



County of Dare

P.O. Box 1000 | Manteo, NC 27954

AMENDED MINUTES DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:00 a.m., March 1, 2021

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., 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 C. Anby

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

At 9:02 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He shared the invocation provided by Rev. David Feyrer, which included a moment of silence for those who had died in the pandemic, 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:

- Thanked everyone who attended the virtual Avon Beach Nourishment meeting on February 24. He encouraged community comments as the Board considered the project.
- On February 18, the Board met with Rep. Greg Murphy and Rep. Rob Wittman. The meeting was constructive and provided an opportunity to relay various items of concern for the County to these representatives.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC HEARING – DARE HOME HEALTH & DARE HOSPICE (Att. #1)

At 9:08 a.m. the Board held a Public Hearing to receive input concerning this item. As advertised, comments could be received by email at dcbo@darenc.com. Mr. Outten explained the Board had passed a resolution to provide the opportunity to explore the issues. The second step in the process was to have a public hearing. Afterward consultants would allow entities to review the current service and provide pricing information for the Board’s consideration and option. No comments were received during the meeting and the County Manager closed the Public Hearing at 9:10 a.m. One email was received after the meeting from Amanda Meyers who voiced disappointed with the inability to make live comment.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 9:10 a.m. the Manager opened public comments to the Board via email at dcboc@darenc.com. No emails were received during the meeting and the County Manager closed Public Comments at 9:11 a.m.

ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PIN

Gloria Dixon, Intermediate Emergency Medical Tech, was recognized for her ten years of service to Dare County with a pre-recorded narrative by the County Manager.

ITEM 5 – TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES – ANNUAL REPORT

Dave Peterson, Senior Regional Director, presented the Annual Dare County Trillium Health Resources Report to the Board. He reviewed the organization's mission and provided examples of the specialty care provider's changes since the pandemic. He thanked Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Ross for serving on the Trillium Regional Advisory Board. Trillium currently served twenty-six counties with 266,000 Medicaid eligible individuals. Standard plans would soon be managing the mild to moderate Medicaid behavioral health recipients through five private companies. As of July 1, 2021, Trillium would no longer manage those individuals. Chairman Woodard asked Mr. Peterson to define the "low to moderate need". Examples provided were those who needed monthly prescriptions for depression and basic outpatient mental health therapy for low need. Moderate needs would include bi-weekly outpatient therapy and medication management. High needs were those who required therapeutic interventions such as a teenager with substance abuse and mental health concerns or legal issues. Commissioner House asked if there would be advisory assistance in choosing a provider. Two state services would have ombudsman programs to guide, but they would not be able to recommend one program over another. Commissioner Ross stated 70-80% of the recipients on a standard plan would be moved to the private sector, which would still require substantial effort by Trillium. Mr. Peterson explained they would serve the high-need individuals, which were also the highest cost recipients. They would manage the whole person. Presently they only addressed their mental health. As of July, 2021, they would serve their medical health and would have thousands of contracts with the doctors and pharmacies for other health support management. There would be a readiness review in the fall or winter to acknowledge Trillium was ready to serve as a tailored plan provider.

Mr. Peterson reviewed the many changes and impacts brought about due to the pandemic. There was a separate webpage with COVID-19 information. There had been some 5-30% rate increases to network providers. Prior authorization requirements were being waived to accommodate quicker services along with telehealth to provide quality digital care to patients when necessary. COVID kits were supplied to providers and consumers. Children with intellectual/developmental disabilities were provided an increase of thirty hours of respite services. Trillium also promoted Hope4NC to provide resilience and crisis counseling. The HOPE program was addressing housing issues.

Mr. Peterson closed with providing Trillium's many project updates such as hand sanitizer stations at playgrounds, online training for safe school operation, racial equity projects and an update of 1,200 naloxone kits made available. Currently 1,069 Dare County residents were served in areas of mental health, substance use or developmental disabilities.

ITEM 6 – DARE COUNTY WATERWAYS COMMISSION PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Brent Johnson provided a presentation from the Waterways Commission. He explained in preparation for the Corps of Engineers' pipeline contract to begin October, 2022, the County needed to address capacity concerns for dredge material for Hatteras and Shallowbag Bay. He moved on with information on the various channels, provided their current hydrographic surveys and information as to maintenance. He also provided planning recommendations: (1) Permits to dredge Rollinson, Hatteras, Barney Slough, Sloop, South Ferry and Hatteras Bar with state public private partner dredge (2) Addition of the Hatteras Inlet/Bar to the Federal Authorization (3) Update 2013 Hatteras Economic Impact Study (4) Request State legislation to fully fund dredging from Wanchese Channel Range 14 past Pirates Cove and Manteo to Range 1 when the Corps' project began in October, 2022 (5) Resolution from the Board in support of continued maintenance of the Rodanthe Federal Channel and Emergency Ferry Route. Commissioner Tobin commented dredging needs were discussed extensively with Rep. Murphy recently to include making Hatteras a federal inlet. He also reported the new dredge would be named Miss Katie. Commissioner Tobin asked whether the Coastguard had been asked for support to get the complex realigned and become a federal inlet since it was a search and rescue base. Mr. Johnson explained the Coast Guard had had conversations in support. Unless environment issues arose, the realignment would take place but would not include the bar because an authorization change would be required.

ITEM 7 – PROCLAMATION FOR MARCH 2021 AS THE 19TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR MEALS MONTH

The Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging & Senior Nutrition Program partners with Dare County to provide congregate meals at the Dare County Center five days a week and to homebound older adults who are unable to prepare their meals.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve the proclamation to observe March 2021 as the 19th Annual March for Meals Month as presented.

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 (02.16.21) **(Att. #2)**
- 2) Dare County Sanitation Budget Amendment
- 3) DHHS – Social Services Crisis Intervention Program and Low Income Energy Assistance Budget Amendment
- 4) CARES Act HAVA Elections Additional Grant Award
- 5) Audit Contract for FY2021
- 6) Government Education Access Channels 2021-22 Proposed Budget
- 7) Dare County Tourism Board Request Consent Expenditure from Long-Term Unappropriated Line Item 4585

Commissioner Tobin seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1) Hatteras Community Center Board

Vice Chairman Overman motioned to appoint Jeff Oden to serve the remainder of the term of Ricki Shepherd.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for April, May and June, 2021 were announced.

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:

Vice-Chairman Overman

- Board met with Rep. Murphy and Rep. Wittman with a good exchange of information which included the topics of dredging and stabilization, inland flooding issues, and replacement of the Alligator River Bridge.
- Reported he had attended the Trillium conference on February 22 with Commissioner Ross, Chuck Lycett and the County Manager to discuss the change of services and impacts of the Medicaid transformation. Three take-a-ways were "it was interesting, it was involved and it is terribly complicated". He noted we were fortunate to have Chuck Lycett and Dr. Sheila Davies to provide leadership as we move forward with the process.
- Thanked everyone who participated in the Avon Beach Nourishment presentation.
- He attended the Dare presentation of the Work Local poster presentation at the Dare Center garden on February 25 with Commissioner Ross. The following students, who each received extended training in their fields and returned to work in Dare County received recognition: Matthew Knuckles, Cape Hatteras Secondary School, Lisa Sababic from Manteo High School and Kirsten Turonis-Bissell from First Flight High School.
- Thanked service pin recipient Gina Dixon for her ten years of service to the County.

Commissioner Bateman

- He participated in the Dare County Special Olympics fundraiser on February 23 with Commissioner Ross. They both took a "dip" into the Atlantic for this worthy cause.
- Complimented the County Manager on the Avon Beach Nourishment presentation. He had received good feedback from those who viewed the meeting.
- Encouraged everyone to get their COVID-19 vaccine as it became available for them.

Commissioner Couch

- Thanked the staff and County Manager for the presentation on Avon Beach Nourishment and commended the community on a civil discourse of the proposed project.

Commissioner Tobin

- Reported on a major house fire in Manns Harbor. While visiting the site, someone mentioned the community building in Manns Harbor had several roof leaks to be repaired.
- Gave a shout out to Kenneth Brown, who recently caught a 771 pound blue fin tuna.

Commissioner Ross

- Noted the water was 41 degrees when he and Commissioner Bateman took the Special Olympics Polar Plunge, but it was for a worthy cause.
- The task force on the event site at Nags Head had begun meetings again to discuss future plans and designs for the area. Discussions were continuing on whether the site would include a facility for events, conferences, trade shows and sporting events coupled with the incorporation of a hotel. Significant modifications to Nags Head parking regulations would be considered necessary. He would provide updates as available.
- Albemarle Commission had conducted their annual audit with a few suggestions but otherwise an unqualified opinion, which was good.
- He welcomed back Dare County children to school, who began their long overdue in-person learning today.

Commissioner House

- Governor Cooper had named a new director for the Department of Environmental Quality. Dionne Delli-Gatti was experienced and comes well qualified.
- He also agreed with the success of the Avon presentation and commended the County Manager' professionalism and explanation of the project.
- Provided two notable day-in-history events. In 1875 the first civil rights act was passed in congress. On March 1, 1932, the infant son of the famous Atlantic Ocean aviator, Col. Charles Lindbergh, had been kidnapped.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

Dave Clawson provided four project updates for the Board:

1. Public Works had a roof replacement scheduled for Manns Harbor Center in their capital improvement plan, which addressed Commissioner Tobin's earlier concerns.
2. The SPCA would begin moving equipment on March 9 and animals on March 12.
3. COA project was going well in spite of weather setbacks. There would be some information regarding the exterior of the Prof. Arts building by the end of next week.
4. Some water damage had been discovered at the east side of the Health and Human Services project and a repair cost estimate was expected later this week.

County Manager advised the Board he would ask both the Public Information Officer and the Health Department to increase the Medicaid transformation messaging in order to get the word out to those affected by the many changes to the area's coverage specifics.

Mr. Outten requested a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the County in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege and pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) 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 in the matter of Mako Mikes and to approve the minutes of the last Closed Session.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes cited by the County Manager.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 10:27 a.m., the Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. The Board reconvened at 11:23 a.m. Commissioner Ross did not return to the regular session.

Mr. Outten reported that during the Closed Session the Board approved previous Closed Session Minutes, consulted with the County Attorney in order to preserve the attorney/client privilege and the Board authorized the County Manager to enter into a contract for the purchase of Mako Mike's property at \$1.95 million dollars with a closing to occur in October, 2021, share the cost of revenue stamps and transfer taxes and to further authorize the County Manager to enter into such budget amendments and agreements as may be necessary to fund the purchase.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to authorize the County Manager to enter into a contract for the purchase of Mako Mike's property at \$1.95 million dollars with a closing to occur in October, 2021, share the cost of revenue stamps and transfer taxes, and to authorize the County Manager to enter into such budget amendments and agreements as may be necessary to fund the purchase.

Commissioner Tobin and Vice-Chairman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

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

MOTION

Commissioner Tobin motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 11:25 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., March 15, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



APPROVED:

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

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. Underlined portion represents amended portion of minutes.