



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., December 2, 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
Master 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.

Chairman Woodard called the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given to order at 9:00 a.m. He invited Rev. Keith Day to share a prayer and afterward led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ITEM 1 – HOLIDAY MUSIC: FIRST FLIGHT HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR

The First Flight High School Choir, under the direction of John Buford, performed several musical selections and passed out candy canes as a gift of holiday music which was enjoyed by everyone at the meeting.

ITEM 2 – ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN (Att. #1)

Cheryl C. Anby, Clerk to the Board, conducted the election. She explained that no second would be necessary for a nomination and four votes would be required to win the election.

NOMINATION

Commissioner Bateman nominated Commissioner Woodard for Chairman.
There were no other nominations.

VOTE: AYES – six votes by a show of hands.

Commissioner Woodard was elected Chairman by unanimous vote.

ITEM 3 – ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (Att. #2)

Chairman Woodard conducted the election of Vice Chairman.

NOMINATION

Commissioner Ross nominated Commissioner Overman for Vice Chairman.
There were no other nominations.

VOTE: AYES - six votes by a show of hands.

Commissioner Overman was elected Vice Chairman by unanimous vote.

ITEM 4 – 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:

He presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Beasley Family of Collington, in recognition of their forty-eight years of commitment to the commercial fishing industry and heritage in the Outer Banks, as well as for their service to the citizens of Dare County with Billy’s Seafood. Billy and Judy Beasley have continued to put healthy Outer Banks seafood on tables since 1971.

ITEM 5 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS - DECEMBER

- 1) Wilma Parks received a 20-year pin from Sally Laws

ITEM 6 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – DECEMBER, 2019

Jodi Wyant, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, received the Employee of the Month award from Debbie Dutton who described her as someone who remains consistent in her demeanor while she directs her staff with inspiration and support. She relates praise and empathy while she provides encouragement to her team. As a Dare County employee for sixteen years, she demonstrates a true passion for school health and is a wonderful role model.

ITEM 7 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 9:25 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. Jesse Davis, a Manteo resident, spoke to advocate for the development of mountain bike trails in Dare County. He provided a proposal of four possible locations for the trails: the Bowsertown lot, near the water treatment plant in Manteo, as well as two parcels owned by Dare County: the old landfill/water tower site and the California boat launch. He explained these types of trails utilize a small space, are relatively inexpensive and would be an added amenity to the area’s residents and visitors.
2. Shannon Brooks, on behalf the North Carolina Cooperative Extension office, thanked the Board for their approval of the budgeted line item which will allow them to purchase a new van for use by 4-H Youth Development and other County youth activities.
3. Doug Brindley asked for the Board’s support as a new representative from the Outer Banks Association of Realtors to be considered for appointment to the Tourism Board in January. He explained he has thirty years of experience in rentals and it ready to help Dare County “put heads in beds”.

There were no comments made in Buxton:

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 9:41 a.m.

ITEM 8 – DARE COUNTY MOTORCYCLE TOY RUN

Terry Gray, Shane Baum, Sam Ballard and other members of the Dare County Motor Sports Charity Group, presented an annual report and noted recent partnerships had made the events successful. They thanked their sponsors and supporters, which included Jonny Waters for their theme song, Garage Band Charities and Vertigo Tattoo. They announced the CAT 5 Jeepers had recently partnered with them to increase exposure and success for their fund-raising events. Their collected funds should total more than \$42,000.00 in 2019, which would be a 300% increase from their first year's efforts. The group also offers three scholarships. The Toy Run had 119 bikes this past year with 42 Jeeps. Appreciation awards were presented to Dare County Sheriff's office for their continued support. The group also donated \$16,500.00 to Dare Services.

ITEM 9 – CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to Dare County for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) by the Government Financial Officers Association of the United States and Canada. The County has received this award for twenty-eight consecutive years. Finance Director, David Clawson, accepted the plaque on behalf of the County. Sally DeFosse, Assistant Finance Director, primarily responsible for preparation of the award-winning CAFR, was absent from the presentation.

ITEM 10 – REPORT ON THE MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Superintendent David Alberg, gave the Board an update on the activity at the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. A 1975 National Marine Fisheries regulation prohibiting all types of fishing within the sanctuary should soon be repealed in the spring or early summer, as it was outdated and served no purpose. Bottom trawling restrictions would remain. On August 12-26, 2020 there would be a live broadcast from the Monitor wreck site and a few World War II sites. The public would be able to access the information from the internet, libraries, aquariums, and other venues to make these historical sites interactively accessible to everyone. The Sanctuary continues to work with Clay Tideman and Cape Hatteras principal, Beth Rook, with their school-wide recycling program. On Veterans Day, NOAA dedicated the first national marine sanctuary to be created in twenty years at Mallows Bay in the Potomac. The eighteen square mile area, known as the "ghost fleet", had 100 World War I vessels now sunk which provided an amazing kayaking area and created an ecosystem unique to the country.

ITEM 11 – DC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION, PRESENTATION OF THE 2019 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Dr. Sheila Davies, together with Kelly Nettnin, Public Information Officer, provided the highlights from the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment. Ms. Nettnin explained the methodology behind what went into the assessment, such as primary data (what they heard from residents and focus groups) and secondary data from the CDC and NC Center for Health Statistics. This provided information for identifying health priorities. Ms. Nettnin reviewed demographics for the County, which included birth rate, education, as well as race. Based upon current information, priorities for the County are mental health, substance abuse and transportation issues. Along with prevention and the further need for education in these areas, she reported that 17.2% of Dare County residents report overcrowding, high housing

costs and lacking kitchen or plumbing facilities to be problematic. Healthy Carolinians of the Outer Banks have organized several task forces to address these watch list concerns, as they continue to update strategies, increase public awareness and chart the course for a healthy community. Commissioner Ross asked about how to get “upstream” on substance abuse; and Dr. Davies and Ms. Nettnin explained there were new initiatives being launched in schools to curb this multi-faceted problem and the stigma associated with substance abuse.

ITEM 12 – DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD REQUEST CONSENT EXPENDITURE FROM SHORT TERM UNAPPROPRIATED LINE ITEM 4999 (Att. # 3)

Mr. Nettles, from the County’s Tourism Board, requested the Board approve the award of \$851,002.00 to Chicamacomico Historical Assoc.-(\$48,000.00), Dare County Arts Council-(\$90,950.00), Frisco Native American Museum-(\$25,750.00), Town of Duck- (\$147,806.00) for pedestrian improvements, the Town of Kill Devil Hills-(\$55,618.00) for Phase II sidewalks/paths, the Town of Manteo-(\$221,885.00) for Phase 1 parking and park area and the Town of Southern Shores-(\$260,993.00) for 5-foot path along South Dogwood Trail.

MOTION

Commissioner Ross motioned to consent to the expenditures totaling \$851,002.00 for Tourism Impact Grant Awards from the Short Term Unappropriated Line Item 4999.

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 13 – TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE HIGHWAY 345 ZONING DISTRICT, (Att. #4)

Noah Gillam, Asst. Planning Director, provided the background for the request originated by Dare Pits, LLC to amend the Highway 345 Zoning District to allow for commercial storage yards as a permitted use. The Dare Pits property was previously used as a site for temporary construction offices and storage for the contractors during bridge replacement. The Dare County Planning Board reviewed the text amendment at their November 2019 meeting and found the proposed amendment to be consistent with the 2009 Dare County Land Use Plan and recommend a public hearing be scheduled for the December 16, 2019 Board meeting.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to schedule a Public Hearing on December 16, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. on this item.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 14 – ADOPTION OF THE 2020 SCHEDULES, STANDARDS, AND RULES FOR REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL, (Att. #5)

The Schedules, Standards, and Rules for Real Property Appraisal to be used for the 2020 countywide property revaluation effective January 1, 2020 were submitted to the Board on November 4, 2019; and a Public Hearing was held on November 18, 2019. The Schedules are open for examination at the following locations: Dare County Justice Center, The Fessenden Center and online at www.darenc.com.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to adopt the 2020 Schedules, Standards, and Rules for Real Property Appraisal.

Commissioner Tobin and House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 15 – CONSENT AGENDA

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

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (11.18.19) **(Att. # 6)**
- 2) Budget Amendment for Beach Nourishment Fund
- 3) Water Department Budget Amendment
- 4) Worxtime Contract
- 5) Road Request – Sherwood Drive, Manteo **(Att. #7)**

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

The County Manager explained NCDOT, under a new ruling, has begun requiring all resolutions over a year old be re-adopted, as some roads had taken longer to become eligible under their program.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to allow the Clerk to provide re-adopted resolutions to NCDOT, as requested from time to time by their office.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

RECESS at 10:34 a.m. – RECONVENE at 10:41 a.m.

ITEM 16 – PRESENTATION OF FY2019 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AUDIT REPORT)

Finance Director, David Clawson, advised the CAFR had been sent to the State Treasurer's office. Bob Taylor, Partner with Potter & Company, provided highlights of their independent auditor's report which presented no exceptions. He noted in the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the benchmark for the County's unassigned fund balance (equity) was 27% which exceeded the target of 19-21%. The self-insurance fund currently reflected no deficit and Mr. Clawson later explained it had made another year's improvement to \$1.4 million. In conclusion he explained there were reconciliation statements within the CAFR that convert from the budget base (the traditional fund balance) to the full accrual to show the County's financial position. Mr. Clawson continued the presentation and noted the County had received over \$4.7 million in Federal awards and over \$1.2 million in State awards. Revenues from occupancy taxes, local and state taxes along with land transfer taxes increased, while factoring in a week of Hurricane Florence losses. Personal property and motor vehicle values also increased. The receipt of Tyrrell and Hyde County's E911 fund balances (as part of the regional consolidation) produced a total balance in the E911 fund of \$1,134,435. The NC 911 Board policy would recalculate additional E911 operating funds once the balance is reduced to a 20% of operational revenue. Mr. Clawson also reported the debt service percent of expenditures was down to an improved 15.52%, which rating agencies review. The County Manager added the excellent report was certainly a proud result of the hard-working efforts of the Finance Department's staff. He also mentioned the importance of the bond ratings but emphasized the positive feedback from the review of the financial experts who confirm Dare County's financial picture is positive.

ITEM 17 – CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK CONTRACT FOR DHHS PROJECT

County Manager presented the contract awarded to AR Chesson Construction Company, as construction manager at risk, for the Department of Health and Human Services project.

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to approve the AR Chesson Construction Co. as the construction manager at risk for the Department of Health and Human Services project.

Commissioner House and Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 18 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Board of Equalization and Review

Commissioner Couch motioned to reappoint Nelson V. “Skip” Jones, Jonathan Waddill, Jeffrey Scott, Terry Gore and Charles Evans for another term.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Special Motor Vehicle Valuation Review Board

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Danny Couch, Dock Sawyer and David Light for another term.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for January, February and March, 2020 were announced.

ITEM 19 – 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 House

- Thanked the Board for their support and recognition of the Beasley family.
- He noted today in history that Henry Ford officially introduced the Model A.

Vice-Chairman Overman

- He offered congratulations to Wilma Parks on receiving her twenty-year service pin and to Jodi Wyant on being awarded the Employee of the month for December.

Commissioner Bateman

- Thanked the Liberty Christian Church for serving more than 1200 meals, as well as going to Ocracoke to cook turkeys for the residents there
- Reminder that this Friday would be “Room at the Inn” at Sugar Creek. This fund raiser benefits and supports the Outer Banks homeless.
- Acknowledged the Beasley family who has shipped area seafood everywhere in spite of difficulties and struggles.
- Enjoyed Thanksgiving while bringing meals to area EMS stations, fire departments and to many who were working during the holiday.

Commissioner Couch

- Congratulated Billy's Seafood as a successful small business. The Beasleys helped him learn the attention to details were important to a successful business.
- Acknowledged the last week of fishing in Hatteras was good with favorable weather.
- Noted his encouragement and appreciation in the County's continued efforts to improve public relation communications concerning the area's flooding issues.

Commissioner Tobin

- Performed a tour of Spring Harbor and Peak Resources with Bonnie Bennett. This was her last step prior to consideration for appointment to the Nursing Home Community Advisory Council. Her recommendation for appointment could be expected later this month.
- A recent conference call meeting on the dredge design changes went well. The Oregon Inlet Task Force met, reviewed and approved a resolution regarding the vessel's proprietary plans, which would go to the Task Force for final approval. The bidding process could begin soon with the delivery of a completed dredge anticipated in 2022.

Commissioner Ross

- He would be attending the Tourism Board Task Force meeting to begin discussions on the event site in Nags Head.
- Reported and reminded that although a Medicaid transformation was taking place statewide, in North Carolina it had been stopped due to the budget stalemate with the state legislature and governor.
- Referenced the Dare County Community Health Needs Assessment and asked the County Manager if more could be done concerning the underlying causes for an 85% increase in the County's suicide rate since the last assessment.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

No additional business was presented by the County Manager.

Dorothy Hester: Reminded the Board the Governor's Volunteer Service Award was accepting nominations through January 8, 2020. Nominees could be individuals, a business, group or a paid director of volunteers to recognize their contribution to the community.

David Clawson: Reminded the Board he would be meeting with FEMA to review the survey on the Buxton beach nourishment.

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

MOTION

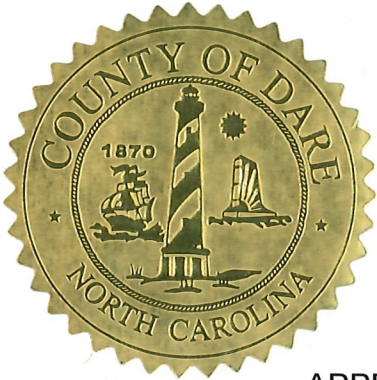
Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 11:40 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., December 16, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



APPROVED:

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

By: *Robert H. Woodard, Sr.*
Robert Woodard, Sr., Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners

Note: Copies of attachments (Att.), 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. Some agenda items were handled out of sequential order to accommodate the time specific for presentations. Attempts have been made to accurately reflect the spelling of each name as spoken at the podium or based on the legibility of the sign-in sheet.