



COUNTY OF DARE, NORTH CAROLINA

District 1: Roanoke Island & Mainland; District 2: Nags Head, Colington, Kill Devil Hills; District 3: Kitty Hawk, Southern Shores, Duck; District 4: Chicamacomico, Avon, Buxton, Frisco, Hatteras; District 5: At Large

MINUTES

DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING

To conduct a Town Hall Meeting
to hear from the public about issues of concern
and to obtain suggested solutions for the challenges facing Dare County

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

6:30 p.m., January 14, 2015

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard
Vice-Chairman Wally Overman
Warren Judge, Jack Shea, Beverly Boswell

Commissioners absent: Allen Burrus & Margarett Umphlett

Others present: County Manager/Attorney, Robert Outten
Finance Director, David Clawson
Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester
Clerk to the Board, Gary Gross

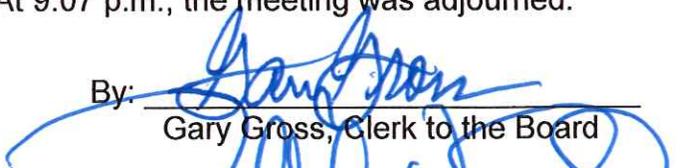
Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He acknowledged elected officials in attendance, introduced Dare County Department Heads, and explained the purpose and format of the meeting. Before a standing room only audience of approximately 170 people, 26 individuals spoke on a variety of subjects, including -

- Tax forms and revaluation process that hurts those selling their property.
- Resources needed by the "Room at the Inn" program that serves the homeless.
- Join with Currituck County to put a road through Back Bay to divert traffic.
- Ask legislature to allow Dare County to manage oysters and clams.
- Consider alternative solutions, such as trenching, for Oregon Inlet.
- Address the dangerous turning situation at the Little Bridge on the causeway.
- Lack of a real Dog Park in Manteo. People now use site near airport/aquarium.
- Explore alternatives to preserve the old Fort Raleigh Hotel (Old Adm Building)
- Do not be dogmatic in assessing "wants" versus "needs" and cutting the budget.
- Address the legitimate expectations of county employees for just compensation.
- Culverts need fixed in Stumpy Point, one in front of Fire Dept. has collapsed.
- Use money allocated for Commissioner in-county travel to help Stumpy Point.
- Clogged Stumpy Point canal is causing flooding & nearby bridge needs attention
- State built harbor in Stumpy Point has not been maintained, sunken boat is there.

- Mouth of Stumpy Point harbor needs cleaning out, impedes local fish landings.
- Consider putting together a task force on wastewater management planning.
- Continue to work with the Board of Education in small groups to face challenges.
- Charter Cable problems are getting worse.
- Hard work lies ahead on beach access and needs continued County support.
- County's best years are yet to come, business owner outlined plans to expand.
- Input from State of the Child Conference should be considered (material given)
- Economy is hurt by workers who do not live here. Consider some type of relief.
- Alliance to Preserve Southern Shores is concerned about the maritime forest.
- Take the lead in developing solutions to traffic congestion in northern beaches.
- Cut through traffic in Southern Shores is a problem that holds residents hostage.
- Local kiteboard businesses are hurt by out of town firms that do not pay taxes.
- Board talk of demolishing the Old Adm Building causes people to panic.
- Give the Old Adm Building to Manteo, or someone who can preserve it.
- Address the important issue of getting a licensed Adult Day Care center.
- Relief for caregivers is needed, and utilize the expertise of Gail Sonneso.
- There is limited EMS coverage throughout the county for long periods of time.
- The need for continuing education at EMS should be addressed.
- Decent, affordable housing for workers is vital to our economy.
- Partner with the private sector to get something going to provide worker housing.
- East Lake needs a handicapped bathroom at the Community Center.
- Canals need cleaning in East Lake and grass needs cutting on a regular basis.
- Slogan was presented "Bridges are connectors not dividers" (material was given)
- County has lacked vision for economic growth – reactionary instead of proactive.
- Look at education as a business and increase enrollment at COA.
- Dare County Airport needs runway expanded to 5,000 feet.
- Make it a priority to follow the money budgeted for school maintenance.
- Work with the Board of Education to prepare a vision for our student's future.
- Shift more tourism marketing efforts to attract North Carolina residents.
- Speaker was proud to be a Dare County employee and happy with EMS Dept.

Members of the Board and the Dare County Manager engaged in dialogue with citizens about various issues that were raised. At the conclusion of the Town Hall meeting, Chairman Woodard reminded everyone that the Commissioners, Department Heads, and County Employees all work for the betterment of the people of Dare County. He said with concern and compassion, together we can get something done.

At 9:07 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.

By: 
Gary Gross, Clerk to the Board

Approved: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman

