

**NORTH CAROLINA
DARE COUNTY**

**THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
February 3, 2003**

The Dare County Board of Commissioners met in a regular session at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2003, in the Dare County Administrative Annex in Manteo. Commissioners present were: Warren Judge, John Robert Hooper, Renée Cahoon, Richard Johnson, Stan White, Cheryl Byrd and Virginia Tillett. Also present were Manager Terry Wheeler and Attorney Bobby Outten. Chairman Judge opened the meeting followed by silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Chairman Judge recognized former County Commissioner Clarence Skinner.

ITEM 1- EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Donnie Murray, Maintenance Technician II, received the Employee of the Month Certificate from Tim Gaylord, Airport Authority Director.

ITEM 2 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Toni Dufficy, Chief of Interpretation Outer Banks Group National Park Service, came forward on behalf of Superintendent Lawrence Belli to bring good news and to extend an invitation to the Board members. She reminded that last year a partnership was established that included the NPS, the Freedman's Colony Committee, the Outer Banks History Center and many other local community members to prepare an application for the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site to be included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program, which took place in Dare County from 1862–1867. Last year the Board adopted a resolution in support of the application. In 2002 the National Commission confirmed the community's work and included Fort Raleigh with the underground network. The confirmation marks Fort Raleigh as the first site in North Carolina to be included in this network. The application form will serve as a model for others to use. Saturday, February 15th a workshop will be held in Manteo at the Community Center for all to come and learn about the network freedom and learn how to complete application work as well. She invited the Board to attend the unveiling ceremony on Friday, February 14th at 3:00 at Fort Raleigh and a program on February 15th at 6:30 p.m. to learn more about the underground network.

**ITEM 3 – COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT TO THE PEOPLE
(DOCUMENT FILED IN CLERK TO THE BOARD'S OFFICE)**

Former Commissioner Clarence Skinner, Chair Person of the Advisory Council, introduced the Cooperative Extension Service's Report to the People. He noted that extension programs are focused on the specific

needs of each county and how the Cooperative Extension has a close relationship with North Carolina State University and AT&T College. He stressed that Cooperative Extension is a wonderful resource and is available to everyone. He introduced staff members and each took a turn telling the Board about the work they accomplished in 2002. Various members of the community came forward to talk about the important projects that the department has been involved with during the past year. Commissioner Byrd noted that, having a personal experience with the extension group, said this is one of the most heavily volunteered supported activities in Dare County and it is amazing to see additional resources the service is able to bring to bear on behalf of the county programs.

MOTION

Commissioner Byrd moved to find the Cooperative Extension Service "guilty of hard work over the past year and sentenced them to another year of service".

Commissioner Tillett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 4 – PRESENTATION BY TERESA JAMES, COLLEGE OF THE ALBEMARLE-DARE CAMPUS

Teresa James, Dean of the College of the Albemarle – Dare Campus, explained the role of community colleges and highlighted the Dare Campus needs. She reported that COA completed a 10-year Study Plan recently revealing the role of COA. However, the constituencies felt they were doing a good job but did not know exactly what was going on. This is her reason for wanting to share her report with the Board.

- 2002 is the 20th Anniversary of the Dare Campus - COA has helped educate thousands of students. She thanked the Board for their support over the last twenty years. The main purpose of the community college is to help people train for better jobs. They have an open door policy, which means they take anybody and try to move them to the next higher level of education.
- Free Programs – Students can learn to read and obtain a high school diploma for free. There is also adult high school for those who are lacking a credit or two to receive their diploma. They offer English as a second language class, which is also free. In the last 10 years, the non-native speaking population has increased by 230%. Last year COA-Dare had over 200 Hispanics and Central European students to go through the ESL Program. The ESL Program and Citizenship Program are free to those students. She encouraged the Board to visit the Driftwood ESL Center, which was the old Parks & Recreation Facility. They have compensatory education at the Dare Campus. Every week a group comes from Albemarle Mental Health who comes to try to maintain the

intellectual skills that they have. These are mentally challenged folks. That service is free to the community.

- Community College has a different purpose than the 4-year school. They start people out wherever they are and move them forward. Their strongest program is the College Transfer Program. They come to obtain the first two years of their 4-year degree. The students have an exceptional track record when they transfer to schools. The class sizes are small with 15-20 students per class.
- Cost of COA – It is affordable and is a fraction of what it would cost for credits at a four-year college. COA is playing a very important role in the education of the students in Dare County.
- Degrees - Each semester COA has approximately 500 students seeking degrees for Associate in Business Administration, Associate in Arts, Associate in Fine Arts, Associate in General Education, Associate in Science. A student at the Dare Campus can earn a two-year degree in its entirety without having to go to Elizabeth City and a student can earn a two-year degree at night at the Dare Campus. In addition to face-to-face classes they have numerous Internet classes, inactive television classes (NC Information Highway), and college by videocassette. They have many different modes that they teach in and try to reach every person in every way possible. For high school students that are eligible they may be dually enrolled in high school classes getting credit at the high school as well as the college. These credits are free to the students and some textbooks are free, too. It is possible for these students to graduate from high school with college credits. This is quite a bit of money saved for the parents. There were over 100 MHS students dual enrolled last semester. This semester there are over 60 Cape Hatteras students dual enrolled at COA.
- Community College – It is about getting people jobs and increasing their marketing ability. The Dare County Campus offers courses in pool and spa certification, marine captain's license, boat handling and seamanship, medical terminology, NC Vehicle Safety Inspection, Notary, Private Ground School, Real Estate, Spanish in the workplace, certified nursing assistants. They also teach heating and ventilation, air conditioning, basic law enforcement, EMS Certification, Officer's Detention School.
- New programs for fall of 2002 - They will have a welding program, woodworking, and cabinet making. COA offers enrichment and learning opportunities such as kayaking, scuba diving, drawing, painting, digital cameras and scanners, jewelry making, culinary, photo, safe driving, women in literature, yoga, quilting, civil war battles.
- Continuing Education Courses - In any semester they may have 800-1000 students enrolled. In the spring of 2001, they had 1196 students in Continuing Education alone and add to 300 students in

basic skills and another 500 in college transfer they serve at least 2000 students a semester on the COA Campus of 3 acres.

- Summer Programs - This summer they will have a College for Kids, which is three one-week sessions at the Manteo Campus and will have a one-week camp at Cape Hatteras. They have brought the dual credit programs to Cape Hatteras High School.
- New direction - They have a School of Professional Arts and Crafts, which began last year with a degree. This Board gave them \$75,000 towards the program last year. They have 21 students in ceramics and clay. Three have declared their major in Professional Crafts.
- Future of COA - Dare County has become a tourist destination and COA is a way to provide jobs. In the off-season students can make pottery, jewelry, and purses and sell them. She gave as an example Hotline's Shop Endless Possibilities. In the future there may be Art Seminars in Dare County.
- Retirement Community - Another possibility is the Institute for Learning and Retirement. These sorts of schools are at least 25 years old. She would like to model the institute after the Duke University model. It is a way to stimulate people who have retired. It is a college taught by seniors and directed by seniors. She would like to talk to the Board about the models in the near future. The fastest growing population in Dare County is the over 50 group. And in the next 10 years that population is suppose to double. COA needs to focus on the retirees.
- DC is the 3rd most educated county in the state. COA has something to offer every Dare County resident. COA has formed partnerships with various groups and organizations in Dare County. Some of the best partners are Dare County Public Schools. At present, they are working with personnel at DC Schools with the No Child Left Behind Legislation. Dare County Youth and Partnership has been a strong partner with COA as well as the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, Outer Banks Hospital. Dare County Arts Council, DC Sheriff's Dept., DC EMS, Wanchese Seafood Industrial Park, and Lion's Club. Head Start just contacted COA and they have begun a morning ESL Program for the parents of Head start children who dropped their kids off at HS but did not speak English. So they take the parents to the Driftwood Center and teach English. Outer Banks Homebuilder's Association continues to work with COA and have provided a lot for the students such as tuition, books, and equipment.
- Parks & Recreation – There will be joint meetings between COA and P&R to discuss unincorporated Dare educational and recreational needs.
- DC Literacy Council and Britthaven Nursing Home – There are ongoing programs.

Dean James expressed thanks to all those groups and to the Board of Commissioners for letting them Dare to Dream.
Chairman Judge expressed appreciation to Dean James for her informative report.

THE BOARD WILL TAKE A 10-MINUTE BREAK.

ITEM 5 – BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR STATE AID FOR MOSQUITO CONTROL (ATT # 1)

Tim McGonegal, Mosquito Control Supervisor, explained that the Mosquito Control Department has entered into an agreement, under the State Aid for Mosquito Control program, with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). By submitting a Mosquito Control Work Plan to DENR and agreeing to conduct mosquito control activities as specified in the work plan, the Mosquito Control Department has qualified for \$8,111 of state aid. Vice Chairman Hooper asked how the recent freeze effects mosquito control. Mr. McGonegal explained that the cold weather kills adult mosquitoes and the larvae that are still out there, but the eggs can survive so there would be a substantial hatch in the spring.

MOTION

Commissioner White moved to adopt the budget amendment, to the General Fund, for state aid for mosquito control.

Commissioner Tillett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION

Commissioner Cahoon moved the approval of the Consent Agenda – Minutes January 21, 2003.

Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – PRESENTATION BY T.M. FLOYD CO.

Manager Wheeler asked the Board to pull from the agenda until further information could be provided. The Board concurred.

ITEM 8 – AGING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE ALBEMARLE COMMISSION

MOTION

Commissioner Cahoon moved the reappointments of Brandi Whitehurst and Emma Jane McDermott to serve a two-year term on the Aging Advisory Council.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – PLANNING BOARD

MOTION

Vice Chairman Hooper moved to table the appointments of Jon Britt and Joseph E. Thompson.

Commissioner Cahoon seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Applications were submitted for David Hornbeck, John (Jack) Cooper, Jeff Landreth, Jim Morrison and John L. Finelle.

ITEM 10 – OLDER ADULT SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**MOTION**

Commissioner Byrd moved to appoint Commissioner Virginia Tillett to serve a four-year term on the DCOAS.

Commissioner Cahoon seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**MOTION**

Vice Chairman Hooper moved to appoint Commissioner Cheryl Byrd to serve a four-year term on the TAB.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Byrd said that the Board needed to replace Dell Collins on the TAB. She had been the representative from the DCOAS but is no longer on that Board. She asked that it be placed on the next agenda.

ITEM 12 – ALBEMARLE COMMISSION / RURAL PLANNING**ORGANIZATION**

Commissioner Johnson did not wish to be reappointed. Commissioner Byrd volunteered to serve.

MOTION

By acclamation, the Board moved to appoint Commissioner Cheryl Byrd on the Rural Planning Organization.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 13 – COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER CAHOON

- Martin's Point Bike Path – She reminded that Martin's Point Association has been trying to obtain funds for a bike path. They held their annual meeting and sent out proxies about the special assessment. They completed it and met their two-thirds but now found out that they could not do a special assessment in their bylaws outside some common areas. They can put it in their regular assessment but they will not meet for another year. They are worried about the funds going back and would like to come before the Board to explain their situation and what action they would like for the county to take. At one time the Board talked about fronting the money and being paid back by the special assessment. Since

they did not receive funding they would like to talk about another mechanism and would like to be placed on a future agenda.

- First Flight Centennial Celebration – She reminded that Tim Midgett, Bob Woodard and she were tasked to bring information about the FF Celebration. She has a preliminary report and will give a more detailed one in a future meeting. She reported the National Park Service will put out a press release announcing there is going to be ticketing for the event but the price has not been determined. This is important to DOT since they are trying to figure out how many buses or shuttles they would need to move people around. DOT has done a great job working with the park and the local area for this event. The ticketing will enable them to do a much better job. The federal government was asked by the park for \$7M and was cut back \$3.9M and now in the latest budget it was \$1M. That amount will impact the infrastructure. Fencing, security, tents are all going to be impacted. She wondered with the state and First Flight Foundation if they will be able to make up those deficits. Without Centennial Park, the question is where will the vendors go. This would have to be addressed in the future. She hopes to have more answers for the committee to present by the next meeting.

ITEM 14 - COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER JOHNSON

- Weekly Reports by Department Heads – He noted that most Departments send the Board a weekly update, which is very helpful and informative. He suggested that the Human Resources Director notify the Board when people are hired. He would like for the departments that do not participate to start submitting a weekly update.

ITEM 15 – COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER TILLET

- Frozen water pipes – She noted that many people suffered busted water pipes during the snow storm and wanted to know if their bill would reflect any compensation for the frozen water pipes. Manager Wheeler responded there was a policy in place and certain things can be adjusted. The Water Department can only do certain things and can only go to a certain point. He reminded that the meter to the house is the responsibility of the owner. He suggested that those families with frozen pipes have their plumber write a letter to the Water Department.
- Status of Stumpy Point Water – Manager Wheeler responded that the Board established mandatory hook-up, but some folks have not hooked up to the system and they will get a quarterly bill. They should go ahead and get the water tap for \$200. Commissioner White suggested reminding property owners of this.
- February is Black History Month – The NC Aquarium has scheduled a program one night a week starting Feb 6th on the Pea

Island Life Saving Station Crew. The NPS will have a program on Feb. 13th on Freedman's Underground Railroad at the park. She is pleased that Dare County will be honored as the first chosen for this underground network.

ITEM 16 – COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER WHITE

- Snowstorm (January 23rd) – He commended the staff for the efficient cleanup of the county facilities and parking areas.

ITEM 17 – COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER HOOPER

- Public Hearing – He thanked the Board for coming to Buxton for the sign public hearing and hopes they will plan to come again soon.

ITEM 18 – COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONER BYRD

- Workforce Development Board Appointment – She reported that she now has a nomination and asked that it be placed on the next agenda.
- Senior Center on Roanoke Island – She recommended the use of Wescott Park for seniors during the day. Manager Wheeler will provide a copy of the agreement with the Lion's Club to Commissioner Byrd. Commissioner Tillett responded that they have already looked into the possible use of the park and it is not feasible because of so many youth activities. They can use it on a one-time basis. They need some place that is permanent.
- Land Use Plan – She has reviewed the new draft and some of the things disturbed her. She noted that on January 6th meeting there were a large number of residents who could not get in the building and be heard. They are feeling left out of the process. She reminded that the Board had promised to hold workshops and they never really told the community that they would. She recommended a workshop with a facilitator and someone to work with the community. She is uncomfortable with what is happening. She asked for the Board's feelings about the matter.
- Underground railroad – She finds it very interesting since she lived in New York where there was a stop on the underground railroad to Canada.

ITEM 19 – COMMENTS BY CHAIRMAN JUDGE

- Land Use Plan – He is confident that the Board agreed to hold meetings and will have a proposed schedule next Tuesday on the agenda.

ITEM 20 – COMMENTS BY ATTORNEY OUTTEN

- Jennette's Pier - Attorney Outten reminded that he had faxed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Jennette's Pier. They plan to be operating on May 1, 2003. This will need to be placed on

- Sign issue – He recommended that if they want to make changes they would need to re-advertise and schedule for the March meeting.

MOTION

Commissioner Byrd moved to schedule a public hearing on the Revised Sign Ordinance on March 3, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Cahoon seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 21 – ONE-STOP VOTING

Manager Wheeler reminded that the Board has asked him to look into offering one-stop voting in several locations throughout Dare County. He presented information from the Board of Elections Director regarding associated cost. Board of Election supports this effort. Related costs could be funded in 2003/04 budget so these locations are in place by November 2003 municipal elections.

THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED AT 11:25 A.M. UNTIL 3:00 P.M. ON FEBRUARY 17, 2003.

AT 12:00 P.M., THEY HAD LUNCH WITH THE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE STAFF.

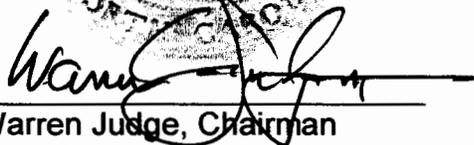
(THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL HOLD A RETREAT AT THE JUSTICE FACILITY ON FEBRUARY 11, 2003 AT 8:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.)

(SEAL)

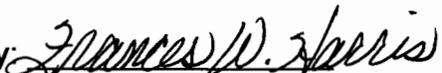


APPROVED:

By:


 Warren Judge, Chairman
 Dare County Board of Commissioners

Respectfully Submitted,

By: 
 Frances W. Harris
 Clerk to the Board