

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Retreat Ocracoke Island, Hyde County April 2, 2011

The Hyde County Board of Commissioners held a Retreat on Ocracoke Island, April 2, 2011 at 8:00am in the Ocracoke Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioners present were Chairman, Sharon Spencer, Vice Chairman, Anson Byrd, Darlene Styron, Barry Swindell and Dick Tunnell. Also present were County Attorney, Fred Holscher, County Manager, Mazie Smith and Deputy Clerk to the Board, Shelley Carawan. No other members were present.

Strategic Planning Exercise

Mrs. Smith began by engaging they Board in a discussion about the County. She challenged the Board to name the values of a Commissioner. Values named were family lifestyle, honesty and sense of humor.

Mrs. Smith again challenged the Board to name the assets of Hyde County. Assets named were natural resources, people, number one beach, history and sense of pride, just to name a few. The Board was then asked to group and prioritize the assets into the top three. The majority chose people and natural resources as the top two assets of Hyde County.

The Board participated in a role playing exercise and determined the amenities of the County. In conclusion amenities that were needed in the County were more events such as festivals.

The Board recessed and visited the Ocracoke School Construction Project.

Mrs. Smith asked the Board to name the Challenges of the County. Challenges named were regulations, state/federal revenue cuts, negativity, logistics, fuel prices, lack of vision, lack of planning and cooperation.

The Board was handed a Strategic Plan from June 1991 to review and discuss. It was decided that there are still some challenges the County faces but there are also challenges that have been improved by the County since 1991.

Goals that the Board would like to address this coming year are ABC leadership and Internet. Successes to address over the next year are Goals for Tourism and Economic Development; ABC Board; Technology Plan; and Leadership Development.

The Board recessed for lunch.

Discussion of Logistics and Procedures

Mrs. Smith passes around a sample procedures policy for agendas from Morrisville, NC suggesting a new way for holding Board meetings. Mrs. Smith expressed the need for agendas to be written in a timely manner and the need for issues on the agenda to be researched before voting.

Other handouts included future meeting schedules and county fund balances.

Budget

Each department head will be filling out a business case explaining their need for money. All budgets were due by March 31st. Mrs. Smith told the Board that each department head was requested to cut their budget by 10% if it were necessary.

New ideas presented by the County Manager were possibly hiring an employee to service our vehicles; sharing a gas tank with the Sheriff; and purchasing a more economical vehicle for the County Manager.

The Board decided to hold Budget Meetings May 9th-13th from 6pm-9pm.

Money saving ideas presented by the Manager were consolidating phone plans; cutting off the lights in the Courthouse; installing light timers for the ball fields; offering online payments for citizens; establishing a no smoking campaign and bringing the trash collection in house.

Money generating ideas presented were charging for privilege licenses; having the fuel farm at the airport; public shooting range; contracting with Robin Payne regarding tourism; and alternative agriculture for producing perfumes, medicines and vitamins.

Unified Government

With Unified Government, a town must provide four out of eight services to become incorporated.

Mrs. Smith wrapped up the meeting by asking the Board to list the pros and cons of the Retreat.

Pros included organizing thoughts, the Board was together, it was easier to make decisions by getting to know each other, there is a good mix of Board members and there is a mutual respect among the Board.

Cons included the need for softer chairs, pizza and the need for two retreats a year.

The April 2, 2011 Retreat of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 18th day of April, 2011



Mazie Smith
Mazie Smith, Clerk

Sharon Spencer
Sharon Spencer, Chairman