



# 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](http://www.darenc.com)

## MINUTES

### DARE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Dare County Administration Building, Manteo, NC

**9:00 a.m., September 6, 2016**

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

Commissioners absent: None

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](http://www.darenc.com).

Chairman Woodard called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He invited Rev. David Morris from the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of the Outer Banks to share a prayer, and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

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

- 1) Brandi Rheubottom, Senior Services Manager, received a 20-year pin.
- 2) George Bowman, Sheriff's Office, received a 20-year pin.
- 3) Debbie Dutton, Public Health Division, received a 25-year pin.
- 4) Vanzolla McMurrin, Register of Deeds, received a 35-year pin.

#### ITEM 2 – EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2016

James Wooten with the Public Health Division of the Health and Human Services Department received the Employee of the Month award for August from Roxana Ballinger. The September award was presented to Kristen Weaver with Emergency Medical Services by Jennie Collins. Both recipients were honored for their extraordinary service to the people of Dare County.

#### ITEM 3 – OPENING REMARKS – CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Chairman Woodard mentioned the following items during his opening remarks –

- He expressed thanks to Emergency Management Director Drew Pearson, Sheriff Doug Doughtie, and all those in various County departments who served during the recent tropical storm. He announced that the preliminary estimate of damages is \$2.5 million. Commissioner Burrus noted that the preliminary estimate is incomplete and predicted that the damage amount will be going up.
- Chairman Woodard gave an updated Stewardship Report highlighting progress that has been made on key issues in the community. He summarized efforts the Board has made to address beach nourishment, economic diversification, and improving navigational access at Hatteras Inlet. He also encouraged public participation in local government and urged citizens to consider serving on boards and committees.

A video of the Chairman's update can be seen on the County website [www.darenc.com](http://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](http://www.darenc.com). Following is a brief summary –

The following Public Comments were made in Manteo –

1. Manny Medeiros spoke against the federal governments' obsession with windmills, which he said is a technological blunder. He asked the Board of Commissioners to help educate officials in the misguided federal agencies who are spending money we don't have, to solve problems that don't exist. He cited statistics from alternative energy programs around the world that have resulted in higher taxes.
2. Rosemarie Doshier said although she is a candidate for public office, she was speaking today on behalf of the people of East Lake in the wake of the recent tropical storm. She called for an immediate need for the canals to be cleaned out because there is no place for the water to go. She asked the Board to seriously consider this issue and work with NCDOT to resolve it

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

#### **ITEM 5 – DARE LITERACY COUNCIL - PROCLAMATION**

Lynn Blackburn – described the mission of the Dare Literacy Council and presented a proclamation for National Literacy Month. She expressed thanks for the Volunteer Tutors and those who have helped raise funds. Ms. Blackburn also thanked community partners on behalf of the Dare Literacy Council.

#### **MOTION**

Commissioner Shea and Commissioner Judge motioned to proclaim September 2016 as National Literacy Month in Dare County.

Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 6 – PROCLAMATION – CONSTITUTION WEEK**

Evelyn Webb on behalf of the Virginia Dare Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) outlined the importance of Constitution Week and presented a Proclamation in honor of the event.

**MOTION**

Commissioners Shea, Overman, Burrus, and Judge motioned to proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week.

Commissioner Boswell and Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 7 – BOARD OF ELECTIONS – EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE**

Donna Elms, Chair of the Dare County Board of Elections, briefed the Board of Commissioners about early voting plans for the upcoming election. She described the composition of the Elections Board and explained how the group dutifully performs in a nonpartisan fashion. In response to media criticism, Ms. Elms gave a detailed analysis of Dare County's early voter turnout and statewide ranking. She also outlined how absentee ballots are processed. Ms. Elms urged the two major political parties to increase their efforts to promote citizen participation in the voting process. Chairman Woodard expressed thanks to the Board of Elections noting that the additional 60 voting hours they have added is commendable. Commissioner Shea urged everyone to exercise their right to vote. Commissioner Burrus reminded Ms. Elms of an incident years ago when a hurricane interrupted voting on Election Day and called on the Board of Elections to add more early voting hours. He said the Board of Commissioners might be able to help with funding, if money is the issue. Ms. Elms said the Board of Elections has done the best they can by increasing the early voting hours as reflected in the plan that was submitted to the State. Commissioner Umphlett noted that any lack of voter turnout is a matter of public apathy, and is not due to available voting hours.

**RECESS: 10:33 a.m. – 10:48 a.m.**

**ITEM 8 – REFUNDING OF SERIES 2009 AND SERIES 2011 UTILITIES SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS (Att. #1)**

Finance Director, David Clawson, presented a resolution for the refunding of the County's Utilities System (Water) revenue bonds. He explained the criteria used to analyze potential refundings and reported that the County's financial advisor recommends moving forward with the refunding due to the high level of debt service savings. Mr. Clawson outlined the provisions of the refunding resolution with a not to exceed amount of \$31,115,000.

**MOTION**

Commissioner Judge motioned to adopt the resolution for the refunding. Commissioner Shea and Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 9 – RECOMMENDED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017 THROUGH 2021 (Att. #2)**

Mr. Clawson outlined a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) that was unanimously recommended by the Capital Improvements Planning Committee. He described the projects listed in the CIP and their impact on the Capital Reserve Fund balance over the next five years. He also reviewed the local capital outlay for Dare County Schools.

**MOTION**

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to approve the recommended CIP and to authorize the County Manager to execute the necessary Capital Project Ordinances and Budget Amendments with a later report to the Board.

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 10 – CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to approve the Consent Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Minutes (08.15.16) **(Att. #3)**
- 2) DCDHHS, Public Health Division – Flooring Replacement in Clinic Area
- 3) DCDHHS, Public Health Division – Rotary Club Grant Funds
- 4) FY 2017 Lease for Computer Equipment
- 5) Tax Collector's Report

Commissioner Burrus and Commissioner Umphlett seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

**ITEM 11 – BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

1) Health and Human Services Board

Vice-Chairman Overman motioned to reappoint –

Dr. Mark Grossman (Veterinarian position)

Alexis Hodges (Nurse position)

Beverly Boswell (At-Large position)

Frank Hester (At-Large position)

Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

2) Nursing Home Community Advisory Council

Commissioner Judge motioned to reappoint Linda Putnam.

Vice-Chairman Overman and Commissioner Shea seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

3) Game and Wildlife Commission

Vice-Chairman Overman announced that Eddie Twyne is unable to serve on the Commission at this time due to a schedule conflict. The Vice-Chairman motioned that Timmy Midgett be appointed to serve out Mr. Twyne's unexpired term.

Commissioner Judge seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

4) Upcoming Board Appointments

Upcoming appointments for October, November and December 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](http://www.darenc.com).

Commissioner Boswell – congratulated the service pin recipients and the two people that were presented Employee of the Month awards. She expressed gratitude that the recent tropical storm was not as bad as it could have been and thanked all those who served the community during the storm. Commissioner Boswell said she is looking forward to the Army Corps of Engineers post-storm survey of Dare County inlets.

Commissioner Judge – thanked the many people that were on duty during the recent tropical storm to help and serve others.

Commissioner Umphlett – commended the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month honorees. She thanked Emergency Management Director Drew Pearson for providing valuable informational updates during the recent storm. Commissioner Umphlett renewed her plea for people to sign up to serve on boards and committees. She also urged everyone to vote in the upcoming election.

Vice-Chairman Overman – provided an update on the Connecting Channel at Hatteras Inlet and outlined options being considered for the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). He gave details about a 9/11 remembrance ceremony planned for Nags Head. The Vice-Chairman reported that a resolution and letter is being developed for sending to the State Highway Patrol seeking their help dealing with traffic congestion at the intersection of Highway 158 and Highway 12 during the peak visitation season. He congratulated the service pin recipients and those who received Employee of the Month awards. Vice-Chairman Overman expressed condolences to the family of the truck driver who lost his life on the Alligator River Bridge during the recent tropical storm.

Commissioner Shea – thanked the service pin recipients and the Employee of the Month honorees for all they do to make Dare County a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family. He expressed appreciation for everyone who assisted during the recent storm. Commissioner Shea described a meeting he had with the County Manager to discuss potential risks for Dare County and its departments by saying he believes effective risk management procedures are in place.

Commissioner Burrus – congratulated the service pin recipients and those who received Employee of the Month awards. He thanked utility crews, NCDOT staff, Sheriff Deputies, and County employees for their service during the recent tropical storm. He cautioned people not to drive fast through standing water because of the destructive wake that it causes. Commissioner Burrus outlined areas of the County that need

post-storm attention and recommended that a letter be sent to NCDOT requesting their help to pump standing water. He also called for improvements to be made on how notifications are communicated.

Chairman Woodard – complimented Dominion Power for their hard work in quickly restoring electrical service after the recent tropical storm. He also commended the County’s Public Works Department for their efforts. The Chairman announced that he and other Commissioners would be touring Hatteras Island for a firsthand view of damages. He noted that the next Commissioners meeting will occur on September 26 and not the 19<sup>th</sup> as was originally planned.

**MANAGER’S/ATTORNEY’S BUSINESS**

The County Manager explained that the recent tropical storm exceeded the predictions issued by the National Hurricane Center that called for minor soundside flooding and 40 mph winds. He noted that a post storm analysis will be conducted. Mr. Outten said a storm debris pickup schedule is being prepared and will be announced soon. He informed the Board that based upon the preliminary damage assessments; it does not appear that the County will qualify for state or federal storm assistance.

Public Information Office Dorothy Hester encouraged people to participate in the economic development survey that has been distributed.

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

**MOTION**

Commissioner Shea motioned to adjourn the meeting.

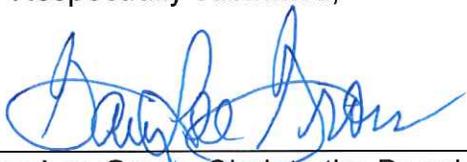
Vice-Chairman Overman seconded the motion.

VOTE: AYES unanimous

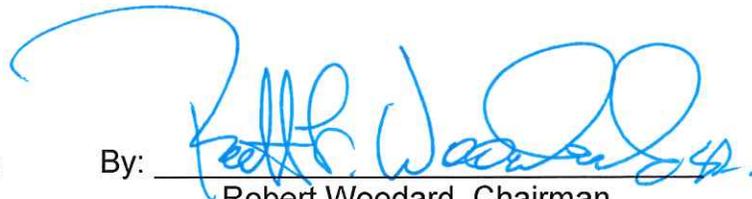
At 11:41 a.m., the Board of Commissioners adjourned until 5:00 p.m., Sept. 26, 2016.



Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Gary Lee Gross, Clerk to the Board

APPROVED:

By:   
Robert Woodard, Chairman  
Dare County Board of Commissioners