



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., May 3, 2021

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard, Sr., Vice-Chairman Wally Overman
Rob Ross (via phone-in attendance), Steve House, Jim Tobin,
Danny Couch and 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 9:05 a.m. Chairman Woodard called to order the regularly scheduled meeting with appropriate prior public notice having been given. He invited Rev. Tom Wilson 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:

- Reported on the new electric self-driving transport vehicle called CASSI (Connected Autonomous Shuttle Support Innovation) which was being used through a partnership of NC Department of Transportation with the National Park Service at Wright Brothers National Memorial.
- Discussed the diligent efforts by the Board to bring a much needed project for either workforce or essential housing to the area. With several options to review and maneuvering to qualify for difficult tax credits, the Board was close to bringing a proposal to the public. Housing efforts would be discussed further at the budget retreat later today.
- He congratulated Virginia Tillett, a professional educator, dedicated leader and former Dare County Commissioner. She had been recently awarded the 2021 Trail Blazer Award by the North Carolina Black Alliance.
- He remembered Frances Williams Harris who had recently passed. She had worked for Dare County from October 1984 through September 2008 and had served as Clerk to the Board of Commissioners for over seventeen years.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

At 9:20 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:

There were no comments made in Buxton. Following comments were made in Manteo:

1. Charlie Parker addressed the Board and suggested it would be appropriate for the Board to name the portion of the old Bonner Bridge where the fishing pier was being built after Jose Armando Maqueda Mejia, who recently died in a bridge accident. Mr. Parker wanted information on access to the packet information received by the Board.
2. Gina Elko, a twenty-two year resident, spoke concerning children and “critical race theory”. She read the NC State Board of Ed. vision and stated critical race theory was “hate filled, divisive and creates shame and victimhood”. She also voiced her concerns regarding child wearing masks stating they were not at high risk for COVID.
3. Scott Garber requested funds be allocated for the Dare Parks and Recreation Department so the facilities could remain open in the evenings or a few weekends for the sport of pickle ball. He offered there were not enough places to play during hours for adults, retirees and the tourists who visit.

The County Manager closed Public Comments at 9:35 a.m.

ITEM 3 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Valerie Hayes, Emergency Medical Technician, received a 15-year pin.
- 2) Amanda Myers, Physical Therapist, received a 15-year pin, from Holly Meekins
- 3) Thomas “Bud” Tillet received a 25-year pin
- 4) Charles “Daniel” Lee received a 25-year pin

ITEM 4 – DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD REQUEST CONSENT EXPENDITURE FROM RESTRICTED FUND LINE ITEM 4525

Lee Nettles presented this item to request consent for up to \$90,000 expenditure to Albemarle & Associates for engineering and design services for the Soundside Boardwalk at the Soundside Event Site in Nags Head. Design and engineering for the boardwalk and would tie in to an existing walkway. A local firm would be working on the project with an estimated completion date in December.

MOTION

Commissioner Couch motioned to approve the Dare County Tourism Board request for expenditure from Restricted Fund Line Item 4525.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Rob Ross joined the meeting at 9:45 a.m. with a phone connection.

ITEM 5 – DHHS – MEDICAID TRANSFORMATION UPDATE

Dr. Sheila Davies and Chuck Lycett presented the Board with an update on the Medicaid transformation in Dare County. Mr. Lycett led the presentation explaining it was the move from direct Medicaid to Managed Care. The 2015 NC General Assembly ordered managed care in NC with a live date of 2020 but there had been some delays. Open enrollment began March 15 and would continue until May 14, 2021. Mr. Lycett named the four health plans serving Dare County as: AmeriHealth Caritas of NC, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of NC, UnitedHealthcare of NC and WellCare of NC. The enrollment broker was an independent agent providing consultation on the plans. Dare currently had 6,400 beneficiaries of service with 4,093 requiring transition. Currently only 4.79% of Dare residents had selected a prepaid health plan as of April 27, 2021. After open enrollment period ends, all others would be auto-enrolled into a plan. Vice-Chairman Overman asked how those who saw multiple doctors would handle the situation. Mr. Lycett explained they would have to find doctors under the same plan. He explained to Commissioner Bateman those who did not sign up would have a plan selected for them with ninety days to change plans after their enrollment term ended. There would be an annual renewal allowing for participants to change their plans. He clarified the auto-enrollment plans would be chosen by the state and not by Dare County staff.

ITEM 6 – PROCLAMATION – OLDER AMERICANS MONTH 2021

County Manager read the proclamation on behalf of the Albemarle Commission Area Agency on Aging to proclaim May 2021 as Older Americans Month and to recognize “older adults and the people who support them as essential contributors to the strength of community”.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to issue the Proclamation for Older Americans Month. Commissioner House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – PROCLAMATION FOR EMS WEEK: MAY 16-22, 2021

Deputy Chief Terence Sheehy presented and read the Proclamation for EMS Week for May 16-22, 2021. The Board and audience applauded the continued, dedicated efforts of Dare County’s Emergency Medical Service team.

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to issue the Proclamation for EMS Week: May 16-22, 2021. Commissioners Tobin and Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – RESOLUTION APPOINTING REVIEW OFFICER FOR THE TOWN OF MANTEO (Att. #1)

The Town of Manteo had presented the Board with a resolution requesting appointment of Melissa Dickerson, their Town Planner, as their Review Officer to certify maps and plats pursuant to General Statute 47-30.2.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to adopt the resolution appointing Melissa Dickerson, Manteo Town Planner, as the Review Officer for the Town of Manteo.

Commissioner Couch seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – DARE COUNTY HOME HEALTH AND DARE HOSPICE RETENTION BONUS

The County Manager discussed the possibility of providing a retention bonus to Home Health and Hospice staff should the Board move forward with a transaction to sell the service. A continuity of care would be important between now and if a transition of the service to a new provider occurs. He proposed a retention bonus of ten percent of the employee's salary. Fifty percent would be paid at the time of the closing of a transition, should one occur, and the remaining 50% would be paid in approximately nine months afterward. The budget for the proposed retention bonus would be deducted from the top of the purchase price and was currently estimated to be a little less than \$100,000.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to have a retention bonus offered to Dare County Home Health and Dare Hospice employees in the amount of fifty percent of their current Dare County employee salary upon the closing of any transition to a new provider and the remaining fifty percent retention bonus to be paid approximately nine months after any transition.

Commissioner House 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

Commissioner Bateman motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (04.19.21) & Approval of Amended Minutes (03.01.21) (Att. #2-3)
- 2) Dare County Sanitation Budget Amendment Rubble Transfer Maintenance & Repair
- 3) Dare County Sanitation Budget Amendment Container Purchases
- 4) Dare County Sanitation Budget Amendment Vehicle Maintenance and Repair
- 5) Engineering Contract Amendment 1 for the Colington Road Water Line Project
- 6) Sheriff Department – Budget Amendments for Grants

Commissioners Tobin and House seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) District – Town of Southern Shores

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint John Finelli for a three-year term.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2. Dare County Board of Adjustment

Commissioner House motioned to reappoint Jay Hart for a three-year term.

Commissioner Tobin and Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3. Upcoming Board Appointments

The upcoming Board appointments for June, July and August 2021 were announced.

ITEM 12 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which may be viewed in their entirety in a video on the Dare County website. Following is a brief summary:

Commissioner Couch

- Reported on the tourist traffic and hospitality activity on Hatteras. He stated due to the severe labor shortage the Fessenden Center would be hosting a job fair with opportunities for employment in grocery stores, real estate offices and restaurants for retirees.
- Remembered the life of Gary McGee who had been the former City Manager of Hickory.
- He also remembered William “Bill” Gaskill, Sr., who was known to have every tool for every job in his Ocracoke workshop.

Commissioner Bateman

- He also remembered Gary McGee, who had been the Town Manager in Kitty Hawk.
- Reported on the labor shortage and noted there was a restaurant owner who was closing his business on Sundays and Mondays due to difficulties in staffing his establishment.

Vice-Chairman Overman

- He recognized and thanked the four service pin recipients.
- Thanked Chuck Lycett and Sheila Davies for the presentation on Medicaid transformation. He urged everyone to pay attention and choose their plans rather than allowing the algorithm to choose in order to avoid confusion on doctor choices later. He asked the Public Relations Director to provide additional information on the website.

Commissioner House

- He advised the Division of Marine Fisheries’ new director would be Kathy Rawls. She was the first woman to hold the position and had been with the department since 1990.
- Remembered the life and military accomplishments of Col. Donna Kimberly Dougherty. She was a patriot who had served her country honorably for over twenty-five years.
- Day in history: Margaret Thatcher had become the first woman Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on May 4, 1979.
- Stated the “rolling thunder” of motorcycle groups and hotrods in the area had raised untold thousands for the children in Dare County.
- Gave a fishing bill update from the General Assembly. On April 12, 2021, Representative Richardson filed a bill which would make gill netting and nets over 500 square feet illegal in North Carolina. The bill has had no movement; however, he suggested it may be necessary for the Board to adopt a resolution in opposition.

Commissioner Ross

- He urged the towns to work with the partners and developers for area housing, as there was an urgency and great need to provide not only workforce but affordable housing.
- He thanked Mr. Lycett for the Medicaid transformation presentation and reminded everyone there was approximately fifty-eight days left to pre-register with a plan.
- Noted he was looking forward to the next governor’s executive order regarding COVID, which was expected June 1, as we seem to be getting closer towards normalcy.
- Advised the Board he would be remaining in Ohio while his wife, Charlotte, continued treatment.

Commissioner Tobin

- Provided updated pictures for the construction of Miss Katie and reviewed the schedule of progress with construction.
- He noted it was four years ago when he had been sworn in as a Board Commissioner.
- Mentioned there had recently been a car accident near the mariner where a mother had overdosed on heroin while traveling with her two year old in the car.

MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS

County Manager remembered Frances Williams Harris. He had worked with her doing his tenure as County Attorney and stated she was always kind, generous and would certainly be missed.

Chairman Wooded responded to Mr. Garber’s request regarding funding pickle ball courts and services. He explained the County had certain “pots of funds” for example which were designed for building facilities or purchasing land and others which could only be used for beach nourishment. He stated the Board would look into the issue further.

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

MOTION

Commissioner House motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Bateman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 10:46 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., May 17, 2021.



APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,

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.