



# COUNTY OF DARE, NORTH CAROLINA

District 1: Roanoke Island & Mainland; District 2: Nags Head, Colington, Kill Devil Hills; District 3: Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores, Duck; District 4: Chicamacomico, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Hatteras; District 5: At Large

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are videotaped and can be viewed at [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com)

## MINUTES

### DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

**9:00 a.m., October 2, 2017**

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Vice Chairman Wally Overman  
Jack Shea, Steve House, Rob Ross, Jim Tobin, Danny Couch

Commissioners absent: None

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten  
Deputy County Manager/Finance Director, David Clawson  
Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester  
Clerk to the Board, Gary Lee Gross

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](http://www.darenc.com).

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. He invited Rev. Tom Wilson from All Saints Episcopal Church to share a prayer. Afterward the Chairman called for a moment of silence for the trouble and controversies in the world including the shooting in Las Vegas, Nevada. Chairman Woodard then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### **ITEM 1 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE**

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- He reported on a luncheon he attended with Vice Chairman Overman, Commissioner Ross, and Commissioner Tobin to express appreciation to the staff of the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative thanking them for their tireless efforts to restore power following the construction accident at the new Bonner Bridge.
- The Chairman also commented on a meeting that he attended with Vice Chairman Overman, Commissioner Couch, the County Manager, and representatives from the Village of Avon to discuss short-term and long-term goals to address beach erosion.
- A report was given on the Wine Festival to benefit the Lost Colony production.
- Gratitude was expressed that the Outer Banks did not have a direct hit from Hurricane Maria. The Chairman thanked the public for their patience during the storm. He applauded the Sheriff’s Office, the Park Service, NCDOT, and EMS for the services they provided. He also thanked Commissioner Couch for keeping the Board well informed along with Public Information Officer Dorothy Hester and Emergency Manager Drew Pearson.

A video of the Chairman’s update can be seen on the County website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com).

**ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PIN**

1) Joshua Coltrain, Public Health Division – Environmental Health, received a 10-year pin.

**ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2017**

Debbie Monday received the Employee of the Month award from Brandi Rheubottom who described the many ways that Ms. Monday is an asset to Older Adult Services.

**ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. Citizen remarks can be seen in their entirety on the county website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com). Following is a brief summary –

*The following comments were made in Manteo –*

1. Bea Basnight, Chair of the Roanoke Island Historical Association, thanked the Board of Commissioners and the Visitors Bureau for their support of the recent Wine and Culinary Festival to benefit the Lost Colony theatrical production.

*There were no Public Comments via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton.*

**ITEM 5 – PROCLAMATION – OUTER BANKS MARATHON WEEKEND**

Ray Robinson, Executive Director of Outer Banks Sporting Events (OBSE), thanked Commissioners and Dare County citizens for their support of OBSE events. He announced that OBSE has had a \$50,000,000 impact to Dare County. Mr. Robinson presented a proclamation establishing an Outer Banks Marathon Weekend.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to issue a proclamation designating the second weekend in November as Outer Banks Marathon Weekend on the Outer Banks. Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 6 – OUTER BANKS HOSPITAL – EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Elizabeth Reilly, Dare County Human Resources Director, introduced Mark Browder from Mark III Employee Benefits, Sarah Kershner and Marielle Silk from The Outer Banks Hospital who gave a comprehensive update on the performance of the Employee Wellness Program. Results were given of biometric screenings, in which 92% of County employees participated resulting in a positive impact on employee health. Statistics were also presented about usage of the employee health clinic, which has resulted in a decrease of Emergency Room visits. In an effort to better control health care costs, a recommendation was made to extend the wellness clinic to spouses and eligible retirees and expand the operating hours to 24 per week. Commissioners expressed gratitude for the impressive results that the wellness program has achieved.

**MOTION**

Commissioner House motioned to approve updating the Employee Wellness Clinic contract to include retirees and spouses on the active MedCost insurance plan (under the age of 65) and spouses of current active employees & authorize the County Manager to sign any necessary documents.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 7 – CONSENT AGENDA**

The Manager announced the items as they were visually displayed in the meeting room.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (09.18.17) **(Att. #1)**
- 2) Amend Capital Project Ordinance - Beach Nourishment Project, Kitty Hawk **(Att. #2)**
- 3) Amend Capital Project Ordinance - Scenic Byway Project FY2013 (Wayshowing)**(Att. #3)**
- 4) Agreement for Protection, Development & Improvement of Dare County Forest Land
- 5) Capital Project Ordinance – Salvo Community Cemetery FY2018 **(Att. #4)**
- 6) Budget Amendment for Derivatives Lawsuit Settlement Revenue
- 7) Convenience Center Commingled Recycling Collection Grant
- 8) Budget Amendment – Information Technology/GIS
- 9) Report on Budget Actions for FY2018 CIP **(Att. #5)**
- 10) Tax Collector's Report

Vice Chairman Overman and Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 8 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- 1) Dare County Transportation Advisory Board

Commissioner Shea motioned to appoint Mandy Earnest to fill a vacancy on the Board.  
Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming appointments for November, December and January were announced.

**ITEM 9 – COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS & MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS**

Following is a brief outline of items raised during this segment. Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety on a video archived on the Dare County website [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com).

Commissioner Couch – complimented the community and county government for the way it prepared for the most recent hurricane threat.

Commissioner Shea – thanked the service pin recipient and the Employee of the Month for helping to make Dare County a great place to live, work, and raise a family. He voiced gratitude that Hurricane Maria did not make landfall on the Outer Banks and thanked all those who served during the storm.

Vice Chairman Overman – congratulated the service pin recipient and the Employee of the Month. The Vice Chairman expressed condolences for the victims of the Las Vegas shooting tragedy.

Commissioner House – added his condolences for the victims of Las Vegas shooting. During the recent hurricane evacuation of Hatteras Island Commissioner House said he was shocked to learn that there are many Dare County hotels that do not rent to local residents. He said during evacuations, these businesses should reconsider this absurd policy. Commissioner House noted that the Kitty Hawk beach nourishment project held throughout the recent storm.

Commissioner Ross – voiced thanks for the words of the invocation offered by Rev. Wilson at the start of the meeting. Commissioner Ross reported that the proposal for a new headquarters building for the Albemarle Commission has encountered some problems and alternatives are being explored. He noted that he would like to attend the next meeting of the Outer Banks SPCA Board of Directors. Commissioner Ross added that he enjoyed spending time with the staff of the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative at the recent appreciation luncheon.

Commissioner Tobin – echoed his gratitude for the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative and thanked staff for arranging the luncheon. Commissioner Tobin reported on dangerous shoaling that is occurring at the center span of Oregon inlet and gave an update on plans for dredging. A Proclamation was presented by Commissioner Tobin regarding the Constitutional rights that are guaranteed for residents of long-term care facilities.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea and Vice Chairman Overman motioned to approve a proclamation setting October 2017 as National Long-Term Care Residents' Rights Month.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Chairman Woodard – reported that at the request of Commissioner Shea a letter has been sent to the White House Chief of Staff requesting increased federal assistance. He noted that the agenda for December 18 Commissioners meeting appears to be light and he recommended cancelling the meeting in view of its closeness to the Christmas holiday.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to cancel the December 18, 2017 Commissioners meeting. Commissioner House and Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

## **MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS**

1. The County Manager reported on a major break that occurred to a water pipe on Hatteras Island, which has since been repaired.
2. Mr. Outten briefed the Board on staff efforts to consolidate county operations into as few buildings as possible. He commented on the COA Russell Twiford campus, the old County Administration Building, the Wilkinson Street Building, and the county owned property next to Stan White's building in Nags Head. The Manager outlined possible services and departments that might be moved in a consolidation effort. By consensus, the Board directed staff to move forward with consolidation as outlined.
3. The County Manager presented a request from the Scenic Byways Committee to approve Albemarle & Associates for Construction Management and Engineering Services for the Scenic Byways interpretive signs project.

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Shea & Commissioner House motioned to approve Albemarle & Associates for Construction Management and Engineering as requested.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

4. Mr. Outten raised an issue involving non-county residents participating in activities sponsored by Dare County Parks and Recreation. He said in discussing this with Commissioner House, there is a need for a policy that is fair to participants and Dare County taxpayers. By consensus, the Board encouraged staff to develop a policy for presentation at a future meeting.

Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester, briefed the Board on NCDOT plans for a traffic shift on the eastbound lanes of the Wright Memorial Bridge. She also reported on a group of cyclists that are raising funds by racing across North Carolina who will culminate their trip later this week in Manteo. Ms. Hester showcased a "Transparency Award" that has been received for the beach nourishment updates featured on the Dare County website. She thanked Sara Small for her work coordinating with the municipalities on the "More Beach to Love" informational campaign.

Finance Director, David Clawson, reported that the Insurance Fund has experienced a significant improvement due to the County's Wellness Program.

Chairman Woodard closed the meeting by commenting on the status of beach nourishment projects throughout the County and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

### **MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.


Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

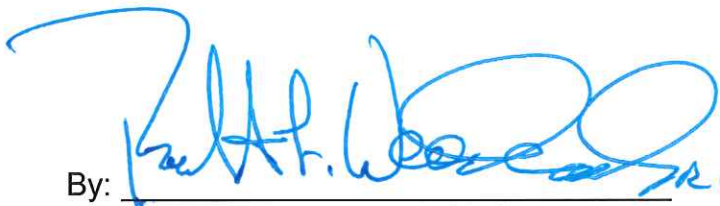
At 10:46 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., October 16, 2017.



Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By:   
Robert Woodard, Chairman  
Dare County Board of Commissioners