

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County April 4, 2011

Chairman Sharon Spencer called the Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, April 4, 2011 in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room and the Ocracoke School Commons Area using electronic conferencing equipment. The following members were present on the mainland: Commissioners Anson Byrd, Sharon Spencer, Barry Swindell and Dick Tunnell; County Manager, Mazie Smith; Deputy Clerk to the Board Shelley Carawan; County Attorney Fred Holscher; and members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioners Darlene Styron; Deputy Clerk, Jamie Tunnell and members of the public.

Following the opening prayer given by Commissioner Swindell and the Pledge of Allegiance, the meeting was called to order.

Consideration of the Agenda:

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the April 4, 2011 meeting agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Chairman Spencer requested that the following item be amended on the agenda:

Item IV. B. - Volunteer Fire Fighter Recognition Resolution moved to

Item II. A. - Special Presentation.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the revised agenda with the aforementioned amendments. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Consideration of Minutes:

Chairman Spencer asked for approval of the March 21, 2011 regular meeting minutes.

Commissioner Swindell moved to approve the March 21, 2011 regular minutes as presented by the Clerk. Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Consideration of ABC Board Minutes:

Chairman Spencer asked for approval of the March 14, 2011 regular meeting minutes.

Commissioner Tunnell moved to approve the March 14, 2011 regular minutes as presented by the Clerk. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Volunteer Fire Fighter Recognition Resolution

County Manager, Mazie Smith asked that each fire fighter chief stand and read their roster of members. Each chief was given certificates for the members. The members volunteering 100 hours or more of their time received a Presidential Award. The members accruing less than 100 hours received a certificate from the County. Mrs. Smith had figures for the amount of money it would have cost the County, had they fire fighters been paid for their services. According to the Director for the NC Fire Association, the average fire fighter is paid \$16.34 per hour. Hyde County fire departments volunteered a total of 17,961 hours with a total cost of \$293,482 had they been paid.

Chairman Spencer read the resolution in recognizing the Volunteer Fire Fighters and proclaimed the week of April 10-16, 2011 as National Volunteer Week in Hyde County.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to support this resolution. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Public Comments:

Chairman Spencer called for comments from the public.

There were no public comments.

Resolutions and Ordinances

N.C. Small Town Economic Prosperity Grant Project Ordinance-Amendment

At the December 6, 2010 Regular Hyde County Board of Commissioner's Meeting, the Board voted to reallocate NC STEP funds from the Marketing Plan Project to the Historic Courthouse Project in order to negotiate and accept bids on the Historic Courthouse project. This action was requested by and approved by the Swan Quarter Service Group. The attached Project Ordinance Amendment reflects those changes to the N.C. Small Town Economic Prosperity Grant Project.

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to support the N.C. Small Town Economic Prosperity Grant Project Ordinance-Amendment. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Swan Quarter Post Office Resolution

Mrs. Smith presented to the Board the Resolution in support of the Swan Quarter Post Office remaining open.

Chairman Spencer suggested including the 790 inmates that also have a Swan Quarter address.

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to approve the Resolution in support of the Swan Quarter Post Office remaining open with the addition of the 790 inmates as residents. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Mrs. Smith asked that the Board amend the agenda with the addition of the Board of Education.

Commissioner Styron made a motion to amend the agenda with the addition of the Board of Education under Item V.C. Other Matters. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Other Matters

Money Request for Albemarle Senior Games-Darlene Berry

Senior Center Director, Darlene Berry was present to discuss the monetary donation requested for the Albemarle Senior Games. Mrs. Berry stated that the County had not contributed in about four years. She said that there are 20 seniors that participate and that the usual contribution is \$250. The money is used for the games, lunch, t-shirts and medals.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to donate \$250 towards the Albemarle Senior Games. Chairman Spencer seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Request from Engelhard Development Corporation for Funding

The Engelhard Development Corporation is requesting that the Board take over the lease payment of \$1800 annually for the Engelhard Rest Area. After discussion, the Board decided to table the item until the April 18th meeting.

Commissioner Styron made a motion to table the EDC funding request until the next scheduled meeting on April 18th. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Board of Education-Request for Lottery Funds

Dr. Latimore thanked Jerry Hardison for discovering that the revised school gym plans haven't been reviewed by the Department of Public Instruction(DPI).

Ben Cahoon, architect for the school gym project, explained to the Board that he felt the change in plans didn't require reviewing by DPI but he has an appointment with them on tomorrow at 10am.

Commissioner Byrd expressed his concern with the project. He said that a member of the Advisory Committee didn't want the change in plans. He also said that the floor joists needed to be closer together. After consulting with a friend who is in the flooring business, the friend recommended not using the floor proposed in the quoted price.

Mr. Cahoon answered that the Advisory Committee had met on February 15th about the proposed change of flooring and that the question had arisen about the addition of a second layer of plywood.

Bridge MacDowell of Waldt Construction and Bill Meyer of M.B. Kahn Construction were present to discuss the new quoted price of \$113,000. Mr. Meyer told the Board that marching orders were given with the new flooring plan.

David Esham of Ocracoke, commented that he was on the Advisory Committee and that he attended the meetings where the decision was giving first preference to a concrete slab subflooring. According to Mr. Esham that is what the Committee wanted and the idea for the concrete was researched thoroughly. He said they didn't want to be stuck with another problem floor like the current one in place. He also added that they decided to upgrade goals and scoreboards and are trying to raise the \$50,000 needed for those items.

Chairman Spencer asked Finance Officer for Hyde County Schools, James Agar, if money was used upfront for engineering and included in the contract, why wouldn't it be returned.

Mr. Agar answered that the School had invested money in testing and design and it was the hope that they would recoup the money.

After further discussion, Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to release the \$113,000 requested from the Board of Education from the lottery funds.

After no second, the motion died.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion for the Board of Education to use its contingency to make the necessary changes for the Ocracoke School Floor. Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

County Attorney, Fred Holscher, corrected the Board and said that the Board can't tell the School how to use its contingency and that the motion needed to be rephrased.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion that the lottery funds were not to be used until the contingency funds of the Board of Education have been exhausted. Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Styron attended the Oil Spill Exercise held on Ocracoke Island and met the Emergency Management representatives. Around 70 people were in attendance. She also attended the Commissioner Retreat held this past weekend

saying it was a great workshop. She thanked Mazie's staff and commented that we are moving forward.

Commissioner Swindell attended the Health Board meeting where they discussed the budget and commended Wesley Smith, Health Director for his good work. Mr. Swindell also attended the Retreat.

Commissioner Byrd attended the Retreat on Ocracoke and said that the Board made progress, learned new stuff and hope it's continued on a regular basis.

Commissioner Tunnell attended the Retreat and said the workshop was beneficial, they made long range planning and realized the Board was on the same page. He thanked Mrs. Smith.

Commissioner Spencer commended the County Manager for the excellent job done so far. She said that the County is moving forward and according to a 1991 Strategic Plan that was reviewed by the Board, we are experiencing some of the same problems and hope we are on the right track.

She got a letter from Cumberland County and received a token from that County and handed it over to Mrs. Smith.

Chairman Spencer announced a regional meeting with the NCACC this month and encouraged the Board to attend the legislative day coming up on May 25th.

County Manager's Report

Mrs. Smith reported that she had a phone conference with Chastity Clark, Project Engineer of the Department of Aviation, and announced that we have received an extra \$5,000 towards furnishing and repainting the airport terminal.

Mrs. Smith attended the Occupancy Tax meeting held on the Island as well as the Oil Spill Drill and met with the Project Review Team. She will be attending the Helicopter Evacuation Drill on April 6th and on April 7th helping to judge with 4H at the Science Fair held on the Island. On April 8th she will be attending the Managers Budget Forum in Raleigh.

Mrs. Smith thanked the Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water and the Hyde County Chamber for donating their time and refreshments for the Fire Fighter Recognition.

Mrs. Smith also thanked the Board of Elections/Veteran Services for holding office hours on Ocracoke on March 29-30th. They will be holding office hours on April 26-27th as well.

Monthly Reports

Elections

Mrs. Smith announced that Cindy Carawan, Elections/Veteran Services Director, has become nationally accredited in Election Services.

Safety Committee

Mrs. Smith reported that the Safety Committee is currently working to reduce workers comp. She said the Committee will report at the April 18th meeting.

Tax Office-Linda Basnight

Mrs. Basnight reminded the Board of the Equalization and Review meeting to be held Monday, April 11th at 6pm.

Soil and Water-Debbie Cahoon

Debbie Cahoon, Director of Soil and Water, requested the Board to approve an additional \$200 for the beaver management program.

Chairman Spencer made a motion to approve the additional \$200 to cover beaver management expenses. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Mr. Byrd commented about the letters the Board had received regarding Hyde County not having regulations about hunting on the sound and it's something to address.

Closed Session

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4). Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: None

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to come out of closed session. Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

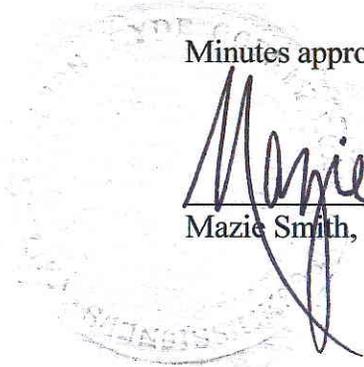
Nays: None

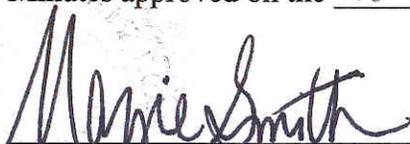
Commissioner Byrd made a motion to adjourn the April 4, 2011, Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Commissioners. Commissioner Styron seconded the motion.

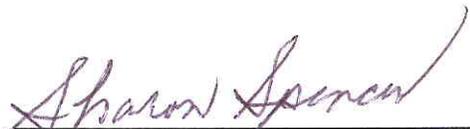
The April 4, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 18th day of April, 2011




Mazie Smith, Clerk


Sharon Spencer, Chairman