.
- He provided an update on his health and announced his tumors had all been reduced by 40%. He would be continuing with chemotherapy for another three months.

Vice-Chairman Overman: Congratulated Julie Anderson for her service pin. He also offered appreciation for the employee of the month recipients, Dustin Peele and Carlee Darsee.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

Dorothy Hester said the Brightspeed presentation provided good information. She mentioned there would be a Dare County booth at various farmers' markets this year. A schedule for having a commissioner present was being created.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Vice-Chairman Overman asked for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 1:37 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., July 17, 2023.



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, presentations, and supporting material considered by the Board at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk. During the meeting, several agenda items involved public comment and each speaker's position has been summarized.