



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

Regularly scheduled Board meetings are videotaped and can be viewed at www.darenc.com

MINUTES

DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

9:00 a.m., August 1, 2016

Commissioners present: Chairman Robert Woodard
Vice-Chairman Wally Overman
Warren Judge, Beverly Boswell, Margarett Umphlett

Commissioners absent: Jack Shea, Allen Burrus

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

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

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. He invited Jennifer Frost from the Unitarian-Universalist Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

ITEM 1 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Sue Wallace, Tax Assessment Department, received a 10-year pin.
- 2) Stacey Owens, Sheriff's Office, received a 10-year pin.
- 3) Cynthia Gregory, Health & Social Services, received a 10-year pin.
- 4) Latesha Drake, Health & Social Services, received a 10-year pin.
- 5) Pamela Kaiser, Health & Social Services, received a 10-year pin.
- 6) Rodney Barefoot, Health & Social Services, received a 15-year pin.
- 7) Merry Balance, Sheriff's Office/Communications, received a 15-year pin.
- 8) Pam Midgett, Information Technology Department, received a 20-year pin.
- 9) Lana Vestal, Register of Deeds Office, received a 30-year pin.

ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – JULY 2016

Jason McPherson received the Employee of the Month award for July from Spencer Gregory who described the many ways that Mr. McPherson is an asset to the Parks and Recreation Department.

ITEM 3 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN’S UPDATE

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- He congratulated new Board of Education (BOE) members Mary Ellon Ballance and David Twiddy and announced that Bea Basnight is the BOE Chair and Margaret Lawler is the Vice Chair.
- The Chairman noted that work is diligently underway to get Hatteras Inlet open and that later in the meeting Vice-Chairman Overman and the County Manager will have more information.
- Chairman Woodard commented on two openings that exist on the Oregon Inlet and Waterways Commission. He explained that Holly White has informed staff that she is unable to serve since she does not reside in Dare County. He also announced that Arvin Midgett is stepping down due to health reasons. The Chairman encouraged people to submit applications for these positions so the Board of Commissioners can consider them at the next meeting on August 15.

A video of the Chairman’s update can be seen on the County website www.darenc.com.

ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments in Manteo and via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton. Citizen remarks can be seen in their entirety on the county website www.darenc.com. Following is a brief summary –

The following Public Comments were made in Manteo –

1. George Cain, Secretary of the Outer Banks Gun Club, asked the Board for a \$5,000 contribution to do stabilization and hydra seeding at the new gun range. He outlined the various government agencies that utilize the facility and the large number of tourists that visit the site.

There were no Public Comments via the video link to the Fessenden Center in Buxton.

ITEM 5 – DCDHHS, Public Health Division – Zika Virus Update

Sheila Davies, Director of the Public Health Division, gave the Board an update on the Zika virus. She described symptoms of the disease and the mosquitoes involved in its transmission. Ms. Davies summarized the Zika cases that have been reported and outlined State and local efforts to address this issue. She highlighted ways that Dare County residents can help protect their community from mosquitoes.

ITEM 6 – REAPPOINT ASSESSOR AND TAX COLLECTOR (Att. #1)

The County Manager noted that the County Assessor and Tax Collector must be reappointed every four years. He asked the Board to reappoint Greta Skeen to the office of Dare County Assessor and Becky Huff to the office of Dare County Tax Collector. Following a unanimous Board vote, Oaths were administered by the Clerk.

MOTION

Commissioner Judge motioned to reappoint Greta Skeen and Becky Huff.
Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – ANNUAL SETTLEMENT AND CHARGES TO THE TAX COLLECTOR

Becky Huff, Dare County Tax Collector, presented information to the Board on the 2015 total real estate and personal property levy, which was \$54,106,643. It was noted that Dare County's 99.45% collection rate is one of the highest in the State.

MOTION

Commissioner Judge motioned to charge the Tax Collector to collect 2016 taxes.
Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – NC DIVISION OF AVIATION PRESENTATION

Philip Lanier from the NCDOT Division of Aviation outlined possible runway approach protection measures for Billy Mitchell Airport in Frisco and First Flight Airport in Kill Devil Hills, both of which are located on federal land. He was joined in the presentation by Safety Inspector Jimmy Capps, and Brad Zeigler a local pilot. The group discussed the need for an obstruction free environment near the airport and how an overlay district could help assure safety. By consensus, the Board expressed interest in having the Dare County Planning Director work with the NCDOT Aviation Division and bring suggestions back to the Board for consideration.

ITEM 9 – PROPOSAL TO ALLOW FOR THE OPERATION OF GOLF CARTS IN ST. WAVES SUBDIVISION (Att. #2)

Planning Director, Donna Creef, noted that this item was tabled at the July 18 meeting to allow the Sheriff's Office to evaluate safety issues related to a request to allow golf carts on Sea Vista Court and Sea Vista Drive in the St. Waves subdivision. She reported that Sheriff Doughtie indicates there are no safety issues and reminded that the authorization requested will not allow the operation of golf carts on NC Highway 12. Ms. Creef said NCDOT has determined that the speed limit will be 25 mph consistent with other subdivision streets.

MOTION

Commissioner Boswell motioned to adopt the revision to Chapter 100 Streets and Sidewalks to allow for the operation of golf carts in the St. Waves Subdivision.

Commissioner Judge seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 10 – CONSENT AGENDA

The Manager announced the Consent Agenda items as they were visually displayed.

MOTION

Commissioner Judge motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (07.18.16) **(Att. #3)**

- 2) Budget Amendment for CP&E Contract for Hatteras Inlet approved by the Board
- 3) FY2017 Lease Proposal for Computer Equipment
Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.
VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) A.B.C. Board
Commissioner Judge motioned to reappoint Ray White and name him as Chairman of the A.B.C. Board.
VOTE: AYES unanimous
- 2) Dare County Center Advisory Board
Commissioner Umphlett motioned to reappoint Lynda Hester and Rodney Benson; and to appoint Jean Council to replace James Brown, and to appoint Daniel Otte' to replace John Robbins.
VOTE: AYES unanimous
- 3) Stumpy Point Community Center Board
Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Umphlett motioned to reappoint Roger Best, Naomi Midgett, and Jeff Griffith.
VOTE: AYES unanimous
- 4) Upcoming Board Appointments
Upcoming appointments for September, October, and November were announced.

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

Following is a brief outline of items raised during this segment. Commissioners and the County Manager frequently make extensive remarks, which can be viewed in their entirety on a video archived on the Dare County website www.darenc.com.

Vice-Chairman Overman – gave an update on efforts to improve navigation at Hatteras Inlet. He noted that the Memorandum of Agreement is being drafted. He explained that there may be an opening on the short ferry route, which will be evaluated further. The Vice-Chairman congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month. And, he made the following motion.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to provide \$5,000 as requested by the Outer Banks Gun Club during Public Comments to help preserve work that has been done at the new gun range.

Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Commissioner Umphlett – congratulated the service pin recipients and complimented Employee of the Month, Jason McPherson. She also outlined upcoming board appointments in an effort to encourage people to submit applications to serve on them.

Commissioner Judge – thanked the Employee of the Month and the service pin recipients. He reported on a Southern Albemarle Association meeting he attended with Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Shea, where roads, bridges, and transportation issues were discussed. Commissioner Judge expressed support for NCDOT and their plans for bridges on Hatteras Island.

Commissioner Boswell – commended the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month. She reported on the recent Wicked Tuna event and said the watermen are appreciative of efforts that have been made to have safe and navigable waterways in Dare County. She said her heart goes out to all law enforcement personnel and their families and asked the community to pray for them. Commissioner Boswell presented a list of holiday pay that is owed to Dare County employees and asked the Board to consider paying out this money so everyone can start on a level playing field before the salary study is completed. The County Manager said it would be better for employees and the County if holiday hours were paid out as they accrue and he outlined ideas of how that might be accomplished. Chairman Woodard said perhaps the issue could be addressed in steps and thanked Commissioner Boswell for bringing the matter to the Board's attention.

Chairman Woodard – congratulated the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month. He commended the staff of the Tax Collections Department for achieving such a high collection rate.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

1. Mr. Outten reported on talks he has had with Wildlife Resources concerning the need for boat ramps. He said while the Buxton site is not large enough for a ramp, they are looking into one at Rodanthe and at the Old Swimming Hole in Manteo. The Manager reported that Wildlife Resources has money to improve both sites if that is the pleasure of the Board. He noted that swimming activity is not expected to be hampered at the Manteo site, and plans for Rodanthe would be discussed with commercial fishermen and the Ferry Division of NCDOT. By consensus, the Board agreed that the County Manager should move forward with Wildlife Resources.
2. The Manager advised the Board of a series of positive citizen comments he has received about various Dare County departments. He thanked Dare County employees for the extraordinary way they serve our residents and visitors.

STAFF REPORTS

- Public Information Officer, Dorothy Hester, updated the Board on efforts to publicize information about openings on Dare County Boards and Committees.
- Finance Director, David Clawson, briefed Commissioners on the effect that the State budget will have on the Board of Education. He said the final results might not be known until September.

Chairman Woodard made a personal plea to the media asking them to remind people to make public comments through the live video link that has been established at the Fessenden Center in Buxton.

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

MOTION

Commissioner Umphlett and Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Boswell seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 11:03 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., August 15, 2016.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By: 
Robert Woodard, Chairman
Dare County Board of Commissioners