



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., September 3, 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
Assistant Finance Director, Sally DeFosse
Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester
Clerk to the Board, Cheryl 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 9:01 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. Cherrie Wheeler 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:

Chairman Woodard reminded everyone that hurricane Dorian was a huge storm which continues to pound the Bahamas. Dare County Control Group met yesterday and with information gathered from numerous weather sources wanted to ensure the safety of our visitors and citizens with the declaration of a State of Emergency. County Manager Outten added the County offices would remain open until noon tomorrow to allow employees time to secure their homes. Currently the mandatory evacuation order for residents would be in effect beginning 6:00 am, September 4. He encouraged everyone to follow instructions for the re-entry system available online.

ITEM 2 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Jami Brown, received a 10-year pin presented by Elizabeth Reilly.
- 2) Daniel McCallum received a 15-year pin presented by Jennie Collins.

ITEM 3 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – September, 2019

James DeGroff received the Employee of the Month award from Chief Jennie Collins. Mr. DeGroff, a relatively new member to the EMT Department since 2015, is always willing to step up and offers to help out his fellow team members and always demonstrates professionalism. He has a high level of compassion for his patients and co-workers and is self-motivated with an upbeat attitude.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 9:24 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 can be viewed in their entirety in a video on the County website:

The following comments were made in Manteo:

1. Manny Medeiros, Jr. followed up his earlier concerns over the Dare County School program referred to as "Dare 2023". He expressed dissatisfaction with the program's outline to include a lack of commitment to mastery of language or proficiency in mathematics and felt the 18 page overview of the program consisted of "fluff, filler and photos". He requested that the Board spend time to review the program themselves as our children do not get a second chance at their education.
2. Kelly Harmon presented the Board with details concerning a North Carolina Department of Military Affairs Veterans Claims Clinic event she has been organizing to help area veterans with an opportunity to have their claims evaluated in person. This event could bring over 1,000 people from neighboring states for an opportunity to review their claims. She has begun coordination efforts with Bea Basnight for school location, the Sheriff and others for man-power support. The event would likely be scheduled in the beginning of January, when schools are closed and the tourist season has slowed. The Board discussed the possible support and partnerships with local restaurants and motels during the event and thanked Kelly for her continued efforts to benefit our area veterans.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to support the Veterans Claim Clinic and provide an initial \$500.00 as additional assistance with refreshments for veterans in attendance from the contingency account.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

The following comments were made in Buxton:

1. Bob Davis commented on the public beach access restrictions to the national seashore which have been imposed to protect the life cycle of the piping plover. The Audubon Society had indicated the protection of the birds from humans would provide the birds with the ability to successfully nest, as they are considered an endangered or threatened species. With the implementation of protection efforts for the birds for over fifteen years he feels there has been no increase in their population. He asked that the Board reopen the beach access areas.

2. Barbara Ackley from Buxton commented that her enjoyment of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area has been curtailed due the access restrictions imposed. Her health problems and her age prevent her from enjoying the Hatteras Inlet and Ocracoke side closed to vehicle traffic.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 10:01 a.m.

ITEM 5 – PROCLAMATION – SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS – CHALK TALK

Dr. Sheila F. Davies, on behalf of the Health Department and in coordination with the Breaking Through Taskforce and the Adult Mental Health Collaborative presented a proclamation notice recognizing September as Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. As part of the project, inspirational and kind words would be placed on sidewalks and pavement areas with chalk messages to spread additional hope and encouragement to the many suffering with mental health issues and stigma associated with the public issue of suicide. In October there would be a slideshow presentation of the many messages spread throughout the County to support this issue.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to issue the Proclamation for Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – PROCLAMATION – CONSTITUTION WEEK

Betty Corbin, on behalf of the Virginia Dare Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), presented a proclamation commemorating the anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States. The Chapter won the state award for best broadcast coverage last year as a result of their 2018 proclamation. Sept 17 through 23 is Constitution Week, which was first observed on July 23, 1956 by President Dwight E. Eisenhower. Mrs. Corbin added the constitution was a living document that ensured the freedoms we all appreciate.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to issue the Constitution Week Proclamation.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – SOUTH FERRY CHANNEL DREDGE EVENT OCTOBER 2019

Brent Johnson, Grant Waterways and Project Manager, provided the Board with the survey completed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in July 2019 along with the graph calculating the one quarter required to be paid by the County to \$86,925.00 for the South Ferry Channel dredging effort scheduled for October, 2019.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve funding for South Ferry Channel dredge event in October 2019 at a total amount of \$86,925.00.

Commissioners Bateman and Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – 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 (08.19.19) **(Att. # 1)**
- 2) 2020 Census Resolution **(Att. #2)**
- 3) Request for Addition to State Maintained Secondary Road System – Maid Marian Court **(Att.# 3)**

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Nursing Home Community Advisory Council

Commissioner Tobin motioned to reappoint Mary F. Pendill and Pamela “Susie” Walters.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for October, November and December, 2019 were announced. Commissioner Ross noted a correction in the December upcoming appointments for the Albemarle Commission may be needed due to a rewrite of their bylaws to reestablish their term cycle, which would result in no December vacancy.

ITEM 10 – 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:

Commissioner Ross noted the storm preparations and warnings should be taken seriously. He attended the convocation ceremony to launch the 2019/20 new school year and said it was an inspiring and outstanding event.

Commissioner House would be looking into the economic impact the recent changes with fisheries would have for Dare County and anticipated devastating losses to the area. He encouraged everyone to take heed to the evacuation orders for this serious storm.

Vice-Chairman Overman thanked and recognized the Employee of the Month and service pin recipients. He also enjoyed the creativity with the “tarp wave” and friendly competition shown during the school convocation kickoff with the popular “Farrelly” awards. He continued the warning to residents regarding hurricane Dorian with a quote: “Hide from the wind and run from the water” and be safe.

Commissioner Bateman attended the school convocation noting the creativity with the skateboard and tarp wave was spectacular with impressive singing and acting. He warned citizens to use common sense with their decisions regarding the approaching hurricane and to take heed of the warnings presented.

Commissioner Couch reminded there would probably be much water in the sound. Hatteras did not have a lot of protection and we should not be complacent with this storm as it continues to move northward.

Commissioner Tobin attended the dedication of a plaque at Fort Raleigh for Joachim Gans, a Czech mineralist and the first scientist and Jewish person to set foot here with Sir Walter Raleigh in the New World to set up a lab. He reminded everyone to continue with prayers for Freeport, the Bahamas and the marinas that sustained damages from the storm, along with the tragic deaths from a boating fire in California.

Chairman Woodard reminded everyone there would be a Control Group meeting at 1:00 p.m. this afternoon and the public information office would provide updates at www.readync.org for tips and information.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

County Manager presented the Spatialest Software and Services Agreement which is a pictometry software program used by the tax office. It is a renewal of a multi-year contract which had been reviewed by staff and the County Manager.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to approve the Spatialest Software and Services Agreement with any review changes the County Manager deems necessary and to authorize the County Manager to execute the final agreement.

Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioners Couch and Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

County Manager provided an update that the GIS department was continuing work on an inventory of all the property owned by Dare County and should have a spread sheet soon to present to the staff in order to review and discuss future plans for any excess properties.

Chairman Woodard returned to the Consent Agenda item concerning the road approval for Maid Marian noting he had understood The Dogwoods should be added to the resolution approval. County Manager confirmed NCDOT had been requested to consider the inclusion of the omitted section of The Dogwoods West and clarified another petition would need to be provided in order to complete the addition of that portion of road. Ken Barnes, representative of the subdivision residents, will continue work with NCDOT to have The Dogwoods West added with a supplemental request.

Dorothy Hester, as Public Relations Director, followed up with confirmation of the Emergency Operations Center gearing up with all the agencies working and they would be updating the website with bulletins as they come available. She reminded everyone to not look at the category of the storm but to be mindful of the potential for flooding.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 10:35 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., September, 16, 2019.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____

Cheryl C. Anby
Cheryl C. Anby, Clerk to the Board

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.