



# 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

Meetings of the Dare County Board of Commissioners are videotaped and can be viewed at [www.darenc.com](http://www.darenc.com)

## MINUTES

### DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

**9:00 a.m., August 5, 2013**

Commissioners present: Chairman Warren Judge, District 3  
Vice-Chairman Richard Johnson, District 1  
Virginia Tillett, District 1; Max Dutton, District 2;  
Robert Woodard, District 2; Allen Burrus, District 4;

Commissioners absent Jack Shea, District 5

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

Chairman Judge called the August 5, 2013 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:08 a.m. He invited the Rev. Ken Simpson from the Manteo Baptist Church to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### ITEM 1 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Amy Etheridge received a 10-year pin from Tim White.
- 2) Jeff Ambrose received a 10-year pin from Sheriff Doug Doughtie.
- 3) Terry Ballance received a 25-year pin from Sheriff Doug Doughtie.

#### ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2013

Casey Morris, Health Department, received the Employee of the Month certificate for August from Roxanne Ballinger. The Board was presented with details about Ms. Morris' academic background and her efforts to elevate the Health Department's level of emergency preparedness. Ms. Ballinger read from comments that have been made by Ms. Morris' coworkers, which described her as an upbeat, positive person who is respected as a public health advocate.

#### ITEM 3 – UPDATE FROM DOMINION POWER

Michael Thompson and Bobby Wood from Dominion Power provided an update on last month's power outage to Roanoke Island and Manns Harbor. They described efforts underway to complete the upgrade of service lines at the Melvin Daniels Bridge and the Washington Baum Bridge. Vice-Chairman Johnson said he was glad to see the action

taken by Dominion Power. Details were also provided about recent outages caused by direct lightning strikes to electrical transformers. In response to a question from Commissioner Tillett, Mr. Wood explained that Dominion Power works diligently to mitigate service disruptions when transformers are hit by lightning. Commissioner Tillett suggested that Dominion Power utilize social media to inform the community of service outages. Mr. Thompson advised the Commissioners that Dominion Power is involved in a legal case in which someone claims a horse was allegedly hurt by Dominion Power property.

#### **ITEM 4 – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The County Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments. The following people spoke –

1. Ashley Gilreath said as a parent and as a Teacher at Manteo Elementary School, she supported the needed school expansion, which will serve our students for years to come and give them resources to compete in global economy.
2. Mary Anne Wetzel, Principal of Manteo Elementary School, thanked the Board for considering the school expansion request. She reported that enrollment has steadily increased and the challenge has been faced with the school's spirit of respect, responsibility, and resourcefulness. Ms. Wetzel thanked the Board for supporting the request to expand Manteo Elementary School.
3. Don Twyne, Jr. of Roanoke Island said he concurred with the comments that have been made about the need for school expansion. He said he has no problem with tearing down the Old Alternative School building in order to make it better for our children.
4. Marcie Haywood reviewed the overcrowding conditions she has observed as a 20 year Teacher at Manteo Elementary School, and as the mother of a special needs student. She said more space is needed and thanked the Board for helping us expand.
5. Helen Corbett, as a Teacher and mother, thanked the Board for their continued support of the children and our educational system. She called on the Board to help create a better environment so the children can be the best that they can be.
6. Martha Cain, a former teacher at Manteo Elementary School, described the overcrowded conditions when she taught in 1992 and read comments that students wrote at that time. She said that once again more space is needed.
7. Lisa Frye, as a parent and teacher, described the overcrowded conditions at Manteo Elementary School and said it is crucial that expansion be approved. She said as Manteo grows, the children are our future and they must come first. Ms. Frye noted that no one in her large family is opposed to removing the Old

Alternative Structure and called on the Board to proceed with expansion plans for Manteo Elementary School.

8. Lynette Crews, Speech Language Pathologist, described the overcrowded conditions that she has observed at Manteo Elementary School and how they have made use of every bit of available space.

**ITEM 5 – WORLD FISHING NETWORK AWARD TO THE CAPE HATTERAS ACCESS PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

The County Manager introduced Jim Keene from NCBBA and David Scarborough from OBPA who were on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Cape Hatteras Access Preservation Alliance (CHAPA). Mr. Outten explained that anglers voted Cape Hatteras as the Southeast Region's "Ultimate Fishing Town." In presenting the award, Chairman Judge thanked CHAPA for their steadfast work preserving access and thanked Mr. Keene, Mr. Scarborough and others in the community for their dedicated efforts.

**ITEM 6 – COOPERATIVE EXTENSION POSITION CHANGES (Att. #1)**

Susan Ruiz-Evans presented a proposal that replaces two positions that have been eliminated because the State's matching funds are no longer available. In order to continue the high quality of service being provided to the community, she requested Board approval that the County's portion of funding for the eliminated positions be used instead for two new Program Assistant positions. Mr. Outten clarified that the Cooperative Extension employees will continue to be State employees on the State retirement system and confirmed that the arrangement is budget neutral.

**MOTION**

Vice-Chairman Johnson motioned to approve the Cooperative Extension position changes as presented.

Commissioner Burrus and Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 7 – ANNUAL SETTLEMENT & CHARGES TO THE TAX COLLECTOR (Att. #2)**

Michelle Evans, Dare County Tax Collector, reviewed the total real estate and personal levy for 2012 in the amount of \$48,485,369.57 with collections of \$48,129,287.91 for a collection rate of 99.27%. She also provided details on the Motor Vehicle levy and collections effort. She explained that each year the Board is required, by motion, to charge the Tax Collector to begin tax collections on current taxes based on the budgeted valuation of \$12,225,747,095 and the gross levy of \$76,860,996.05.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burrus motioned to charge the Dare County Tax Collector to collect the 2013 taxes as presented.

Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 8 – DARE COUNTY HURRICANE RECOVERY MITIGATION PROJECTS**

**(Att. #3)**

Jenny Gray Jones, Project Manager, presented a grant for the elevation of 17 homes in Phase 1 of the Hurricane Irene Elevation Project. She also presented a contract from House Engineering covering Phases 1 and 2 of the project. At the request of Chairman Judge, Ms. Jones outlined the procedure for residents who wish to be added to the ongoing list of home elevation projects. Commissioner Burrus said while the grant program does a great job helping people, there will be more competition for this money in the future and it may impact our long-term approach. He suggested that Social Services or other resources may be available to help residents with additional needs once the initial elevation project is completed.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burrus motioned to approve the \$2,550,860 Phase 1 grant, the engineering contract for both phases, a Capital Project Ordinance, and authorize the Chairman to sign.

Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 9 – FY2014 – FY2018 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (Att. #4)**

David Clawson, Finance Director, presented the FY2014-FY2018 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). He outlined events that have transpired since June 17, 2013 including the passage of the North Carolina State budget and explained its impact on the Local Current Expense. Mr. Clawson described four recommended changes to the CIP since the July 15, 2013 meeting including: 1) decreasing the Board of Education local current expense by \$179,402 instead of \$200,000. 2) Increasing the Health Department software project by \$6,000 in FY2014 and decreasing it by the same amount in FY2015. 3) Decreasing the Board of Education local capital outlay to \$275,000 from \$300,000 in FY2015 in order to maintain fund balance at the end of FY2015. 4) Adding a budget amendment for the E911 Fund. The Finance Director said the \$3,015,000 addition for Manteo Elementary School is in the plan with debt service to start in FY2016. He said as of last week, the project does not yet have a demolition permit for the Old Alternative School from the Town of Manteo. He said once they obtain the permit he will come back to the Board with a reimbursement Resolution and a Capital Project Ordinance for the demolition cost. He also outlined the procedure for handling architectural costs. Mr. Clawson asked the Board to adopt the Capital Improvements Plan for FY2014 to FY2018 along with budget amendments for the Capital Reserve Fund, the General Fund, the C&D Fund, and E911 Fund. He also presented Capital Project Ordinances for the Capital Projects Fund, and the School Capital Projects Fund.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Tillett motioned to adopt the FY2014 through FY2018 Capital Improvements Plan, and to adopt the Budget Amendments for the Capital Reserve Fund, General Fund, C&D Fund, and E911 Fund, and Capital Project Ordinances for the Capital Projects Fund and the School Capital Projects Fund.

Commissioner Burrus seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 10 – RETIREMENT OF HEALTH DIRECTOR (Att. #5)**

The County Manager reported that the retirement of Health Director Anne Thomas, announced last week, was based on an agreement to facilitate retirement by the end of the year.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burrus motioned to approve the proposal to facilitate retirement of Health Director Anne Thomas, as presented by the County Manager.

Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 11 – CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES**

Mr. Outten said the Board of Health has requested that the Health Board be consolidated with another human services department so that the day-to-day operation of the Health Department would be under Dare County. He recommended consolidation with the Transportation Department. He explained that the Health Board would be called a Consolidated Human Services Board and would continue to set health policy as they do now. Mr. Outten also described other available options. He reported that under consolidation, employees would be removed from the State Personnel Act and that the Health Director would report directly to the County Manager. He noted that funding would not change under consolidation. By consensus, the Board directed the County Manager to move forward on consolidating human services and to bring this item back to the Board.

**ITEM 12 – CONSENT AGENDA (Att. #6)**

The County Manager presented the Consent Agenda.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Burrus motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (07.15.13)
- 2) Cooperative Extension JCPC Grant Award Budget Amendment
- 3) Roanoke Island Water Project Assessment Deletions
- 4) Grant Award from the Governor's Crime Commission

Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 13 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

- 1) A.B.C. Board

Commissioner Tillett motioned to reappoint Ray White.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Dare County Center Advisory Board

Commissioner Tillett motioned to reappoint Lynda Hester, James Harris, James Brown, and John Robbins.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) Jury Commission

Commissioner Burrus motioned to reappoint Alma Clark.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

4) Stumpy Point Community Center Board

Commissioner Tillett motioned to reappoint Roger Best, Sheila Golden, Naomi Midgett, and Jeff Griffith.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

5) Upcoming Board Appointments

Board appointments for September and October 2013 were announced.

## **ITEM 14 – COMMISSIONERS’ BUSINESS & MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS**

Vice-Chairman Johnson – None

Commissioner Woodard

- He announced that the Oregon Inlet Task Force Advisory Committee is moving forward with the assessment of stakeholders project. He also thanked Dorothy Killingsworth for her assistance making changes to the Oregon Inlet video.

Commissioner Dutton

- He expressed appreciation for service pin recipients and Employee of the Month
- Commissioner Dutton said he is collecting questions to pose to NCDOT about bicycle and pedestrian safety along with other transportation issues.

Commissioner Tillett

- She thanked Ken Flatt and the Water Department for their work restoring service to Rodanthe over the weekend.

Commissioner Burrus

- He commended the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month.
- Commissioner Burrus recognized the Water Department employees for their work over the weekend restoring service.
- He acknowledged Commissioner Tillett for her part in the dedication ceremony for the Hotel D’Afrique.
- Commissioner Burrus recognized CHAPA for the good things they do and for the recognition they received from the World Fishing Network.
- He explained ongoing work with State agencies concerning roads and dredging.

Chairman Judge

- Expressed regret that he was unable to attend the dedication ceremony for the Hotel D’Afrique. He said while he was out of town he was able to view coverage on WRAL-TV.

- Chairman Judge noted that for many years Vice-Chairman Johnson has advocated that Dare County have its own Community College. He said he supported this effort and urged that we continue striving to get all that we can from the College of the Albemarle (COA) Board of Trustees. He announced that last week COA signed an agreement to partner with North Carolina Wesleyan that will bring a four-year degree to the Dare County campus.
- He said since 2001 the Board of Commissioners has responded well to the cry about needs at Manteo Elementary School. He said now, 11 years later, the comments concerning deplorable conditions are about the same. He expressed hope that people will realize the tremendous financial obligation that the Board of Commissioners has placed on taxpayers in order to assure the best schools for our children. He said that hopefully the addition that was approved in the Capital Improvements Plan will ease the overcrowding at Manteo Elementary School.
- Chairman Judge cited the Hoke County Sandy Grove Middle School for their Net Positive Energy Program, which is the first in the nation. He noted that this is a leased public school built by a private investor.

#### **MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS**

- Mr. Outten commended Ken Flatt and the Water Department for their prompt work repairing a water line break over the weekend.
- The Manager said there have been requests from adjoining counties to use Dare MedFlight on a back-up basis when their primary helicopter service provider is not available. He said he has been reluctant to approve these requests during the tourism season in order to keep Dare MedFlight in the County as much as possible. Vice-Chairman Johnson asked if the mechanics have expressed concerns about providing service to adjoining counties. County Manager Outten clarified that while the helicopter now charges for service as a 135 operation, it is not a self-supporting venture. The Board discussed the merits of providing service to other counties and by consensus directed the County Manager to gather additional information and come back to the Board of Commissioners.
- The County Manager asked for a Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5) concerning a real estate matter pertaining to the Salvo Marina Property on Hatteras Island and to approve the Minutes of the previous Closed Session.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Burrus motioned to go into Closed Session pursuant to the provisions of the North Carolina General Statutes cited by the County Manager. Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

At 11:00 a.m., the Board of Commissioners exited the room to meet in Closed Session. They reconvened at 11:53 a.m. The County Manager reported that the Board met in Closed Session and approved the Minutes of the previous Closed Session and discussed a Real Property matter and took no other action.

AT 11:54 A.M., THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON AUGUST 19, 2013.



Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Gary Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

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