



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., July 15, 2019

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, 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
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 5:05 p.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited retired Rev. Craig Peel 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 –

- Omie Tillett, a native of Dare County born in 1929 died July 5. He was renowned for his boat building and fishing skills and had been awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2009. He began every morning with blessing the fleet.
- Clarified that the speed limit on NC 12 had not been altered by the Board, but rather the temporary reduction from 55 mph to 45 mph change had been changed by NCDOT as a summer safety precaution and will return to 55 in September.
- CIPC met on July 8 and tonight David Clawson will present a report on the proposed changes to the 2020 CIP.
- Attended the 20 year anniversary commemorating the moving of Hatteras lighthouse
- Provided an update on the COA scholarship fund, construction project and interim president’s assistance with the project.
- Acknowledged that Katherine Schuster, who attends First Flight High School, has won the 23rd North Carolina Junior Girls’ Golf Championship and that other Dare County students like her are raising the bar and setting examples for the younger Dare students.
- Roanoke Island flooding study is coming to a close.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) ~~Amy Elkins, Communications, received a 10-year pin.~~ (Was not present)
- 2) Sarah Bradshaw, Social Service Worker IV with the DHHS, received her 10-year pin presented by Sally Helms.

ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – JULY, 2019

Randy Grantham received the Employee of the Month award from Pat Irwin, Public Utility Director, who described the many ways that Randy is an asset to the Stumpy Point Reverse Osmosis Water Plant. His dedication takes him above and beyond the call of duty, as he works outside his job description and always has a kind word for area customers.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:35 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. Colleen Shriver spoke with reference to the property owners of Carolina Pines West, a non-state maintained road, and their concerns arising from a new subdivision whereby the developer will access by way Carolina Pines West.

The following comments were made in Buxton –

1. Wes Lassiter, owner of Red Drum Pottery, expressed concerns that his art business and other business owners near him were experiencing declines believed to be due to the various farmers' markets, shows and others that sold roadside crafts. He suggested limiting the number of shows and/or regulating them.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 5:42 p.m.

ITEM 5 – AIRPORT MODERNIZATION REPORT

Brent Lane from Aerogency Strategies provided an encore presentation of his Economic Impact Assessment report regarding the Dare County Regional Airport, which had been provided at the June 3, 2019 Board meeting. In comparing DC Regional with other like kind airports, Mr. Lane stressed that an expansion of the airport from 4,300 feet to approximately 5,800 feet would affect the long term benefits to encourage a 50% projected growth of employment and business interests, who take advantage of the flight opportunities.

He reiterated that it is not the number of flights that come in and out of an airport, but rather the types of flights to contribute to a high-end tourism interest along with the benefits of connectivity to global and national customers. The jobs created from a larger airport would be approximately nine, but the larger impact would be the contribution to job growth from the larger spending and buying of supplies and airport affiliated businesses.

Mr. Lane offered that the airport had a 1970's infrastructure and was ill-suited for newer types of aircraft and innovations in the industry. He provided a graph to review Dare's "Prime Working Age" population, which reflected a continuing decline. He continued to offer that one of the issues considered when relocating to any new area was the accessibility to commercial air service. David Daniels, Director of the Dare County Airport, addressed the questions of the Commissioners concerning airport closure during expansion and explained there would be times it would be closed, thus impacting the UPS and Fed X customer base, and the possibility of a combination of both land and floating extension in order to accomplish the proposed expansion.

ITEM 6 – RECOMMENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FOR 2020 - 2024

David Clawson, Finance Director, provided a power point presentation on the Capital Improvements Plan for 2020 through 2024. His summary included an explanation that the Capital Investment Fund ("CIF") Model was complete except for the debt and ratings metrics section. He offered explanation of the model which included roof replacement plans for 24 County buildings, replacement of HVAC systems for 23 buildings with EMS stations to have those same areas of concerns addressed with the 2022 up-coming projects. Additionally, the model allowed for major equipment replacements to include law enforcement and EMS communication systems, cardiac monitors and mobile data computers along with the Dare Medflight maintenance, overhaul and replacement schedules. Mr. Clawson explained each enumerated item on the Existing Requests totaling \$11,914,818 and the New Requests totaling \$1,455,583.

MOTION

Commissioners Bateman, Ross and Vice Chairman Overman motioned to approve the recommended CIP Plan for 2020-2024 and to authorize the County Manager to sign the necessary budget amendments with a follow-up report to the Board of those budget actions. Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

County Manager Outten added the funding would also allow the demolition of the old administrative building site projected to move forward in mid-August.

ITEM 7 – COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE ARCHITECT (Att. # 1)

David Clawson, Finance Director, provided a summary and update of the College of the Albemarle Project. On June 17, 2019 the Board had approved Boomerang Design as the architect and now Boomerang had provided their proposed construction estimates with two options. CIPC met on July 8 and voted to recommend a modified option which would provide for a 26,000 ft² new building (including campus administration, library, at an estimated cost of \$9,126,260).

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to approve the Boomerang Design contract for a 26,000 ft new building with any review changes the County Manager deems necessary, and to authorize the County Manager to execute the contract, and to approve the amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for the COA project and the 2020 limited obligation bonds. Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – SELECTION OF CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK FOR ANIMAL SHELTER PROJECT

David Clawson presented to the Board that the CIPC had met on July 8 and reviewed the statements of qualifications for a construction manager at risk for the Animal Shelter Project. The two responses received were from A. R. Chesson Construction Co., based in Williamston, and The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company from Chesapeake, and indicated the Committee felt both companies would be good choices for CMR. The CIPC recommends The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company as CMR for this project.

MOTION

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to award the Construction Manager at Risk for the Animal Shelter project per the CIPC recommendation to The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company and to authorize the County Manager to negotiate a contract for Board approval.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – RODANTHE CHANNEL – TRANSFER OF FUNDS

County Manager, Robert Outten, presented information about the Rodanthe Channel and the emergency ferry system that runs from Stumpy Point across the Sound into Rodanthe. Land owned by Dare County had been staked to build a ferry terminal with a federal channel that allows the ferries to come through when storms cause the road to become impassable. He further explained that every hurricane season this channel was tested and it had been determined there is some dredging to be done in order to bring the channel to proper depths for the emergency ferry to operate through the channel. The Corps can procure a dredge from Norfolk in early August to do some dredge work and Dare County has a spoil site near the Recycle Center in proximity to the area. As locating funding for the project had been difficult, the County Manager outlined there was \$1.9 million not spent from last year's funds, \$600,000 of which is Dare County's and the balance was State MOA money. Mr. Outten requested to be authorized to take the cost of the dredging, \$324,000, out of the Oregon Inlet Dredging Account and move it to the Rodanthe Dredging Account. The Corps currently has these funds but would need to have them authorized to be used for Rodanthe Channel dredging with the spoil properly disposed of in order to protect Hwy. 12. Commissioner House continues in his efforts to have the State pay for this work through his contacts in the Senate. Commissioner House added the emergency ferry channel is an issue we cannot wait to act upon and we should take every proactive effort to have the channel ready for an emergency in order to protect our citizens on Hatteras Island.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to authorize the transfer of excess funds from the Oregon Inlet Dredging Account to the Rodanthe Channel Account for the purpose of dredging the Rodanthe Channel for the emergency ferry service.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION

Vice Chairman Wally Overman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (06.17.19) **(Att. # 2)**
- 2) Annual Community Rating Reports (CRS)
- 3) Reimbursement Resolution – Fiscal year 2019-2020 Vehicle & Equipment Financing **(Att. # 3)**
- 4) Tax Collector's Report
- 5) DC DHHS Public Health Division, Agreement with United Healthcare of North Carolina, Inc.
- 6) DC DHHS Public Health Division, Agreement with AmeriHealth Caritas North Carolina, Inc.
- 7) DC DHHS Public Health Division, Agreement with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, Inc.
- 8) DC DHHS Public Health Division, Agreement with WellCare Health Plans, Inc.
- 9) Health and Human Services – Public Health Division Breaking Through Task Force Grant
- 10) Dept. of Health and Human Services – Public Health Division Increase Fees for Grant Position
- 11) Health and Human Services – Public Health Division Diabetes Prevention Program Grant

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Airport Authority

Vice Chairman Wally Overman motioned to reappoint George Henderson, Joseph Blakaitis and to appoint Walton "Pete" Burkheimer, Jr. and Jonathan Chad Jones.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Dare County Waterways Commission

Commissioner Couch motioned to appoint Kermit Skinner, Jr. to replace Fletcher Willey. Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) East Lake Community Center Board

Vice Chairman Wally Overman motioned to reappoint Crystal Basnight and Shelly Perrot. Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

4) Game and Wildlife Commission

Commissioner Bateman motioned to reappoint Timmy Midgett, Mike Johnson and Edward "Bow" Meekins.

Vice Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

5) Parks and Recreation Advisory Council

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint Deon Simmons.
Commissioner House seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

6) Wanchese Community Center Board

Vice Chairman Wally Overman motioned to reappoint Tina Sherrod, Bill Wilson, Sally DeFosse, Becky Beacham and Joseph Lee Willis.
Commissioner House seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

7) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for August, September and October, 2019 were announced.

ITEM 12 – 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:

Chairman Woodard recommended Colleen Shriver, who spoke earlier at public comments, be provided some additional assistance. County Manager recommended Clerk to provide her with the documentation necessary to begin the NCDOT Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System, adding that he would gladly discuss her other concerns with her and the Planning Department.

MOTION

Commissioner Ross, Commissioner House and Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to authorize the Resolution that the Division of Highways be requested to review the paperwork for Carolina Pines West to be added to the State Road Maintenance System.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner House

- Updated the Board on the status of HB 483 “Let Them Spawn Bill”, which had now been passed by the House and was moving on to the Senate for approval
- Acknowledged the 20th of July would be the anniversary of when Apollo made the first moon landing
- Presented the video for Pet of the Week, “Sasha”, a mixed breed 10 years old

Commissioner Wally Overman

- Congratulated the Dare County student athletes who recently received awards
- Thanked the Community Foundation for their continued scholarships and the money their raise for our students
- Congratulated those awarded service pins this month and the employee of the month, Randy Grantham
- Commented he had been told HB 483 was believed stuck in the Senate Committee and would not likely come up again until the short session in 2020

Commissioner Bateman

- Applauded the new passenger ferry in Ocracoke. The operation was very impressive
- Updated the Board on the progress with the Recovery Board meetings with 10 applicants now in the system and a couple had been sent to recovery treatment centers as the system follows their progress
- Expressed concern with the two bike lanes on the new bridge and discussed the need for rumble strips or other measures to ensure citizen safety. County Manager added that he would contact NCDOT to explore remedies to the bike lane concerns.

Commissioner Couch

- Remembered the accomplishments and memories of both Capt. Omie Tillett and Bertha Kaye O'Neal who had recently died
- Attended the christening in Norfolk of the Cutter Midgett
- Thanked Fletcher Willey for his service to the Waterways Commission
- Acknowledged the firm but fair handling and enforcement of the issues arising from inspections of restaurants and food trucks by the Environmental Health Specialists.
- Thanked the Dare County Planning staff for their continued dealings with assorted Airbnb issues
- Attended the Community Rating System and was pleased with the turnout

Commissioner Tobin

- Attended the Friends of Youth fishing trip. He thanked and commended Bonnie Bennett, soon retiring, for her long-time efforts to benefit Dare County youth.
- Attended Community Advisory Council for Peak Resources and Spring Arbor and noted that amount the issues discussed staffing was still a challenge. The Council also had a member resign for health issues and were looking for a replacement.
- He also had attended the Oregon Inlet Task Force meeting and announced all of the contracts were signed and completed with the state and the first payment of \$5 million was deposited. The contract was signed with the private partner and they were working on the preliminary design and expected a final design in approximately four and half months.
- Fondly remembered the passing of Capt. Omie Tillett

Commissioner Ross

- Reported that on August 8 he would be attending the DC IGA Conference with the County Manager, Vice Chairman Overman and Commissioner Couch and was looking forward to having some discussions on several topics that were critical to our area
- Advised the Albemarle Commission would meet July 18 with Senator Hanig Steinburg attending
- Audit Committee met earlier today and he was very satisfied with the progress made by the newly hired Internal Auditor, Ernie Dabiero
- The Albemarle Commission had a "revolving loan program" which had become problematic and they would be exiting that plan.
- He would be reaching out to Suma Gupta regarding housing issues.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

Mr. Outten stated he had received several inquiries from various officials in the region asking about Dare County's position on the Inner Ferry concluding the County had not yet received any additional information to yet form a position.

Mr. Outten further discussed that there were other inlets and channels that from time to time needed intermittent dredging. There were several spoil sites used for those projects that were now either full or about to be full. Some planning would be needed to insure those sites remain open. Ken Wilson, of Coastal Planning, would be asked to give some additional information and afterward the County Manager would provide the Board with more data and recommendations for funding.

He noted several contracts were approved by the Board under the Consent Agenda for health care services. EMS would also have some like-kind contracts for approval and signature. He recommended the Board could authorize the County Manager to approve and sign those Emergency Medical Services state-negotiated contracts.

MOTION

Commissioner Ross motioned to authorize the County Manager to review, approve and sign the upcoming Emergency Medical Services state-negotiated contracts.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Mr. Outten updated that Drew Pearson, at the Emergency Operations Center, had the new re-entry pass on-line program available and residents could now go online to download and print their passes without delay. Chairman Woodard added there would also be a Control Group Meeting on July 29 to bring the mayors in to begin pre-planning for weather issues.

Dorothy Hester, Public Information Officer, noted the Emergency Notifications subscribers had also received an email today advising them of the availability of the re-entry program. She also mentioned a new segment called "On the Job with Rich Coleman" was being developed to highlight various services offered in the County by interviewing them while riding in a vehicle with Mr. Coleman. (Due to technical difficulties, the sample video would be shared at another meeting.)

David Clawson, Finance Director, advised that they had had the kick-off meeting with the architect for the Health and Human Services last week.

County Manager instructed the Board that pursuant to the provisions of NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) he needed a motion to go into Closed Session 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 by purchase, option, exchange or lease for the matter of property located at 1042 Wescott Park Road and 1036 George Daniels Road, both owned by the Drake heirs.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(5).

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 7:49 p.m. the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 7:53 p.m. and Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes and gave the County Attorney guidance with regard to a real estate matter and took no other action.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 8:03 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., August 5, 2019.



Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED:

By: *Robert Woodard*
Robert Woodard, 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 to the Board.