

**NORTH CAROLINA
DARE COUNTY****THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES
March 24, 2003**

The Dare County Board of Commissioners held a Community Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 24, at Fessenden Center in Buxton, NC. Commissioners present were: Warren Judge, John Robert Hooper, Renée Cahoon, Richard Johnson, Cheryl Byrd, and Virginia Tillett. Stan White was absent. Also present were Manager Terry Wheeler and Attorney Norma Mills. Staff included: Public Information Dorothy Toolan, Finance Director Dave Clawson, Planning Director Ray Sturza, Building Inspector TJ Jones, Planning Department Dabni Gray, OIWC Jenny Gray, Mosquito Control Tim McGonegal, Fessenden Center Director Craig Scarborough, and law enforcement offices from the Sheriff's Department. Chairman Judge opened the meeting followed by silent meditation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. He welcomed everyone. Dorothy Toolan, with the use of a mike, called on the speakers who had signed up prior to the meeting.

ITEM 1 – CONCERNS OF THE HATTERAS ISLAND CITIZENS

1. Charlie Roughton spoke on his dissatisfaction with the Sheriff's work in Avon in regard to the drug pushers. He recommended creating a small committee to make sure the Sheriff and ALS Officers are doing their jobs.
2. Pat Conley expressed concern about the speeders on Highway 12 through Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo. She would like to have a walkway along that area. She also thought there was a need for an Animal Control Officer for Hatteras Island.
3. Jim Carolan spoke on behalf of the Hatteras Island Homebuilders Association on the lack of building inspectors for the island. He suggested restructuring the salary system to employ one (1) qualified inspector and one (1) trainee to handle the workload.
4. Ed Marks questioned if the county could prevent anyone from filling land on their property thus causing no drainage for water and also destroying other people's property. Vice Chairman Hooper explained that there are no state regulations for property under one acre.
5. Howard Rooney raised concern about the water supply, noting that if the county keeps using water at the rate they are now, what will be the outcome? Commissioner Byrd assured that the Land Use Plan will have a Carrying Capacity Study and afterwards the Board will be able to answer his question.
6. Bob Teagarden, who lives in Brigand's Bay, reported that CAMA had allowed the property owners across the road to fill their property thus causing no place for water runoff. Chairman Judge is hopeful that with

the hiring of a county engineer and the adoption of the Land Use Plan that these issues would be resolved.

7. Joe Thompson outlined three categories: economy, social, and environmental. He noted that Dare County is 90% tourist based and with that lies pros and cons – like it or not. He noted that the fill has been required by the Health Department. He asked for a multiuse path for Hatteras Island beginning with Avon, which has the straightest right-of-way. Socially/anti-socially, there is an illicit drug problem and he would like to see the Sheriff's request for two (2) law enforcement officers on Hatteras Island approved by the Board of Commissioners. Environmentally, he would like to see Dare County protect its natural resources. Commissioner Cahoon responded that a committee is working on a grant application for a multiuse path, which would not be attached to the road. So far the paths have been funded by the towns and state and not by the county. Vice Chairman Hooper responded that the Sheriff's Department has already requested two (2) narcotics drug officers. Commissioner Tillett felt the county has lost control of the drug situation and the funding for the Sheriff's Department is needed. Also the county needs more treatment programs for those who are using drugs.
8. Karen Hartrampf noted that when drugs prevail, public safety goes away and organized crime comes into a community. She urged the Board and citizens to be indignant about drugs because young people have had their birthright sold to these dealers. She came here five years ago from an area infested with drugs and crime.
9. Kenny Tillett told the group that he had been a drug addict and now was a minister. He felt the issue had been swept aside by the Sheriff's Department and there needed to be a tighter hold on prescription drugs.
10. Larry Hardham urged the Board to reaffirm their approval of beach access to the National Park Service. He fears the NPS may be making some changes. Commissioner Byrd noted that the Land Use Plan reaffirms the Board's approval.
11. Michael Peele raised concern about the drainage problems. Vice Chairman Hooper responded that he is committed to getting the ditches cleaned out.
12. Steve Tolson asked questions about the hauling of construction waste. Commissioner Johnson explained that the professionals would have to take their construction waste to Stumpy Point C & D Landfill while the residents will still be able to use the dump.
13. Ann Jennette made a request to move the Transportation Services from the Older Adult Services to the Social Services Department or move Hatteras Island's Transportation Services back to the Fessenden Center. She noted their driver had to make trips to the Manteo Dialysis Center leaving no transportation for those on Hatteras Island.

Commissioner Byrd responded they were very limited to the number of services.

14. Don Couch thanked everyone for the donations and contributions to the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum. After 15 years, Phase 1 has been completed. They are very fortunate to have a blend of commercial and private enterprise through fund raising. The Ship Store will soon be opened and he invited everyone to come and make purchases.
15. Jimmy Pierce, State Agent with Law Enforcement, stated that it may seem like the Sheriff's Department is not doing their job, but he assured everyone that they were. He urged the people to continue reporting drug situations. He assured they were trying to take care of the prescription drugs, which are coming from the Tidewater Virginia area.
16. Jack McCombs, Kill Devil Hills, reported that the Bodie Island Lighthouse would be decommissioned and the lens removed. He urged the Board to write to the US Coast Guard Commandant on the county's position and also requested that the Board urge the NPS to get an estimate on the stabilization on the Bodie Island Lighthouse. Chairman Judge responded that he would monitor the situation.
17. Todd Merriss hoped the Board would support the Planning Director's budget for inspectors on Hatteras Island.
18. Joe Farrow requested a boat access for Hatteras Island. Vice Chairman Hooper responded that there were still problems with the Buxton property and they needed to move ahead with the US Fish & Wildlife Service to find a ramp for Buxton-Frisco-Hatteras area. Chairman Judge will have the County Manager and County Attorney look into the Buxton Harbor area.
19. A citizen reported that drug dealers who live next door were affecting her parents. Commissioner Byrd responded the Board would have to work with state legislators on drug sentencing, which is not a simple problem.
20. Walter Tiltman reported on the excessive speeding through the villages. He urged the Board to make a bigger stance for speeders.
21. Scott Johnson wanted to know whatever happened to the secondary road that was to be built behind the new school. He felt that it should have been addressed at that time for a second access. Commissioner Byrd responded that he should take it up with the Board of Education.
22. Mel Covey raised concern about the road going into the new Cape Hatteras Elementary School. He fears that a bus will end up in a borrow pit. He brought the subject matter before the Board of Education when the school was being considered.
23. A citizen noted that he delivered Meals on Wheels to the homebound and urged others to help. It only takes a few hours each day.
24. Kathy Kiddy thanked the Board for their support of the Locomotion Program for the kids on Hatteras Island. She also raised concern about

- the trash being dumped on her property. Commissioner Cahoon explained they were trying to solve the equity problem. Everyone north of Oregon Inlet is now paying the service on Hatteras Island.
25. Susan Gray, employee for the HIHBA, explained that everyone is being affected by these delays with a lack of building inspectors. The whole chain of events is getting worse.
 26. A citizen reported that people from Ocracoke were dumping trash in his yard late at night. He questioned if that person should have to drive to Stumpy Point. Vice Chairman Hooper said that it was illegal to dump and those people should be taking their trash to Hyde County.
 27. Flip Phillips noted that a multiuse path was planned years ago but had been defeated by the National Park Service – one person. He urged the Board to push forward for the path but reminded them that it takes only 1 vote to veto.
 28. A citizen addressed the concern of the speeders. She has a hearing impaired child and would like for the courts to make these people accountable for their actions.

Chairman Judge noted that Colington is dealing with the same debris problems and the County Attorney is looking into the matter and will include Hatteras Island.

He said the Board will address the question of will the water system be big enough to handle growth.

In regard to vehicle taxes, Dave Clawson, Finance Director, explained that in January 1993 the General Assembly passed a statewide tax that any entity had to levy fire, ambulance, and trash on real property and vehicle taxes.

Tim McGonegal, Mosquito Control Director, reported that they will continue spraying but their new program is larvaciding, which is a process of treating standing water including ditches with various chemicals that are safe for the environment. They cannot treat NPS land but can treat around the area. He noted that the state of Florida is cooperative with NPS. He assured everyone that there were no mosquitoes in the water where there is aquatic life. He welcomed and urged the group to give him a call.

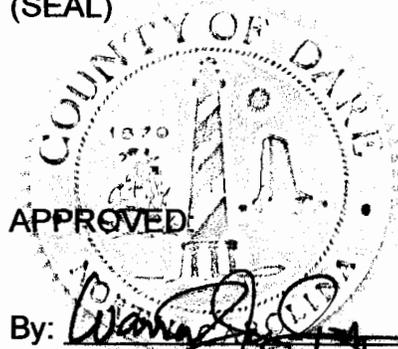
Chairman Judge thanked everyone for coming and assured them that the Board is aware of the drug problems and it will take everyone's help to bring the problem to the surface. He noted the group has given the Board home work assignments and they will get to work on the number of issues and will come back on a more frequent basis.

BK0038PG0547

THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RECESSED AT
9:30 P.M. UNTIL 4:00 P.M. ON MARCH 26, 2003 FOR A LAND USE
PLAN WORKSHOP AND CLOSED SESSION.

(SEAL)

Respectfully Submitted,



APPROVED:

By: Warren Judge
Warren Judge, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners

By: Frances W. Harris
Frances W. Harris
Clerk to the Board