



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., March 16, 2020

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., Vice Chairman Wally Overman, Rob Ross, Steve House, Danny Couch and Ervin Bateman

Commissioners absent: Jim Tobin

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 C. Anby

A full and complete account of the entire Board of Commissioners meeting is archived on a video available for viewing on the Dare County website www.darenc.com.

At 5:00 p.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited George Lurie 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 provided an update on the activation of the Control Group, which was typically used during storm situations. The Control Group, activated today at 8:00 a.m., consisted of: six local mayors, Commissioner Danny Couch (representing Hatteras Island), Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., Superintendent Hallac, County Sheriff, County Manager/Attorney, and the Director of Health & Human Services. He shared the updated figures of the virus as of 8:00 a.m. Worldwide cases totaled 169,000 with 6,513 deaths. The virus had been found in 49 states with 3,602 cases in U.S., 66 deaths, 32 cases reported in North Carolina, no deaths and no cases in Dare County. The CDC ordered no more than fifty should gather in a group with no more than ten who are in the high risk bracket or over the age of sixty-five. All non-essential travel should be avoided. This afternoon the President had reduced the gathering recommendation to ten. A phone bank had been established in the County at 2:00 p.m. and would be staffed with nurses to answer questions. To answer concerns over groceries, Emergency Management Director, Drew Pearson, had confirmed stores would continue to get their products delivered on their normal schedule. The Chairman noted everyone should act respectfully and not overload on goods. The Control Group would meet daily and provide updates. Eleven

counties in North Carolina had issued an emergency declaration. The County had also issued a bulletin with recommendations on how citizens could protect themselves and how the situation was being monitored. Schools had been closed and there would be fifteen locations set up to serve breakfast and lunches for students. There would be computers offered to students. If they did not have internet service, Verizon would provide connection and the Community Foundation had graciously agreed to pick up the cost. Superintendent Hallac had reported the Interior Department had not yet given specific guidelines; however, he would follow up later. He had sent a request to have limited access to the Wright Memorial to reduce gatherings.

Dr. Sheila Davies provided an update on figures, which were already higher than earlier reported. She reported there were now 181,127 cases worldwide, 3,927 U.S. cases and 33 cases in North Carolina. There were still no cases in Dare County. The Joint Information Command Center had been activated and would be available Monday through Friday and would be staffed at all time with a nurse to answer medical questions.

She explained the first informational bulletin had been released today and they would continue with daily updated bulletins. The overall message was to continue remaining calm and use reliable information on the virus provided by the CDC, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Dare County website. She stressed everyone should practice social distancing. Those who are sick should stay home and call their healthcare provider ahead of time if they thought they had virus symptoms. They would evaluate symptomatic patients whose conditions escalate and provide medical care. Testing would be provided as necessary and she thanked the many medical providers in the community who were all doing a great job. The hospital, EMS, Emergency Management and Public Relations were in great shape and were working together seamlessly to keep us informed and prepared.

Mr. Outten continued that Dr. Davies and her team had been working for weeks on this effort to implement actions within ever-changing recommendations. The State of Emergency had been issued, which limited meetings greater than 50 in concert with the Governor's Order and any exceptions were noted. All advisory board meetings would be cancelled unless modified or held online. IT was available to assist them with the County's goal to limit face-to-face contact. Many government services could be completed online and the community was encouraged to call before coming to any County office. All recreation centers would be closed together with the Baum, Fessenden and Dare Centers. The SOE (State of Emergency) could be referenced for complete details. Outdoor parks remained open but bathroom facilities were closed. Planning Board would be making arrangements to meet online if it was necessary. The water department would not disconnect water services at this time. Staff had been instructed to stay within the County, not attend meetings and to stay home if they were sick. Staff would be permitted to work from home and the implementation of flex scheduling would be used for some departments. Transportation services had been limited to critical medical needs and did not include dental and eye appointments which could be postponed. The County website was up to date and offered answers to frequently asked questions with links to the CDC and Health & Human Services.

Dorothy Hester confirmed the website was up to date with answers to frequently asked questions. As circumstances change, they would update and add to the website's information. The phone bank could be reached at 252-475-5008 to provide more citizen assistance and information. She thanked the team effort for their continued hard work to provide reliable information to the public.

Chairman Woodard reviewed the highlights and directives of the State of Emergency Declaration, as well as the guidelines of Bulletin #1. Both of these had been released earlier in the day and were available on the County's website in their entirety.

ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – March, 2020

Bethany Lusk was presented with the March Employee of the Month certificate by both Pat Irwin and Beulah Ashby. Ms. Lusk had worked for over a year as a senior customer service representative. She was quick to learn procedures and had become an asset to her department while exhibiting initiative with a focus on good customer service and excellent communication skills.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 5:49 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 comment was made in Manteo:

1. George Lurie spoke to the Board over concerns whether the Control Group had given consideration to the permission of allowing visitors to Dare County during this time of COVID-19 concerns. He likened the situation to how the County responded during storm situations.

Chairman Woodard responded there had been a lengthy discussion over the traveler situation. The Control Group was currently following the state and federal lead on the issue, and noted there were currently no bands on travel. The Control Group would continue to follow the guidelines as they met daily.

There were no comments made in Buxton.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 5:54 pm.

ITEM 4 – DARE COUNTY VETERANS RESOURCES & JOB FAIR

Blake Salmon, Chairman of the Dare County Veteran's Advisory Board, provided a reminder and update via video link from Buxton on the Veterans Resources & Job Fair. The event was originally planned to take place on April 30, 2020, from 2-7:00 p.m. and hosted at the Dare County Center. Due to the new virus concerns, this event would be postponed, as attendance was expected to exceed the gathering number of fifty. A new date had not been set; however, it was expected to be rescheduled during the fall. The event would aid veterans in locating local employment opportunities and would also offer contacts for continued health and mental health assistance. The companies currently offering employment to veterans were listed on their website. Mr. Salmon thanked the many organizers and volunteers.

ITEM 5 – TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES

Dave Peterson, Trillium Health Resources, Central Regional Director, presented the annual report on how Trillium continued to provide “well-being” to twenty-six counties and serve over 1.4 million through a provider network of approximately 500 health partners. He thanked Vice Chairman Overman and Commissioner Ross for serving on the regional advisory board. Trillium provided mental health, aid to those with developmental disabilities and substance abuse services to an area of counties covering twelve square miles. Over \$476 million was spent on services last year.

Mr. Peterson covered the Medicaid Transformation, which had been in progress for two years. This year the State Department of Health put out an RFP for private insurance companies to manage low to moderate risk individuals. The five companies awarded the contract were Amerihealth Caritas, Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC, United Healthcare of NC, WellCare of NC and Carolina Complete Health. Carolina Complete Health would only cover Regions 3, 4 and 5 (as noted on the presentation). The other companies would cover the entire State of North Carolina. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners would send two representatives to meet regarding changes to the plan. Trillium’s representatives would be Vice-Chairman Overman and a Commissioner from Beaufort County. Under a new “Tailored Plan” Trillium would apply to continue serving the current areas with applications originally due by late 2020 and now due by April. The big difference in the application would be rather than Trillium managing just the mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services for individuals in the areas noted, they would be taking care of the “whole person”, known as their “primary care”. Many of the private insurance company applications submitted were over 4,000 pages. Since the transition was not yet “live”, with approved budgets, Trillium would continue their current responsibilities in service. The Transition Team was focused on readiness. The Care Management staff would need to gain experience and knowledge on treating the whole person with health fairs and health eating classes in the counties, as they developd a new care model.

Mr. Peterson continued with an update of some of their projects, which included their Oxford Houses, food trucks, healthy eating classes (Eat the Rainbow) together with the development of a mobile app (CHAT) to deal with mental health crisis. They have also opened a Department of Social Services fourteen-day child respite facility. Other projects included Chalk About Mental Health, CIT classes for law enforcement and online training on a variety of topics for schools. Last year Trillium serviced 1,044 Dare County residents.

ITEM 6 – RESOLUTION – 2020 U.S. CENSUS (Att. #1)

Donna Creef and Dorothy Hester, as Co-Chairpersons of the Dare County’s Complete Count Committee, presented a resolution for Board consideration. April 1, 2020 begins the start of the nationwide census and the committee had engaged varied campaigns to publicize the census. The questionnaires could be completed either online, by phone or via mail. Dare County citizenry was encouraged to respond once they receive their census invitation.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to adopt the resolution for March 29 - April 4, 2020 as “Dare Counts Week”.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – AWARD OF FY2019-2020 EQUIPMENT FINANCING

Dave Clawson explained Finance had received seven responses for proposals for financing in the amount of \$2,025,943 with a three year term for the County to acquire vehicles and equipment, as approved in the 2019-2020 Operating Budget. Banc of America Public Capital Corp (BAPCC) had the lowest total cost proposal at a rate of 1.5663%.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adopt the Resolution to award the three year financing to Banc of America Public Capital Corp (BAPCC) at a rate of 1.5663% and authorize the County Manager and staff to execute all necessary documents.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

With regard to the Animal Shelter Project, Mr. Clawson offered they had been through two rounds of bidding and their scope verification had been done with good responses. In an effort to bring down costs, Whiting Turner had noted a reduction in their fees. The Chairman of the SPCA indicated there would also be a fund raising effort to help cover the costs of furniture and other items for the project such as the stainless steel cages. All materials would have a sales tax charged and the County would file for reimbursement of those costs. He provided the GMP (guaranteed minimum price) Amendment change order.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to authorize the County Manager to execute the GMP Amendment change order No. 1 and adopt the Amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance with regard to the Animal Shelter.

Commissioner Bateman 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 (03.02.20) **(Att. # 2)**
- 2) Amendment to Capital Project Ordinance for Series 2018 LOBs & Nags Head Beach Nourishment
- 3) Authorization to Present Service Weapon to Retiring Deputy Sheriff

Commissioner Ross seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Older Adult Services Advisory Council:

Commissioner Bateman motioned to appoint Apollonia (Bella) Reber to fill vacancy as Adult Services Representative.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

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

- Albemarle Commission meeting had previously been cancelled due to weather and the upcoming meeting would probably be cancelled to meeting restrictions.
- The Audit Committee met today to review the on-going results of the in-house audit. There were no substantial issues presented and they would continue to follow-up on adherence to County procedures.
- Last week, he had spent majority of the day in Hatteras with Chairman Woodard and Commissioner House and had interacted with students about managing budgets.
- Soundside Event Task Force meeting had been cancelled their meeting. There were still concerns to address regarding required number of parking spaces and wastewater treatment issues.

Commissioner House

- With regard to COVID-19, he responded to the question of whether the public would be notified of who had been tested and received positive test results. HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), which passed in 1996, protects the release of sensitive patient health information from being disclosed.
- He urged all mariners to keep an eye on their depth finders. The Merritt was in Wilmington for repairs and the Currituck was on its way to Wilmington from Ocean City. There was currently no update as to when the travel ban would be lifted.
- Today in history, the first military school was founded by Congress in 1796 to educate young men in the theory and practice of military science. The military academy of West Point in New York was built in 1780 and originally used as a fort.

Vice-Chairman Overman

- Ground breaking ceremony was celebrated for the Arts Council. He thanked Public Relations for the gold shovels provided for the event.
- He attended the Workforce Housing discussion on March 10, which was presented by Holtz Builders. Discussions regarding the processes for workforce housing would continue through the NCSOG.
- He offered his congratulations to Bethany Lusk, recipient of the Employee of the Month award.

Commissioner Bateman

- He remembered Shane Miles, who had passed away several weeks ago. Mr. Miles was a marathon runner with stage 4 liver, lung and colon cancer. He was generous and courageous.
- He attended a Town Hall meeting and one of the speakers, Paul Nagy, an addiction specialist from Duke University, spoke on substance abuse and medication assisted treatments. He was an inspirational speaker with different ways to approach the growing problem. He encouraged the Board to listen to his presentation, should he return to the area. Vice-Chairman Overman agreed with Commissioner Bateman's assessment.

Commissioner Couch

- He acknowledged and applauded the cooperative spirit as the County continued to deal with the virus. The attitude of the employees, the professional community, individual citizens, school nurses and everyone involved exhibited a respectful and determined spirit.

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

Mr. Outten had no new business to add.

Dorothy Hester provided a short video which was a public service announcement concerning the Dare County scholarship program.

Dave Clawson noted they would have the Health and Human Services preconstruction 3-D drawings for review in approximately one month.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Bateman and Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 6:55 p.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:00 a.m., April 6, 2020.



Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED:

By: Robert Woodard Sr.
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 to the Board.