



COUNTY OF DARE, NORTH CAROLINA

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

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DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

September 4, 2012 — 9:00 a.m.

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

Commissioners Present: Chairman Warren Judge, District 3; Vice-Chairman Allen Burrus, District 4; Max Dutton, District 2; Mike Johnson, District 2; Jack Shea, District 5

Commissioners Absent: Virginia Tillett, District 1; Richard Johnson, District 1;

Others Present: County Manager/Attorney Bobby Outten; Finance Director, Dave Clawson; Public Information Officer, Dorothy Killingsworth, Clerk to the Board, Gary Gross

Public Comments: None

Presentations:

The Employee of the Month certificate was awarded to Norman Johnson, Dare County Sheriff's Office
Service pins were presented to four Dare County employees — Naomi Rhodes, Billy Essick, Angela Long, and Buddy Shelton

Actions:

Proclamation — Constitution Week — **Issued**

Dare County Government — Social Media Use Policy — **Approved**

Resolution for Bid Acceptance & Awarding of Bid —

Adopted a Resolution for bid acceptance and awarding the project to Hatchell Concrete, Inc., and

Approved an amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for the Roanoke Island Pedestrian Trail

Budget Amendment and Capital Project Ordinance for Preliminary Debt Issuance Numbers for Limited Obligation Bonds (LOBs) —

Adopted Budget Amendment for the General Fund & an Amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for the Capital Projects Fund

Consent Agenda — **Approved**

1. Approval of Minutes (08.20.12)
2. Transportation Department—NCDOT Grant Approval
3. DELL Leasing Documents

Board Appointments —

1. Upcoming Board Appointments for October and November 2012 were announced

Commissioners' Business — *Following is a brief synopsis of Commissioners' Business items, see the Minutes for more information —*

1. **Approved** waiving fees related to moving conforming legal signs, as of today, that need to move for the construction of the Scenic Byway in the Hatteras Island Villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, and Avon
2. **Authorized** the Finance Director to withhold \$15,232 from the October 1, 2012 payment to the School Board.

Manager's/Attorney's Business — *Following is a brief synopsis of Manager/Attorney items, see the Minutes for more information —*

1. **Authorized** the County Manager's action on grant applications for the Dare County Center, Baum Center, and Fessenden Center
2. **Authorized** a fireworks display for the Bluegrass Festival at Festival Park in October

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Chairman Warren Judge called the September 4, 2012 meeting of the Dare County Board of Commissioners to order at 9:11 a.m. He urged everyone to remember those in the Gulf Coast dealing with Hurricane Isaac. He invited the Rev. Tom Wilson from All Saints Episcopal Church to offer a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Chairman Judge announced that Commissioner Virginia Tillett and Commissioner Richard Johnson would not be attending the meeting and send their regrets.

ITEM 1 – PRESENTATION OF COUNTY SERVICE PINS

- 1) Naomi Rhodes, Reference Librarian, received her 10-year pin from Jonathan Wark.
- 2) Billy Essick, Deputy Sheriff Master Officer, received his 15-year pin from Sheriff Doug Doughtie
- 3) Angela Long, Social Worker, received her 15-year pin from Sandy Brookshire
- 4) Buddy Shelton, Chief Building Codes Inspector, received his 25-year pin from Donna Creef

ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – SEPTEMBER 2012

Norman Johnson, Sheriff's Office Major, received the Employee of the Month certificate for September 2012 from Sheriff Doug Doughtie who said the honoree averages more than ten hours per day serving the people. Major Johnson was described as someone who can walk into a situation and gain people's respect. Sheriff Doughtie said Major Johnson and his team have helped the community through their work on a series of domestic cases and he was recognized as being a great ambassador for Dare County.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC COMMENTS

The County Manager outlined the procedure for making public comments. No one in the meeting room responded.

ITEM 4 – PROCLAMATION – CONSTITUTION WEEK

Donna Stoessner, Regent of the Virginia Dare Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) explained the history of Constitution Week. She said the Virginia Dare Chapter is dedicated to historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Ms. Stoessner added that the Chapter will have Constitution Week displays in the Manteo and Kill Devil Hills libraries.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to issue a Proclamation establishing September 17 through 23, 2012 as Constitution Week in Dare County.

Vice-Chairman Burrus and Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 5 – DARE COUNTY GOVERNMENT – SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY (Att. #1)

Dorothy Killingsworth and Sara Brubaker, from Dare County Public Relations, presented the Social Media Use Policy. Ms. Killingsworth outlined the four social media tools that will be utilized - Facebook, YouTube, Flickr, and Twitter. She said social media will be used to disseminate emergency information quickly, promote County events, and direct viewers to online content at www.darenc.com. She identified County departments that have been approved to host social media sites. Ms. Brubaker outlined components of the policy and listed rules pertaining to personal employee use of social media. The County Manager explained that until a week ago the County had the ability to block all viewer comments, however now it can no longer do so. In response to a question from Commissioner Shea, the Manager clarified that employees who violate the Social Media Use Policy, or any other policy, are subject to disciplinary action. Vice-Chairman Burrus expressed concern that Facebook could be used as a forum for personal attacks, criticism of children, or posting hurtful remarks that could have devastating consequences. There was considerable discussion about the responsibility each department has to monitor their social media sites. Mr. Outten said social media is a good tool for getting out information and the County is trying to anticipate and handle any potential risks. Commissioner Mike Johnson observed that social media is a potential time bomb. Vice-Chairman Burrus noted that social media can spread false rumors during emergency situations. The County Manager said Emergency Management hopes to use social media to help get accurate information out faster in order to prevent erroneous information. The Chairman said while social media are good tools, there also needs to be additional ways of getting information to the public who may not have phone or electric service during disasters. Ms. Killingsworth outlined other communications tools that are planned for emergency situations.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea and Vice-Chairman Burrus motioned to approve the Dare County Social Media Use Policy.

Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 6 – RESOLUTION FOR BID ACCEPTANCE & AWARDING OF BID (Att. #2)

Tim White explained that the Roanoke Island Pedestrian Trail project was bid in June and the bids at that time exceeded the budget and were rejected. He said the project was rebid and due to special efforts by Albemarle Engineering some of the trail was relocated to an existing roadbed, which lowered the cost. Mr. White said the lowest bidder was Hatchell Concrete for \$273,832 which was less than the Engineer's estimate. He noted that funding from NCDOT and grant sources is more than the project's cost, provided there are no change orders.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to adopt the Resolution for bid acceptance and awarding the project to Hatchell Concrete, Inc. and approve an amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for the Roanoke Island Pedestrian Trail. Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 7 – BUDGET AMENDMENT AND CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR PRELIMINARY DEBT ISSUANCE NUMBERS FOR THE SERIES 2012C, D, & E LIMITED OBLIGATION BONDS (LOBs) (Att. #3)

Finance Director, David Clawson, announced that the LOBs sale is scheduled for September 20, 2012. He reviewed preliminary debt numbers that were run as of August 24, 2012 showing all debt service savings upfront for Fiscal Year 2013 totaling \$3,630,253. He said \$430,000 of that amount will be applied to future years as debt service savings on the 2008 financing. He added that the preliminary budget for the LOBs sale will be amended to reflect the actual numbers after the sale actually occurs. Mr. Clawson outlined changes to the series designations and explained that Series C is the taxable portion. He noted that Series E is the financing of the EMS helicopter and cardiac monitoring equipment. He also informed the Board that the new helicopter was ordered last Friday. The Board was asked to adopt the Budget Amendment for the General Fund and to adopt the Amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for the Capital Projects Fund.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Burrus motioned to adopt the Budget Amendment for the General Fund and to adopt the Amendment to the Capital Project Ordinance for the Capital Projects Fund.

Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 8 – CONSENT AGENDA (Att. #4)

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (08.20.12)
- 2) Transportation Department – NCDOT Grant Approval
- 3) DELL Leasing Documents

Vice-Chairman Burrus seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

ITEM 9 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1) Upcoming Board Appointments for October and November 2012

The upcoming October appointments were announced for the Older Adult Services Advisory Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council. The upcoming November appointments were announced for the Dare County Youth Council, the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Center Board, and the Stumpy Point Community Center Board.

RECESS: 10:14 a.m. – 10:39 a.m.

ITEM 10 – COMMISSIONERS' BUSINESS

Vice-Chairman Allen Burrus

- He explained that the Scenic Byway project in Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, and Avon will require that some signs be moved. He asked the Board to authorize the County Manager to waive the sign permit fee in these circumstances. The County Manager added that the signs under discussion are in the NCDOT right of way and they should not be there to begin with.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Burrus motioned to allow all conforming legal signs, as of today, that have to move for the construction of the Scenic Byway in the Hatteras Island Villages of Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, and Avon have their County fees waived that would normally be required in the moving of their signs.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- He invited Members of the Board and the public to attend open house sessions that are being presented next week to give everyone an opportunity to see what is being proposed for the Scenic Byway.
- Vice-Chairman Burrus thanked the service pin recipients and congratulated Employee of the Month Norman Johnson and noted the way he commands respect by handling things in a dignified way.
- Mr. Burrus expressed concern about the parking situation on the north side of the New Inlet Bridge. He said roadside parking should not be allowed in this area unless U.S. Fish & Wildlife can create a suitable place. He said that although he supports providing access, his concern for public safety takes precedence. He asked the Chairman to send a letter asking Fish & Wildlife to do their due diligence to remedy the problem.
- He looked back on this time last year when people stepped forward and helped others deal with Hurricane Irene. He thanked everyone who responded and went beyond the call of duty including the NCDOT Ferry Division. He expressed his frustration that Dare County school students were required to do an extra week because of Hurricane Irene and called this requirement a cold and heartless act. He also expressed hope that everything will work out well for the people of Gulf Coast dealing with Hurricane Isaac.
- Vice-Chairman Burrus asked the community to attend the events planned next week throughout the County commemorating the anniversary of 9/11.

Commissioner Jack Shea

- He acknowledged the service pin recipients and the work they do for the people of Dare County.
- Commissioner Shea congratulated Norman Johnson on being named Employee of the Month.

Commissioner Mike Johnson

- He thanked everyone who was involved in the response to Hurricane Irene. He expressed his appreciation for their efforts and acknowledged those in the community who have not fully recovered from the storm.
- He invited everyone to participate in a Public Hearing later this week to receive comments on a possible reorganization of North Carolina fisheries. He explained that Senate bill 821 involves potential mergers of the Wildlife Resources Commission, the Division of Marine Fisheries, and the NC Dept. of Agriculture. He said the merger idea is driven by those who would like to see the end of commercial fishing in North Carolina and added that merging the agencies would doom our local seafood industry. He said unlike other states, North Carolina has a unique diversity of game and fish. He said it does not make sense to merge the agencies and that nobody has shown how it would save money. He provided details about the Public Hearing and urged everyone to speak out.
- Commissioner Mike Johnson asked Dorothy Killingsworth, Public Information Officer, to give an update about Outer Banks Catch plans for a special tent at the October 20th Outer Banks Seafood Festival. She explained that Outer Banks Catch will be hosting an Education & Heritage tent that is designed to connect consumers with local commercial fishermen. She provided details about the many educational components planned for the Outer Banks Catch tent. She also announced that a special meeting of all Working Watermen is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 2, 2012 at the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room. The meeting will brief Working Watermen on the event and outline ways they can participate. Commissioner Mike Johnson explained that Working Watermen are needed because they are the ones best able to tell their story to the general public. Chairman Judge asked everyone to put the Outer Banks Seafood Festival on their calendar.

Commissioner Max Dutton

- He expressed gratitude for the 65 years of service represented by the employees who received service pins.
- Appreciation was given for Major Norman Johnson, the September Employee of the Month.
- Commissioner Dutton said in reviewing the school budget he is concerned about the issue of giving employee increases. He reported that School Board employees did not get an increase except for the Central Office, which amounted to \$15,232. He noted that County employees have not received an increase; however, he looks forward to the day when that situation can change. Commissioner Dutton proposed that \$15,232 be withheld from the County's October payment to the Board of Education.

MOTION

Commissioner Dutton motioned to have the Finance Director withhold \$15,232 from the October 1, 2012 payment to the School Board.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

Chairman Warren Judge

- He thanked all those who have worked on Hurricane Irene and expressed appreciation for the groups and individuals who have assisted the community in the recovery effort.
- The Chairman reported on communications with Secretary Carlisle on the Buzzy Lane issue. He said the County is waiting for her response to his second letter about the matter. He added that Senator Stan White is involved and has talked with the Secretary. Chairman Judge said he will keep working on the situation and involve the Roanoke Island Commission.
- He encouraged everyone to participate in the upcoming Day at the Dock celebration. He provided details about the multi-day event.
- Chairman Judge reported on wonderful arts and crafts festivals he observed over the weekend.
- He reminded everyone of the need to participate in the Public Hearing on Senate bill 821 pertaining to a potential merger of fisheries agencies that was explained by Commissioner Mike Johnson.
- The Chairman urged people to make comments at the Public Hearing on the Dominion Power proposed rate increase. He provided details about the date, time, and location for both of the Public Hearings.

MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S BUSINESS

- 1) The County Manager, Robert Outten, reported that some fitness oriented grant opportunities have recently developed for the Parks and Recreation Department at the Dare County Center, the Baum Center, and the Fessenden Center. He said that immediate action was needed in order to make timely application. Mr. Outten explained that no matching funds were required and staff was directed to move forward under the provision that if the Board does not approve of the grant's terms, they would not be accepted.

MOTION

Commissioner Shea motioned to authorize the Manager's action on the grant applications for the Dare County Center, Baum Center, and Fessenden Center.

Vice-Chairman Burrus and Commissioner Dutton seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

- 2) Mr. Outten said the Bluegrass Festival planned for Festival Park in October would like to include a fireworks display, which requires Board approval.

MOTION

Vice-Chairman Burrus motioned to authorize the fireworks display for the Bluegrass Festival.

Commissioner Dutton and Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

AT 11:07 A.M. THE DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED UNTIL 5:00 P.M. ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2012.



Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Gary Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

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

