Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners
Hyde County

February 20, 2012

Chairwoman Sharon Spencer called the regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, February 20, 2012 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 Anson Byrd, Barry Swindell and Dick Tunnell; Attorney Fred Holscher; Deputy Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and, members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner Darlene Styron and Sharon Spencer; Deputy Clerk to the Board Jamie Carter; and, members of the public.

Following pledge of allegiance and opening prayer by Commissioner Byrd, the meeting was called to order.

Agenda:

Chairwoman Spencer asked for any changes to the February 20, 2012 meeting Agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Tunnell moved to approve the agenda as presented by the Clerk. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Consideration of Minutes:

Chairwoman Spencer asked for approval of meeting minutes.

Commissioner Swindell moved to approve the February 6, 2012 Commissioners regular meeting minutes as presented by the Clerk. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Public Comments:

Chairwoman Spencer called for comments from the public.

There being no comments from the public, Chairwoman Spencer continued the meeting.

Public Hearing:

TEDG Demonstration Grant Closeout Hearing

Commissioner Swindell moved to open public hearing on Talent Enhancement Demonstration Grant (TEDG) Closeout. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Kris Noble, Grants Administrator, reported that public hearing is required to receive comments prior to the closeout of a $75,000 Talent Enhancement Demonstration Grant. The grant was offered through the State of North Carolina Office of Rural Development Programs for developing capacity. Ms. Noble received training in grant-writing task and utilization of consulting services. She reported that funds were used to develop capacity to undertake grant-related activities. She also reported that the TED Grant resulted in the submittal and award of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the Infrastructure Category which was used to further the Mattamuskeet Sewer Project.

Hearing no comments from the public, Commissioner Byrd moved to close public hearing on Talent Enhancement Demonstration Grant (TEDG) Closeout. Ms. Styron seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Items of Consideration:

Introduction of New Employees

Guire Cahoon, Deputy Sheriff, reported three new employees in the Sheriff's Department: William Boyd, Ocracoke Deputy; Josh Hopkins, Mainland Deputy and Lorraine Mooney, Telecommunicator.

Justin Gibbs, Emergency Management Director, reported one new Emergency Service employee: Hayden Whitfield, part-time EMT Basic.

Recognition of Employee of the Month

Manager Smith stated that it is an honor to report that Bob Thomas, Water Department Production Manager, is the February employee of the month. Ms. Smith presented a certificate of congratulations and a gift to Mr. Thomas. She reported that Bob started working for the Water Department in 1987 and is planning to retire on March 31, 2012. He will be missed by all.

Clint Berry, Utilities Director, stated that the Utilities Department will be losing a tremendous asset. Mr. Berry wished Bob an enjoyable retirement.

Appointment to Water Department Positions

Clint Berry, Utilities Director, reported that with Bob Thomas retiring, the County will need to designate an Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC) for the water treatment facilities and a back-up ORC for our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for the water and sewer facilities.

Commissioner Swindell moved to appoint Baron Berry as the Acting ORC for the water treatment facilities and as Acting Back-up ORC for the sewer facility; also, to appoint Joseph Sadler as the Acting Back-up ORC for the water treatment facilities NPDES permit. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Commissioner Swindell moved to allow posting of a water treatment plant operator position and a water production manager position. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

First Responder Contract

Justin Gibbs, Acting Director of Emergency Management, reported that last year the first responder agreement with the local volunteer fire departments was included in the contract with the fire departments for fire suppression. At the request of the Commissioners, two separate contracts have been developed, with input from the Chiefs of the fire departments and the County Attorney. Mr. Gibbs presented the contract for its first reading. He reported that the contract automatically renewed in June, 2011. Mr. Gibbs stated that in the current contract, volunteer fire departments will be paid for invoices for first responder services up to December 31, 2011. He recommended that the new first responder contract begin on January 1, 2012. This would enable the first responder invoices to be paid on the calendar year and provide more accurate information for the budget in June.

Volunteer Fire Department Contract

Justin Gibbs, Acting Director of Emergency Management, also presented the new Volunteer Fire Department contract for first reading. Mr. Gibbs reported that the draft contract states that the VFD's will continue to receive at least $4,312.50 quarterly. This contract will expire on June 30, 2013. However, it shall extend automatically and renew annually for a period of five years.

Mr. Gibbs reported that the Volunteer Fire Departments are trying to reduce their 9-S rating. Once this goal is met, homeowner's insurance rates are subject to decrease.

The Volunteer Fire Department contract and the First Responder contract will be presented for Board approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2012.

Memorandum of Understanding for Use of Peay School for Volunteer/Emergency Operations

Justin Gibbs, Director of Emergency Management, reported that County Manager Mazie Smith, EMS Director Brian Carter and himself will meet with the Board of Education on March 6, 2012 to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding for the use of Peay School for emergency service response and recovery providers. The MOU will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for approval at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2012.

Ferry Tolls Opposition Plan

Mazie Smith, County Manager, reported that she had contacted neighboring counties to discuss the possibility of working together on opposing ferry tolls. She reported that Beaufort County has hired a lobbyist to represent its opposition to ferry tolls, and that Pamlico County is considering filing a civil lawsuit against the State and has solicited the 50 allotted citizens to speak against ferry tolls at the Joint House and Senate Transportation Legislative Committee Meeting on March 9, 2012.

The Board directed Manager Smith to contact the Beaufort and Pamlico County managers and ask if they would join together with Hyde County in presenting a common message in opposition to new or increased tolls, and perhaps band together to attend the Joint Transportation Appropriations committee meeting in Raleigh on March 9, 2012.

Amend Budget Calendar

Mazie Smith, County Manager, reported that because of the change in date of the Commissioners Budget Retreat, and at the request of the Hyde County Schools Superintendent and Finance Director, the FY2012-2013 Budget Calendar should be amended. The Board Retreat is scheduled for March 10, 2012, at Spring Arbor Assisted Living Facility in Kill Devil Hills, NC.

Commissioner Swindell moved to accept the revised Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget Calendar. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Budgetary Matters:

Mazie Smith, County Manager, reported that in accordance with the FY2011-2012 Budget Ordinance, Article XIX, Section I, several budget transfers were approved administratively and requested approval of the following budget transfers:

Administration - $15,750.00; transferring funds from the Equipment, Dues & Subscriptions, Departmental Supplies; Gas/Oil/Tires, Auto Maintenance, Travel and Telephone lines to establish line items for the airport.

Health Department - $3,070.00; due to overage in contract PDH and Seaboard Radiology transferring funds to cover salary/fringe for staff providing BCCCP services, as well as contract FNP and various services. Does not increase the budget for BCCCP.

Commissioner Tunnell moved to approve the Administration and Health Department budget transfers. Ms. Styron seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

County Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Byrd – no report given.

Commissioner Tunnell – reported that there is a vacancy on the Mid-East Housing Committee. Mr. Tunnell plans to meet with Clint Berry and Brandon Marshall to discuss cleaning up the dike site so that it can be maintained this Spring.

Commissioner Swindell – asked that everyone say a prayer for this country.

Commissioner Spencer – stated that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners has not been faced with opposition to opening Board meetings with prayer. Ms. Spencer reported that she attended the Strategic Planning meeting, Mitigation Advisory Committee meeting and Ferry Toll discussions. She commended Alice Keeney, Justin Gibbs, Kris Noble and Averi Simmons for being proactive about hazard mitigation after Hurricane Irene. She also stated that Megan Shaw, PIO, will present plans for a Board Training Workshop at the March 5, 2012 regularly scheduled Board meeting.

Commissioner Styron – complimented Mrs. Pat Holscher on her "Washington The Magazine – In The Arts" article. She reported that she attended the Beach Permit meeting, a Standing Water & Water Quality meeting, Mosquito Control Board meeting and the Strategic Planning meeting. Ms. Styron also reported that eight citizens successfully completed the First Responder Certification Class on Ocracoke. Ms. Styron continues to be concerned about the State proposed toll fees for ferries and highways in North Carolina.

County Manager's Report:

Manager Smith reported that the Budget Retreat is scheduled for March 10, 2012 and provided a map to the Spring Arbor Assisted Living Facility. Ms. Smith stated that Hyde County is fortunate to have great employees. She encouraged everyone to attend the February 24th State of the Region Event and the February 28th and 29th Albemarle Rural Planning/DOT Drop In Sessions.

Supplemental Information:

Department Reports

Animal Control
Elections
Health Department
Human Resources
Hyde County Airport
Planning and Economic Development
Veteran's Services
Water Department

Other Information

A Unique Vision: Pat Holscher
Connecting Eastern North Carolina to the World
Hatteras, Oregon Inlets Receive Emergency Funding
Minutes of Albemarle Commission Meeting 01-19-2012
Ocracoke Working Watermen's Association Position Paper on Gamefish Bill
Prioritization 2.0 DOT Investment Strategy Summits
Roster from Ocracoke Water Quality Meeting
Town of Columbia Resolution Against Ferry Tolls
Update on Historic Courthouse

Calendar Notes
February, 2012

13th-29th	Filing Period for Elections
02-22-2012	DSS Board Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
02-24-2012	State of the Region Meeting, Plymouth
02-28-2012	Albemarle Rural Planning/DOT Drop in Session, Ocracoke
02-29-2012	Albemarle Rural Planning/DOT Drop in Session, Swan Quarter

March, 2012

03-05-2012	Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
03-13-2012	ABC Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
03-13-2012	NCDOT Investment Strategy Summit, Williamston
03-16-2012	Governor's Meeting on Economic Vitality for Eastern N.C., Greenville, 8:00 a.m.
03-19-2012	Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
03-20-2012	Board of Health Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

April, 2012

04-02-2012	Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
04-06-2012	Easter Holiday (County offices closed)
04-10-2012	ABC Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
04-16-2012	Board of Commissioners Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
04-26-2012	NCACC District Meeting, Williamston, 5:30 p.m.

Employment Anniversaries
March, 2012

03-01-2012	Debbie Cahoon, Soil & Water (9 years)
03-02-2012	Cindy Carawan, Elections/Veteran's Services (11 years)
03-07-2012	Judy Midyette, Home Health (13 years)
03-08-2012	Mattie Roper, Social Services (23 years)

03-13-2012 Jerry Hardison, Inspections (6 years)
03-15-2012 Baron Berry, Utilities (13 years)
03-17-2012 James Shelton, Utilities (20 years)
03-18-2012 Gerry Slade, Utilities (30 years)
03-24-2012 Wesley Smith, Health Department (4 years)

Closed Session:

Commissioner Swindell moved to enter into closed session at 7:35 p.m., pursuant to G.S. N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Commissioner ~~Swindell~~ Tunnell ss moved to release $102,787 to Bond Safeguard Insurance Company for property of Hyde-A-Way Shores and to instruct the County Manager to administer the release. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Commissioner Swindell moved to come out of closed session at 7:56 p.m. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

Commissioner Swindell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell and Tunnell
Nays – None

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 5th day of March, 2012.

Lois Stotesberry
Lois Stotesberry, Deputy Clerk
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Sharon Spencer
Sharon Spencer, Chair
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attachments: (none)