

Meeting Minutes

**Board of County Commissioners
Hyde County**

Monday, February 3, 2014

Chairman Barry Swindell called the Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00pm on Monday, February 3, 2014, in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room, and the Ocracoke School Commons Room using electronic conferencing equipment.

The following members were present on the mainland: Commissioners Earl Pugh, Jr., and Barry Swindell; Attorney Fred Holscher; County Manager Bill Rich; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and, members of the public.

The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioners John Fletcher and Dick Tunnell; Public Information Officer Sarah Johnson and members of the public.

Following opening prayer by County Manager Rich and pledge of allegiance, the meeting was called to order.

Agenda:

Chairman Swindell asked for any changes to the revised February 3, 2014 meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Pugh moved to approve the revised agenda as presented by the Clerk with addition of Item No. 15 – Mainland Occupancy Tax Fund Balance Dollars; Budget Revision No. 19-14 – Health – Primary Care Telemedicine; Inspections Department Report; and, Informational Item – NC Sea Grant Project Update. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Consideration of Minutes:

Commissioner Tunnell moved to approve the January 6, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners as presented by the Clerk with corrections made on Page 7 – Lines 23, 24, 25 to read contract with Hyde County as County Manager beginning March 1, 2014 for a period of ~~three (3)~~ four (4) plus years ending June 30, 2018 and an increase in Manager Rich's salary to \$85,000.00 for the fiscal year 2014-2015 then \$95,000.00 the remaining three (3) years. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Public Hearing: (none)

Public Comments:

Chairman Swindell called for comments from the public.

Fred Westervelt, Ocracoke – asked for full support to counteract any new ferry tolls on Ocracoke.

Darlene Styron, Ocracoke – agrees with Mr. Westervelt and asked that the Board use good judgment when filling Anson Byrd's position.

Connie Leinbach, Ocracoke – asked that everyone attend the February 12 Ferry Toll Hearing.

J. M. Eakes, Engelhard – reported that Animal Control is not working as set up now and asked that Animal Control be re-assessed.

Sherry Dodge, Swan Quarter – requested city water be installed on Bridgeman Road. (Utilities Director Clint Berry will be notified of the request).

Ken Collier, Ponzer – reported that as Chairman of the Hyde County Republican Party he had submitted two names (Benjamin Simmons, III and Timothy Whitfield) for consideration for the vacant Fairfield Commissioner's position.

There being no further comments from the public, Chairman Swindell continued the meeting.

Employee Recognition:

Manager Rich complimented Lois Stotesberry, Administrative Assistant/Clerk to the Board on a job well done and reported she has recovered from a long illness and is back to work full-time.

Ms. Stotesberry spun the Wheel of Thanks and received a NAPA Gift Certificate.

Items of Consideration:

Appointments: (to complete the term of Anson Byrd)

Commissioner – Fairfield District

Commissioner Anson Byrd passed away on January 7, 2014. He was sworn in on December 3, 2012 to serve a (4) year term ending December 2016. Mr. Byrd was a registered Democrat. Because he ran for commissioner unaffiliated by petition, the Board could choose a candidate without regard to party. The person selected to fill the vacancy must be a resident of the Fairfield district and will serve until December 2014. Interested candidates will file notice of candidacy for election to represent District 2 – Fairfield Township in February 2014.

Four candidates were submitted: Lora Mooney Byrd; Benjamin Simmons, III; Timothy Whitfield; and, Jamin Simmons.

Commissioner Fletcher nominated Lora Mooney Byrd to serve as Commissioner to represent Fairfield Township. The motion died for lack of a second.

Commissioner Pugh moved to appoint Benjamin Simmons, III to serve as Commissioner to represent Fairfield Township – District 2, through December 2014. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes –Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – Fletcher; Absent or not voting – None.

Mr. Byrd served as Hyde County Commissioner Representative on:

1) East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH) Board – Commissioner Representative

Mr. Byrd was re-appointed to serve on the ECBH Board on February 4, 2013. Commissioners may serve (3) terms. Terms are concurrent with terms as County Commissioner.

2) Albemarle Commission Board – Commissioner Representative

Mr. Byrd served on the Albemarle Commission Board to include RPO (Rural Planning Organization) and the TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee). Term expires January 2015.

3) Department of Social Services Board – Commissioner Representative

Mr. Byrd was re-appointed on November 4, 2013. Terms are (3) years and appointees cannot serve more than (6) years.

Commissioner Tunnell moved to appoint Benjamin Simmons, III, to complete Mr. Byrd's term on the ECBH Board; Albemarle Commission Board including (RPO) Rural Planning Organization and (TAC) Transportation Advisory Committee; and the Department of Social Services Board. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – Fletcher; Absent or not voting – None.

Appointments: (other)

Albemarle Commission At-Large Representative

Janet Russ of Fairfield has volunteered to serve as the Albemarle Commission At-Large representative from Hyde County.

Commissioner Pugh moved to appoint Janet Russ to serve as the Albemarle Commission At-Large representative. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Planning Committee

Manager Rich reported that as the Area Agency on Aging is gearing up to begin county planning for the 2015 FY, they are seeking assistance in identifying and appointing new members to the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Planning Committee. The purpose of this committee is to assist in the development of an effective and viable county funding plan in order to best utilize HCCBG funds. This committee meets at least twice a year to review the funding plan, assess community needs and make recommendations to the County Commissioners as to which services should be funded in Hyde County.

Per the Older American's Act and NC HCCBG Manual, the committee must represent a broad range of aging interest in order to effectively build local consensus on the county funding plan. Representation on this committee should include: Area Agency on Aging representation; Aging Service Providers; Local Elected Officials; and, Older Consumers (at least 3). In Hyde County, we currently need the local elected official representative and the older consumers. The Albemarle Commission Board asks that appointment of Commissioner Representative Earl Pugh, Jr. be made to serve on this committee as he already has a general understanding of the role of the Area Agency on Aging and HCCBG. In reference to the older consumers, these individuals should be at least 60+ and be willing to serve as a strong advocate for the older adults in Hyde County. The Albemarle Commission will begin working on the new funding plan in the spring and would like to have full membership appointed, if possible, no later than March 15, 2014.

Commissioner Swindell moved to appoint Commissioner Pugh to serve as the Hyde County Representative on the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Planning Committee. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Resolutions:

Resolution of Respect for Honorable Hoover Anson Byrd

Manager Rich presented Resolution of Respect for Honorable Hoover Anson Byrd.

Commissioner Pugh moved to adopt "Resolution of Respect for Honorable Hoover Anson Byrd", Hyde County, North Carolina". Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk's Note: A copy of "Resolution In of Respect for Honorable Hoover Anson Byrd" is attached herewith as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

Resolution Supporting Hyde County School System Entering Into An Energy Services Agreement With Brady Energy Services

Manager Rich reported that Brady Energy Services performed Hyde K12 Facility Preliminary Analysis and has made energy saving recommendations for Hyde County School System. Entering into this agreement will not cost Hyde County and the school system will save money once the savings opportunities are implemented.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to adopt “Resolution Supporting Hyde County School System Entering Into An Energy Services Agreement With Brady Energy Services”. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk’s Note: A copy of “Resolution Supporting Hyde County School System Entering Into An Energy Services Agreement With Brady Energy Services” is attached herewith as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

Resolution Stating the Intent of The County of Hyde to Lease Certain Surplus Real Property Located In or Near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina

Planner Kris Noble reported that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners voted in November 2013 to renew the current lease for the tower and ground space on which the US Cellular tower is located in Swan Quarter pending proper procurement procedures per N.C. General Statutes. North Carolina General Statute § 160A-272(b) authorizes a county to lease real property that it owns for more than ten (10) years so long as such leases are “... treated as a sale of property ...” and so long as such leases are “... executed by following any of the procedures authorized for the sale of real property.” North Carolina General Statute § 160A-269 authorizes a county to sell real property it owns through a negotiated offer, advertisement, and upset bid process. At the January 6, 2014 Board of Commissioners Meeting, the Board voted to adopt the first resolution Authorizing the Advertisement of an Offer to Lease Certain Surplus Real Property Located in or Near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina. The County of Hyde (County) has received a proposed Second Amendment to an existing Tower and Ground Lease for space located on said tower as described in the Tower and Ground Lease dated October 23, 1998. This Second Amendment would cover a period in excess of ten (10) years.

The Resolution Stating the Intent of the County of Hyde to Lease Certain Surplus Real Property Located in or Near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina, if adopted by the Board will complete the bid process. After adoption of this second Resolution, the Amendment to the lease can be signed by the Board Chair.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to adopt “Resolution Stating the Intent of the County of Hyde to Lease Certain Surplus Real Property Located in or Near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina” and to authorize Board Chair to sign the Second Amendment to the Lease. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk’s Note: A copy of “Resolution Stating the Intent of the County of Hyde to Lease Certain Surplus Real Property Located in or Near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina” is attached herewith as Exhibit C and incorporated herein by reference.

Letter of Joint Resolution With Southern Albemarle Association Requesting Additional Ferry Runs

Manager Rich reported that Hyde County in concert with the Southern Albemarle Association wishes to request NCDOT look into the possibility of an additional ferry to run from Swan Quarter to Ocracoke and from Ocracoke to Swan Quarter.

Commissioner Pugh moved to adopt “Letter of Joint Resolution With Southern Albemarle Association Requesting Additional Ferry Runs.” Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk’s Note: A copy of “Letter of Joint Resolution With Southern Albemarle Association Requesting Additional Ferry Runs” is attached herewith as Exhibit D and incorporated herein by reference.

Proclamation – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Manager Rich reported that teen dating violence awareness and prevention month provides an excellent opportunity for citizens to learn more about preventing dating violence and shows support

for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims.

Commissioner Pugh moved to adopt "Proclamation – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month". Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – Fletcher; Absent or not voting – None.

Clerk's Note: A copy of "Proclamation – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month" is attached herewith as Exhibit E and incorporated herein by reference.

NCDOT – Bridge #79 In Engelhard

Sterling Baker, PE, NCDOT, presented draft plans on how to handle Bridge #79 in Engelhard. Mr. Baker reported the bridge is functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. Because construction of a new bridge would destroy Jessie Gibbs Service Station, a pedestrian bridge has been recommended. Mr. Baker will conduct Public Hearing at the March 3, 2014 Board of Commissioners meeting.

Hyde County Economic Development Strategic Plan Update

Lee Padrick, Chief Planner for the Northeastern Regional Office of the NC Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance, presented outline of his plan for updating Hyde's Economic Development Strategic Plan. Mr. Padrick will prioritize issues in the County and prepare a draft plan by the end of May.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve Lee Padrick updating Hyde County's Economic Development Strategic Plan. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Agriculture Extension Announcement

Travis Burke, Northeast District Director, Cooperative Extension announced Natalie Wayne is the new Hyde County Extension Director.

No action required.

ABC Board Financial Report

Meredith Nicholson, Chairman, Hyde County ABC Board, presented Profit & Loss reports for the month of December 2013 and for July through December 2013.

No action required.

IRS Mileage Rate Change

Manager Rich reported the IRS Mileage Rate had been reduced for the 2014 year to .56 per mile. The 2013 rate was .565.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve reducing the mileage rate to .56 per mile to follow the IRS schedule. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Interim DSS Manager

Manager Rich requested Board approval to extend the Interim DSS Manager position filled by Suzanne Johnson through March, 2014 at the same salary increase per month.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to extend the Interim DSS Manager position through March 2014. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Timeline For DSS Move To ECB Building

Manager Rich reported the Department of Social Services (DSS) has tentatively set July 1, 2014 as the moving date for DSS.

After discussion, it was decided to table this matter and re-visit it at the March 3, 2014 Board meeting to allow for public input.

Timeline For Repairs To Government Center

Manager Rich presented REI Engineers anticipated schedule for repairs to the Hyde County Courthouse, REI Project No. 014GVL-001. Substantial completion is expected by April 27, 2014.

Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Fletcher requested a thank you letter be sent to Dare and Carteret Counties for their assistance during the Bonner Bridge repairs. Mr. Fletcher also would like to investigate legalization of Slot Machines on ferries on Pamlico Sound. He stated gambling on the ferries would raise money and generate traffic in Swan Quarter.

Budget Revisions

Commissioner Swindell moved to approve: Health Department Budget Transfers No. 16-14 – WIC \$65.50, No. 17-14 – Project DIRECT Legacy \$150.00, No. 18-14 – CTGP \$750.00, No. 19-14 – Primary Care Telemedicine \$10,500.00; and, Mainland Occupancy Tax fund balance dollars to pay the \$7,500.00 balance for ferry toll lobbyists Joe and Henri McClees. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

Management Reports:

Commissioner Tunnell – reported that he is concerned about the Animal Control issues and the Swan Quarter Dike assessment.

Commissioner Fletcher – reported that he also is concerned about the Swan Quarter dike and we need a fair assessment.

Commissioner Pugh – reported that he attended the Albemarle Commission Workforce meeting and he is also concerned about the Animal Control issues.

Chairman Swindell – reported that he attended the Save Lake Mattamuskeet meeting and the Wildlife Division has a plan. He is also concerned about the Animal Control issues.

County Manager Rich – presented update on various projects on-going in Hyde County. Mr. Rich encourages citizens to attend the ferry tolling public hearing on Ocracoke on the 12th and Hatteras on the 13th. He also presented his January 2014 meetings calendar.

Public Comments:

Chairman Swindell called for comments from the public.

Darlene Styron, Ocracoke – thanked Manager Rich for discussing ferry tolling issues.

There being no further comments from the public, Chairman Swindell continued the meeting.

Closed Session (none)

Adjourn

Commissioner Pugh moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Swindell and Tunnell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

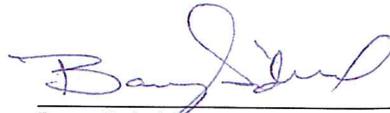
The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the ^{10th} 3rd day of March, 2014.



Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Barry Swindell
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Attachments:

Exhibit A: *"Resolution of Respect for Honorable Hoover Anson Byrd"*

Exhibit B: *"Resolution Supporting Hyde County School System Entering Into An Energy Services Agreement With Brady Energy Services"*

Exhibit C: *"Resolution Stating the Intent of The County of Hyde to Lease Certain Surplus Real Property Located In or Near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina"*

Exhibit D: *"Letter of Joint Resolution With Southern Albemarle Association Requesting Additional Ferry Runs"*

Exhibit E: *"Proclamation – Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month"*

RESOLUTION OF RESPECT FOR HONORABLE HOOVER ANSON BYRD

WHEREAS, THE FAIRFIELD TOWNSHIP IS LOCATED ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PICTUREQUE, NATURAL WONDER OF LAKE MATTAMUSKEET, IN HYDE COUNTY AND THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA WAS PRIVILEGED TO HAVE THE HONORABLE HOOVER ANSON BYRD DULY ELECTED TO SERVE AS ITS COMMISSIONER ON THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE HISTORIC COUNTY OF HYDE.

WHEREAS H. ANSON BYRD, LOVED THIS COUNTY AND ALL ITS NATURAL BEAUTY, RESOURCES & WAS GRANTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE HERE MOST OF HIS NATURAL LIFE.

WHEREAS H. ANSON BYRD, SERVED HYDE COUNTY AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR MORE THAN SIX YEARS UNSELFLESSLY THROUGHOUT THE GREAT STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND WITH THEIR OFFICIALS.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT HONORABLE H. ANSON BYRD REST IN PEACE TO A SERVITUDE OF HIGHER CALLING.

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A RESOLUTION HONORING THE HONORABLE HOOVER ANSON BYRD BECOME A PART OF THE RECORDS OF THE HYDE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND A COPY PRESENTED TO HIS BELOVED FAMILY., THIS THE 30TH DAY OF JANUARY 2014.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Marianna L. Russ, Chair



Hyde County Democratic Executive Committee

COUNTY OF HYDE

Board of Commissioners

Barry Swindell, Chair
Earl Pugh, Jr., Vice-chair
Vacant
John Fletcher
Dick Tunnell

30 Oyster Creek Road
PO Box 188
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA
252-926-4400
252-926-3701 Fax

Bill Rich
County Manager

Fred Holscher
County Attorney

Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board



RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HYDE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM ENTERING INTO AN ENERGY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH BRADY ENERGY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners is aware of the high operating costs for the Hyde County School System; and

WHEREAS, Brady Energy Services has performed preliminary analysis of the Hyde K12 Facility and made energy saving recommendations to the county school system; and

WHEREAS, the Hyde County School System wishes to implement the energy saving recommendations and the money saving opportunity presented by Brady Energy Services; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners support Hyde County School System entering into an energy services agreement with Brady Energy Services.

Adopted this the 3rd day of February 2014, in Hyde County, North Carolina.

ATTEST:

Lois Stotesberry

Lois Stotesberry, Clerk to the Board

Barry Swindell

Barry Swindell, Chairman



**RESOLUTION STATING THE INTENT OF THE COUNTY OF HYDE
TO LEASE CERTAIN SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY
LOCATED IN OR NEAR THE TOWN OF SWAN QUARTER, HYDE COUNTY, NORTH
CAROLINA.**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-272(b) authorizes a County to lease real property that it owns for more than ten (10) years so long as such leases are "... treated as a sale of property ..." and so long as such leases are "... executed by following any of the procedures authorized for the sale of real property."

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 160A-269 authorizes a County to sell real property it owns through a negotiated offer, advertisement, and upset bid process.

WHEREAS, said negotiated offer, advertisement, and upset bid process as outlined and set forth in North Carolina General Statute § 160A-269 has been followed for a proposed Second Amendment to Tower and Ground Space Lease for for certain space leased on the Tower and certain ground space adjacent to said Tower containing 273 square feet to accommodate various antennas, including certain easements, (collectively, "Lease") to accommodate a cellular common carrier mobile radio base station operation located in or near the Town of Swan Quarter, Hyde County, North Carolina.

WHEREAS, said real property was previously declared by the County Commissioners to be surplus to the needs of the County for the period contemplated by the Lease.

WHEREAS, the required notice for the upset bid process was advertised in the Coastland Times. The notice described the property to be leased, set out the amount and terms of the original Lease and specified the requirements for the submission of a qualifying upset Offer to Lease.

WHEREAS, the upset bid process having concluded, the final, highest qualifying Offer to Lease is now being reported to County Commissioners for their consideration.

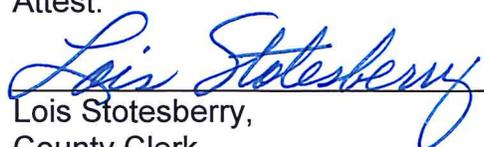
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The final, highest qualifying Offer to Lease containing an _____ is hereby accepted by the County of Hyde. The County Commissioners retain final approval, and must approve and authorize the execution, of the resulting Second Amendment to Tower and Ground Space Lease for said real property, including any portion thereof.

Adopted this 3rd day of February, 2014.

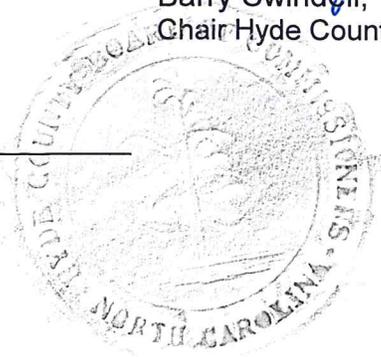


Barry Swindell,
Chair Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Lois Stotesberry,
County Clerk



COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road
PO Box 188

SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885
252-926-4400
252-926-3701 Fax

Bill Rich
County Manager

Fred Holscher
County Attorney

Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board



February 3, 2014

Jed Dixon, Deputy Director
NCDMF Ferry Division
113 Arendell St., Rm. 120
Morehead City, NC 28557

RE: Letter of Resolution to Join With Southern Albemarle Association in Request For
Additional Ferry Runs

Dear Jed:

Southern Albemarle Association in concert with Hyde County Commissioners request NCDOT look into the possibility of an additional ferry to run from Swan Quarter to Ocracoke and from Ocracoke to Swan Quarter.

This will allow additional and much needed access between the mainland and Island and the Island and the mainland and be more in keeping with demand and the current Cedar Island and Ocracoke schedule.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Barry Swindell, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

cc: County Commissioners

TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH 2014
BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY OF HYDE IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, dating violence is a pattern of behavior involving the use or attempted use of physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, financial, technological, or other abusive behavior by a person to harm, coerce, control, threaten, intimidate, harass, isolate, restrain or monitor another person with whom they have or have had a social relationship involving a physical, sexual, or emotional component; and

WHEREAS, one in three females in the United States will experience physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner by the time she graduates high school; and

WHEREAS, despite high numbers of reports of dating violence, two-thirds of young victims never report being abused; and

WHEREAS, more than three-quarters of parents do not think teen dating violence is an issue, or do not know if it is one, and many youth service providers and educators remain untrained to recognize and respond to teen dating violence; and

WHEREAS, abusive partners often extend sexual harassment and coercion, verbal harassment and stalking into electronic media, such as texting, email, instant messaging and social networking sites; and

WHEREAS, the impact of dating violence can be devastating; young victims of dating violence are more likely to report sexually transmitted infections, to suffer from depression, to display disordered eating behaviors, to contemplate suicide, to become pregnant, to abuse alcohol, and to abuse illegal and prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, victims of teen dating violence are more likely to do poorly in school, and are more susceptible to repeated academic absence and dropout; and

WHEREAS, the County of Hyde recognizes that dating violence can be prevented by providing young people with education about building healthy relationships, the tools to recognize signs of abuse and where to seek help, as well as by creating safe environments for discussion, changing attitudes that support violence, and training educators and youth service providers to respond to this issue; and

WHEREAS, Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Awareness Month provides an excellent opportunity for all citizens to learn about preventing dating violence, and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and support to young victims;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bangladesh, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Hyde, North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2014, as "TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH", and commend its observance to all citizens.

