

# MINUTES DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:00 a.m., April 2nd 2024

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., Vice Chairman Wally Overman,

Steve House, Bea Basnight, Danny Couch, Ervin Bateman

Commissioners absent: Rob Ross

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten

Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, David Clawson

Master Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester

Clerk, Skyler Foley

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.gov.

At 9:01 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Dr. Wayne Berry to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Chairman Woodard recognized Susan Bothwell and Mary Ellon Ballance from the Board of Education and National Park Service Superintendent Dave Hallac.

The Chairman asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add Item 4A – Presentation from the National Park Service Superintendent Dave Hallac.

#### **MOTION**

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to amend the agenda to add Item 4A. Commissioner Bateman and Commissioner House seconded the motion. VOTE: AYES unanimous

#### ITEM 1 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Following is a brief outline of the items mentioned by Chairman Woodard:

- Commended the Community Foundation for their annual meeting that was held on Tuesday, March 12th, stated that it was a very uplifting meeting.
- Announced that the State of the Children Conference on March 14<sup>th</sup>, was a very informative meeting.
- Stated that the Southern Shores EMS and Fire Station ribbon cutting took place on March 15<sup>th</sup>
- Announced that the Senior Games are beginning on April 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:30 a.m.

- Focused on the situation in Hatteras concerning the petroleum on the beach in Buxton. It was explained that out of the 75 miles of beach, only 2/10th of it is affected. Real estate and property management firms are receiving daily inquiries and experiencing some cancellations. This is a federal government issue, and they have not acted. He mentioned that he, Vice-Chairman Overman, Commissioner Couch, and the County Manager traveled to Washington D.C. for three days to discuss this matter with Senator Tillis and Senator Budd. He noted that feedback had been received from both offices. In addition, they also discussed the possibility of obtaining more funds for elevating homes in Dare County, a list of the eight priority issues on NC 12 to potentially help find solutions, a Jetty in Oregon Inlet, and lastly, they asked for assistance in the length of time in processing permits for the Miss Katie Dredge.
- He stated while in D.C., they had the opportunity to attend the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Conference, which is a leading force in D.C. for our nation's beaches. He shared the following facts:
  - o Travel and tourism is the largest employer in the United States
  - In 2022 U.S. Travel and tourism generated \$2.6 trillion in economic output, with survey data indicating that beaches are the leading tourism attraction in the U.S.
  - Annually Beach Tourism generated \$520 billion in direct spending and \$36 billion in taxes to the federal, state, and local governments.
  - Beaches are not only magnets for tourism, but they also perform a double duty in protecting land infrastructure during storms.
  - For every \$1 spent on beach nourishment annually, beach tourist generates about \$3,000 in economic output, \$1,400 in indirect spending, and \$200 in taxes.
  - Stated that we have to keep our beaches nourished because it is Dare County's economic engine.
- Identified housing as one of the most challenging issues this Board had dealt with over the past four years. He mentioned that the county received a \$35 million grant from the State of North Carolina, but unfortunately, no progress has been made in constructing any housing units. Two organizations, Woda Cooper, which was selected for the county's \$12 million, and Coastal Affordable Housing, which was selected for the states \$35 million were both hired. However, Woda Cooper faced difficulties in collaborating with local municipalities, and Coastal Affordable Housing has also been unsuccessful. He believes that it is clear that the public does not support housing and called for a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 9th, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss where the county started, the current position of the county, and the next steps moving forward.
- Lastly, he and the Board dedicated the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room to Mr. Bobby Owens, the longest serving Commissioner and Chairman of the Dare County Board of Commissioners.

#### ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Matt Hester received a 10-year pin.
- 2) William Laricos, received a 10-year pin.
- 3) Matthew Stankavich, received a 10-year pin.
- 4) Shelia Hassell, received a 20-year pin.

ITEM 3 - EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - JANUARY, MARCH, & APRIL 2024

Dustin Waltson received the January Employee of the Month award from Sheriff Doughtie who described the many ways that he is an asset to the Sheriff's Department.

James Basnight received the March Employee of the Month award from Dave Stupka who described the many ways that he is an asset to the Buildings & Grounds Department.

Misty Parnell received the April Employee of the Month award from Sheila Davies who described the many ways that she is an asset to the Environmental Health Department.

### ITEM 4 - PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 9:57 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, which may be viewed in their entirety in a video on the County website:

The following comments were made in Manteo – There were no comments made in Manteo

- 1. Mary Ellon Ballance gave an update on the Cape Hatteras Shooting Team which has three teams (First Flight, Manteo, & Hatteras) with 140 kids participating each year. She stated that they participate in the NC Wildlife Resource Commission Youth Hunter Safety Skills District Tournament each year and announced all of the winnings. She announced that there is a fundraiser at Jennette's Pier on May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. Aida Havel expressed concerns about Buxton and asked the Commissioners to send a letter with the seven following questions:
  - 1. Why is the Army Corp continuing to study and assess the situation instead of taking action? They have been studying and assessing it for six months.
  - 2. Why does the Army Corp of Engineers say that they are working with the NC Department of Environmental Equality, the National Park Service and the Coast Guard, but not with the EPA?
  - 3. One of the Army Corp of Engineers stated missions is to "Reduce Disaster Risk" Why have they not started work in the last six months to reduce the risk from this disaster?
  - 4. The Army Corp of Engineers website says they have a Rapid Response Center of Expertise which is capable of providing time critical remediation and removal project execution. Why are they not doing that here?
  - 5. I know the Army Corp of Engineers can move quickly when they want to because they already have a picture of the Baltimore Bridge on their website as well as a copy describing what immediate action they are taking. Why are they not moving that quickly on Buxton Beach?
  - 6. Under the FUDS Program there is something known as interim risk management procedures. Has the Army Corp of Engineers implemented any interim risk management procedures? If not, why?
  - 7. Why has the Army Corps of Engineers not come before you to explain what they are doing, what their timetable is, and give you an opportunity to ask them
- 3. Brian Harris inform the Board that Buxton has formed the Buxton Civic Association which is made up of nine citizens. He asked if anyone heard of the Restoration

- Advisory Board and why has the EPA or Army Corp of Engineers never established it with the local Buxton community. He stated that it is required at all FUDS sites.
- 4. Sawyer Harris expressed that he spends a lot of his time at the beach in Buxton and is ready for the beach to be put back together. He stated he is concerned about the old Navy Base and all of the hazards that it presents. He recommended that some of the school students write letters and emails to show how many children want the beach to go back to normal.
- 5. Justin Bateman emphasized the importance of conducting thorough research on the topic of housing in Dare County. He defended the county and discussed the state grant money, stating that it comes from all counties and not just Dare County. He also commended how responsive Chairman Woodard and the Board is, and that every time he has reached out he has been responded too.
- 6. Katie Morgan stated that she was the only person at the last housing task force meeting that said that Dare County should give the money back to the state. She noted that the contract is written so that Jordan Hennessey will receive \$5 million even if the money is giving back to the state and that the RFQ was written so the bidders had to have been in a contract with a municipality that had previously had a public private partnership with a forgivable loan, which disqualifies a lot of companies. She also stated that there is proof that Mr. Hennessey is behind developing and revising the legislation for the House Bill 259. She referred to the County Manager/Attorney and expressed that it is concerning how one individual has been allowed to simultaneously hold both roles for such an extended period of time and feels that it is a conflict of interest.
- 7. Paul Outten commented on Item 8 and stated he would like for it to be addressed as Highway 12 like it was at one time and the access should come off of Hwy 12 instead of Midgett's Mobile Court.
- 8. Kathryn Fagan addressed Item 9 and expressed the following. She questioned how the Evans Trust could sell a road, as well as issues related to stormwater management and ingress/egress. She also noted that there would be no impediment issues if the road were to be closed. Fagan mentioned that the speed limit on Airport Rd. is 35 mph, but observed that drivers often accelerate quickly when turning onto Airport Rd. She emphasized that the subdivision is being constructed in the important bird migratory path. Additionally, Fagan expressed worries about flooding and heat due to the lack of shade in the area.

The following comments were made in Buxton – There were no comments made in Buxton

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 10:28 a.m.

#### ITEM 4A - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRESENTATION

Superintendent Dave Hallac gave a presentation on the "Recent Observations of Petroleum Contamination at the Historic Site of Naval Facility Cape Hatteras." He highlighted the following topics: Who is involved, the history, the location of the Old Navy and Coastguard Facilities, and provided multiple images and videos of the current state of the site which showed concrete, steel, cables, exposed septic drain field parts, and other debris. He also gave information on the observations of contaminated sediments over time throughout the site.

The Board recessed at 10:47a.m. and reconvened at 10:59a.m.

# ITEM 5 - PROCLAMATION - CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Molly McGinnis and Leigh Brinkley addressed the Board and stated to kick off Child Abuse Prevention month they urge everyone to wear blue on Friday, April 5th and share photos on Social Media. They also stated that displays supporting child abuse prevention can be found at three locations: KDH Fire Department, COA, and the Fessenden Center. Community members are encouraged to participate in the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign by planting a Pinwheel and a prevention yard sign, both of which are available at the CYP Office. Parents are advised to explore the resources available at CYP and register for some of the programs offered.

# **MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Proclamation declaring April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Dare County.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** AYES unanimous

# ITEM 6 - NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MENTAL ILLNESS PRESENTATION

Phil Cooper and Stephanie Baker from the National Alliance on Mental Illness Outer Banks discussed the importance of NAMI, NAMI's goals, key statistics, the organization's origins, its growth over time, detailed descriptions of the classes offered, support groups available, programs like Ending the Silence and Sharing Hope, Crisis Intervention Training, and the importance of forming partnerships.

#### **MOTION**

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to adopted the Proclamation declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month in Dare County.

Commissioner Bateman & Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner House inquired about them being approved for Nationals like the Proclamation reads, they answered that they have not yet been approved but plan to be shorty.

#### **AMENDED MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Proclamation with the changed language.

Commissioner Bateman and Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

**VOTE: Unanimous** 

# ITEM 7 - DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD REQUEST CONSENT EXPENDITURE FROM SHORT TERM RESTRICTED FUND LINE ITEM 5160

Lee Neetles stated that this year, they have received four applications, which is consistent with previous years. The Avon Property Association applied for \$14,875, the Town of Kill Devil Hills requested \$12,400, the Town of Manteo asked for \$19,000, and the Town of Nags Head applied for \$13,750, totaling \$60,025.

## **MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to consent for expenditures totaling \$60,025.00 from line item 5160 for July  $4^{th}$  Fireworks Grant Awards.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Dare County Board of Commissioners - April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

# ITEM 8 - QUASI-JUDICIAL HEARING FOR SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION #1-2024

This agenda item was handled as a quasi-judicial proceeding. Planner Morgan Potts, Planning Director, Noah Gillam, and the Engineer, Rick House were all duly sworn by the Clerk before offering any testimony.

Ms. Potts addressed the Board and stated that the SUP and site plan was submitted by Derek Hence and House Engineering, with Mr. House representing the applicant. She explained that the proposed development is a cluster home project and will have a 31-day rental requirement. It will consist of eight three-bedroom wood frame dwellings, each measuring 1,200 square feet. The homes meet all the necessary criteria specified in the ordinance. The parcel of land is around 1.3 acres, and it exceeds the required minimum lot size for a cluster home development. The homes will be spaced 16 feet apart, slightly more than the minimum requirement. It was noted that the Planning Board had previously reviewed and recommended approval for this project.

Chairman Woodard asked if the applicant would be willing to consider an annual lease. Mr. House suggested that Mr. Hence might consider it, but pointed out that the ordinance specifies a minimum of 31 days and asked for clarification. Chairman Woodard expressed concerns about the definition of "long term" in the ordinance and stated his intention to discuss this issue with the Planning Board in the future. He believes that a lease of 31 days is not truly long term, and he views a year as a more appropriate definition. Mr. House indicated that he would need to discuss the possibility of an annual lease with the applicant before being able to provide an answer. Commissioner Bateman agreed with Chairman Woodard's perspective, and suggested the option of having someone sign a month-to-month lease for a year, it makes it easier to evict tenants who fail to pay rent.

Mr. Outten explained that the Board has the authority to make changes to the leases with the applicant's agreement. If the applicant does not agree, they must follow the statute. Mr. Gillam noted that the requirement of 31 days or longer is based on the N.C. Building Code's definition of transient versus non-transient occupancy.

The County Manager asked the applicant if he agrees to the admission into evidence of the material submitted by the Planner, which is on file in the Planning Department, the facts presented by the Planner, and the terms and conditions outlined in the SUP. Mr. Rick House indicated his agreement.

Commissioner Couch inquired about using a NC 12 address and to have the access off of NC 12 instead. Mr. House explained that the main concern was the proximity of the two entrances to Hwy 12, as they wanted to avoid traffic congestion. He also noted that they preferred to allocate the necessary right-of-way next to Mobile Court Way due to its limited size.

Commissioner House asked if this proposed development was exceeding the lot coverage limitation. Mr. House stated no and Ms. Potts clarified that the lot coverage was at a total of 28%.

Mr. Outten explained that if the Board elects to move forward, and they would like to move forward as suggested then in the motion to approve include language that allows us to modify the SUP to include that if the applicant will consent to it. Then we do not have to come back to include an annual lease.

### **MOTION**

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Chairman Woodard discussed the option of an individual signing a yearly lease with a stipulation that they must give a 30-day notice in order to be released from the contract. This is to account for renters who may only be staying for a short period of six months due to seasonal work.

# ITEM 9 - A REQUEST TO PERMANENTLY CLOSE AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF ROOSEVELT ST. ON ROANOKE ISLAND (Att. #1)

Mr. Jeff Maloney addressed the Board and stated that he is part of the ownership group that has an interest in the Shady Pines Subdivision on the North End. He stated that they purchased the parcel with the paper roads in it for future development and consideration of the initial site plan.

Chairman Woodard asked Mr. Maloney if they would consider creating a pathway instead of paving the road. Mr. Maloney replied that he could not speak on behalf of the group but would be able to give an answer at a later time.

Mr. Outten explained that the statute dictates that if an individual request that you abandon a public road, the Board has the authority to do so. In this case, the ownership of the road transfers to the two property owners situated on either side. Each owner receives 50% ownership, making it their private property.

#### MOTION

Failed for a lack of a motion.

Vice-Chairman Overman left the room at 11:50 a.m., he returned at 11:53 a.m.

# ITEM 10 - EARLY COLLEGE PREP DESIGN RFQ RECOMMENDATION

Dustin Peele addressed the Board and stated that six responses were received for the RFQ that was advertised in March. The submissions came from various locations including Raleigh, Greensboro, Rocky Mount, Wilmington, and Virginia Beach. After careful evaluation by the staff and discussions with the County Manager and Finance Director, he suggested that the Board should move forward with Oakley Collier Architects as the preferred designer for the Early College Project.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to approve Oakley Collier as the architect for the Early College Project.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

# ITEM 11 - RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF DARE, NC, APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING

# CONTRACT & THE DELIVERY THEREOF & PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN OTHER RELATED MATTERS (Att. #2)

Mr. Clawson addressed the Board and clarified that this Resolution is the last step needed for the Board to approve the bonds that will fund the Manteo Youth Center, Manns Harbor EMS, and Kitty Hawk EMS Station. He explained that the Resolution contains findings of fact regarding the Board's decision to finance these projects and others in the CIP through a Deed of Trust on the Kill Devil Hills EMS Property. He also mentioned that due to Dare County's high bond rating, any leftover funds from these projects can be reallocated to other projects in the CIP if necessary.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner House & Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to adopt the Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Dare, NC, Approving an Amendment to an Installment Financing Contract & the Delivery thereof & Providing for Certain Other Related Matters.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

#### ITEM 12- CONSENT AGENDA

The Manager announced the items as they were visually displayed in the meeting room. He elaborated on Item 5 and explained that the Easement Agreements involve allowing carriers to install towers on some of our properties. He noted that discussions are currently taking place with Matt Hester and the carrier regarding the placement of underground lines leading to these towers. It is anticipated that this issue will be resolved within the next few days. He requested approval from the Board to proceed with the Easements, with the provision of granting him the authority to make changes to the language and sign them without waiting for the next Board meeting. He further explained that Item 10 pertains to a technical task that Mr. Clawson must complete for his bookkeeping needs. This involves transferring funds from one-line item to another.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Bateman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Item 5 as amended.

- 1) Approval of Minutes (03.04.24) (Att. #3)
- 2) Tax Collector's Report
- 3) Advertise 2023 Tax Year Liens
- 4) Operative IQ Licensing Agreement EMS
- 5) Easement Agreements (As Amended)
- 6) Shallow Draft Cost Share Resolutions FY25 (Att. #4)
- 7) Cintas Corporation Facility Services Rental Service Agreement
- 8) Dare County P&R Advisory Board By-Laws Revision
- 9) Budget Amendment Emergency Management Reimbursable Homeland Security Grant Awards
- 10)Budget Amendment Re-establish the Budget for State Affordable Housing Grant in FY 2024
- 11)Budget Amendment American Rescue Plan Fund & the Local Assistance & Tribal Consistency Grant
- 12) DHHS Division of Social Services Energy Programs Budget Amendment
- 13) DHHS Public Health Division Public Health Services Grant

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

# **ITEM 13 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

#### 1) A.B.C. Board

Commissioner Couch motioned to appoint Earl Shearin

VC Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

# 2) Aging Advisory Council for the Albemarle Commission

Commissioner House motioned to appoint Jenna Wienert.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

### 3) Airport Authority

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to appoint Ervin Bateman and Tony Bruno.

Commissioner Basnight and Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

# 4) Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Jamie Koch.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

# 3) Manns Harbor Marina Commission

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Jeff James and Paul Mann, V and to appoint Audra Shackelford.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

**VOTE: AYES unanimous** 

# 5) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for May, June and July, 2024 were announced.

At this time, Chairman Woodard took time to respond to the Public Comments that were previously stated from Mary Ellen Balance, Aida Havel, Brian and Sawyer Harris, Justin Bateman, and Katie Morgan. The Board formed a consensus to send a letter to the Governor and the Army Corps of Engineers in regards to Buxton Beach.

# ITEM 14 – COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS & MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS Following is a brief summary outline of the items mentioned by Commissioners and the

County Manager during this segment:

### County Manager

The Manager asked for a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and 11(a)(5) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the County in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and to approve the minutes of the last Closed Session and 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 in the matter of the Kitty Hawk EMS Station.

# **MOTION**

Commissioner Couch motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes cited by the County Manager.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 12:20 p.m., the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 12:31 p.m. Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes, and gave the County Attorney instructions with regard to the material terms for the action of real property, and took no other action.

# Commissioner Basnight

- Stated that she had the opportunity to attend the Dare County Cooperative Extension Advisory Board Meeting and elaborated on all of the different programs.
- Enjoyed delivering with Meals on Wheels with the Baum Center throughout Colington Harbor.
- Expressed that the State of the Child Conference was enlightening.
- She attended the last Board of Education Meeting and was impressed that they are turning an old bus into a tiny house/moving mobile home in Hatteras.
- Commended Spencer Gregory on how informative he is. She stated that he took her on a tour to show her all of the Public Services Facilities.

### Commissioner House

- Stated that the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council hosted four Mackerel Port Meetings in NC – April 3<sup>rd</sup> was in Hatteras Village and April 4<sup>th</sup> was in the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room.
- Attended the Kitty Hawk Town Council Meeting where they approved the Special Use Permit for the new EMS Station, he announced that the Kitty Hawk Council could not be happier with this project.
- Our Day in History: In 1931 Jackie Mitchell became the first woman to play in the all-male Pro-Baseball league. In 1917 Jeanette Rankin was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and Woodrow Wilson presented the declaration of war against Germany to Congress which started the American Forces into World War I.
- Pet of the Week: Nadja, a two-year-old black domestic shorthair cat is available for adoption at the OBX SPCA.

#### Vice-Chairman Overman

- Applauded the Service Pin recipients and the Employee of Month for January, March, and April.
- Enjoyed volunteering with Meals on Wheels and enjoyed having conversations with the individuals he delivered meals to.
- Expressed that great information was presented at the State of the Child Conference.
- Attended the Southern Shores EMS Ribbon Cutting and had the opportunity to meet with two EMS Employees from Chowan County who both loved the facility.
- Responded to Katie Morgan's Public Comment and stated that he has worked with the Country Manager, Bobby Outten, since October of 2013 and that he is selfless, hardworking, and that any response from him has been factual and legal.

### Commissioner Bateman

- Participated in the Polar Plunge and the event raised over \$50,000 for a great cause.
- Attended the Friends of Jockey's Ridge Dedication and Ribbon Cutting for the Baum Center which had a great turn out.
- Also attended the Buxton Meeting and recognized that there are some upset individuals out there in regards to the old Coast Guard Station. He expressed that he appreciated the efforts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Commissioner Couch, and the County Manager for in Washington D.C. and hopes that a solution is found to alleviate the issue.
- Announced that Jersey Mikes raised \$27,000 for the Outer Banks Relief Foundation.
- He explained that having a County Manager/Attorney is a good business move and he backs the idea as long as he remains on the Board. He also emphasized that this choice was made before any of the current Board members were part of the decision-making process. He then discussed a situation from years ago in the Town of Kitty Hawk and how high the attorney fees were.

### Chairman Woodard

- Echoed Commissioner Bateman's comment and stated that if the county would have had to hire an attorney to work with Coastal Affordable Housing and Woda Cooper the amount of money it would have costed would have been astronomical.
- Stated that the County Manager has an extensive background in Local Government and the county is fortunate to have someone with his knowledge for the amount he's paid.

# **Commissioner Couch**

- Echoed Chairman Woodard's opening comments and discussed the trip to D.C. which included conversations about Oregon Inlet, Hwy 12, Buxton, Dredge Permits, etc.
- Acknowledged the life of Mr. Walton Fulcher (94), Chesley Midgett, and a two-time cancer survivor, Mary.
- Stated that the Chamber of Commerce and the Beach Buggy Association have weighed in on the Buxton Beach issue, and expressed that he appreciates their involvement.
- Shared a story about Tucker Carrol, and explained that he has an extremely rare blood type. A national hospital contacted Mr. Carrol because they had a leukemia patient in need of his blood type. He immediately flew out to the hospital to make a life-saving donation for the patient.
- Congratulated the Employee of the Month Recipients and the Service Pin Recipients.

#### **Dorothy Hester**

- Recognized that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and gave recognition to all of the volunteers that help keep Dare County going.
- Announced that there is a site on the Dare County website that lists volunteer opportunities. <a href="mailto:darenc.gov/volunteer">darenc.gov/volunteer</a>
- Stated that the County Trails Committee would celebrate the Marshall Gussy Collins Trail on April 5<sup>th</sup> at the VTCC.

# Dave Clawson - None

# County Manager

In abundance of caution the County Manager asked for a motion to authorize him to record the Deed to the Kitty Hawk Property for the EMS Station and to execute the lease with the Town of Kitty Hawk to lease back the fire bay that they received as a portion of that project.

MOTION

Steve House motioned to authorize the County Manager to record the Deed to the Kitty Hawk Property for the EMS Station and to execute the lease with the Town of Kitty Hawk to lease back the fire bay.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded.

Vote: AYES unanimous

# ITEM 15 - CLOSED SESSION

This Item was handled during Managers Business in Item 14.

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

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Basnight seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 12:55p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., May 7th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Ву:

Skyler Foley, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

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 of Commissioners at this meeting are on file in the office of the Clerk. Attempts have been made to accurately spell each podium speaker.