Regular Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners
Hyde County

Monday, July 6, 2015

Chairman Barry Swindell called the Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00pm on Monday, July 6, 2015, 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., Dick Tunnell and Barry Swindell; Attorney Fred Holscher; County Manager Bill Rich; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and, members of the public. Commissioner Benjamin Simmons was absent.

The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner John Fletcher, Public Information Officer Sarah Johnson and members of the public.

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

Agenda:
Chairman Swindell asked for changes to the July 6, 2015 Meeting Agenda.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the July 6, 2015 Meeting Agenda as presented by the Clerk with addition of Presentation No. 3 – Update on Pungo District Hospital Request for Funding Assistance and No. 4 – Future of Beaufort County Hospital Board; and, Item No. 11 – Ocracoke Community Center Board Manager. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Consideration of Minutes:
Commissioner Pugh moved to approve the June 1, 2015 Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes as presented by the Clerk. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Introduction:
Michael Kelly, NCACC RMP
County Manager Rich introduced Michael Kelly, Risk Management Director, NCACC who visited the County to observe the Board of Commissioners meeting. The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' (NCACC) Risk Management Pools (RMP) offers workers' compensation and liability and property coverages for counties and related entities.

Dr. Landon B. Mason, Executive Director, EIC
Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry introduced Dr. Landon B. Mason, Executive Director of the Economic Improvement Council (EIC). Dr. Mason is a veteran of the United States Army and has a background in Management Development, Leadership Development and Concern for Community and Family Development. He is a graduate of Troy State University, Alabama; Norfolk State University and Virginia Union University in Virginia and has a Master of Pastoral Counseling and Doctorate of Ministry Degree.

Dr. Mason reported the EIC serves ten (10) counties: Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington. It is the mission of the Economic Improvement Council, Inc. to provide the economic, physical, and social well-being of its clients by providing quality services to help them become self-sufficient.

In Fiscal Year 2014-2015 approximately $264,000.00 was provided to Hyde County citizens through four (4) programs:

- **Section 8** – twenty (20) families received housing assistance totaling $91,000.00
- **Head Start** – sixteen (16) enrollments in the Head Start Center totaling $134,968.00

- **Weatherization** – seven (7) families received the assistance of trained technicians who evaluated the needs of each home by conducting an energy audit and suggesting efficiency methods that are the most appropriate and cost-effective for the home totaling $6,835.00 and six (6) homes were weatherized totaling $31,000.00

- **Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)** – is a type of assistance designed to empower people to take control of their lives by becoming independent and productive members of their community.

Employee Recognition:
County Manager Rich commended Gloria Collins-Spencer for 32 years of service in the Department of Social Services (DSS). Gloria began working as a Hyde County Social Work Trainee on November 22, 1982. In 1984 Gloria was promoted to Social Worker I and in 1985 to Social Worker II. She became Acting Department of Social Services Director in 1987 and in 1989 she was promoted to Director. She retired on May 31, 2015.

Alice Mackey, Community Employment Case Manager, Hyde County ADAP Center, accepted a Years of Service Certificate and 30-year Pin and a Hyde County Seal Paperweight with Mrs. Spencer's name and dates of service inscribed.

Presentations:

2014 Community Health Assessment (CHA)
Anna Schafer, Public Health Educator II, presented overview of the 2014 Community Health Assessment and leading causes of death. This document is the work of a local partnership among the Hyde County Health Department (HCHD), Vidant Beaufort Hospital (VBH), the Outer Banks Hospital (OBH), and the community's Healthy Carolinians coalition, Hyde Partners for Health (HPH). This team's work, assisted by both an independent public health consultant and the Center for Survey Research at East Carolina University, culminated in a comprehensive CHA report

http://hydehealth.com/healtheducation.htm that was excerpted to create this report (available on the Hyde County Health Department website. (pg. 8 – Executive Summary) Ms. Schafer discussed overall life expectancy statistics for persons born in Hyde County in 2010-12 was 1.5 years lower than the comparable state average. Men in Hyde County had a higher and women a lower life expectancy compared to NC data. The life expectancy for African Americans in Hyde County was the same as for that group statewide. Between 1990-92 and 2010-12, life expectancies in Hyde County improved in all categories except females. Cancer and heart disease are leading causes of death. Morbidity and chronic disease in Hyde County include diabetes, overweight and obesity, communicable disease, mental health and substance abuse. (pg. 31 – 37 - Life Expectancy and Leading Causes of Death). The next Community Health Assessment will be presented in 2017.

Commissioner Pugh moved to accept the 2014 Community Health Assessment report. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Ocracoke Island EMS Site Relocation
Will Doerfer, MPA, Assistant Manager, presented PowerPoint with pictures and terms of multiple options for relocation of EMS sites on Ocracoke Island. Currently the Ocracoke EMS Station is located behind the Health Department. The Health Department is experiencing federally mandated expansion which requires their occupying the current EMS building. The deadline to vacate the property is December 2015.

After discussion, Commissioner Tunnell moved to table Ocracoke Island EMS Site Relocation discussion until the August 3, 2015 Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Pungo District Hospital Update
June 1, 2015, Dr. Charles Boyette requested Hyde County Board of Commissioners' assistance in acquiring title to the Pungo District Hospital property at 202 East Water Street, Belhaven, NC. At that time the Board of Commissioners instructed Attorney Fred Holscher to proceed with research on documentation, legality and funding requests of Dr. Boyette and supporters for re-opening Pungo District Hospital and to report his findings at the next regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting.

County Attorney Fred Holscher researched legal requirements necessary to assist with Dr. Boyette's requests. Mr. Holscher spoke with Freyda Bleustein, Associate Dean for Faculty Development/ Professor of Public Law and Government and Kara Milonzi, Associate Professor of Public Law and Government, UNC-SOG. In response, Mr. Holscher was informed General Statutes do not speak to this type request and the County would have to get a Bill passed to assist in acquiring the PDH property title. Mr. Holscher reported he sent a letter to John Lange, Consultant for the group on June 3rd with no reply.

Future of Beaufort County Hospital Board
Beaufort County Commissioner Hood Richardson reported Mr. Lange is no longer associated with this project and correspondence should be sent to Belhaven Mayor Adam O'Neal. Mr. Richardson accompanied by Dr. Charles Boyette, Mayor Adam O'Neal and Eunice Williams reported the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners plan to dissolve the Pungo District Hospital Board at its July 7th Board meeting. Mr. Richardson asked the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to join together with the group and support a hospital in Belhaven.

No action taken.

Public Comment: (none)

Appointments:

Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board
Commissioner Fletcher reported on July 7, 2014 the Hyde County Board of Commissioners appointed Trudy Austin to serve a one-year term on the Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board and set staggered three-year terms for the five-member board.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to appoint Trudy Austin to serve a three-year term (2015-2018) on the Ocracoke Occupancy Tax Board. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Voting Delegate to NCACC Annual Conference
County Manager Rich reported the 108th NCACC Annual Conference will be held in Pitt County, NC on August 20-23, 2015. Hyde County has been asked to elect a Designated Voting Delegate to represent the County at this conference.

Chairman Swindell moved to appoint Vice-chairman Pugh to serve as the Designated Voting Delegate for Hyde County at the 108th NCACC Annual Conference. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Department of Social Services Board
Suzanne Johnson, Interim DSS Director, reported Minnie Farrow's 3-year term expired on June 30, 2015 and requested re-appointment.

Commissioner Tunnell moved to re-appoint Minnie Farrow to serve a second three-year term on the Hyde County DSS Board. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Hyde County Transit Board
County Manager Rich reported Beverly Paul, Transit Director, was unable to attend the meeting but requests appointment of Phillip Holloway and David Howard to serve on the Hyde County Transit Board of Directors.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to appoint Phillip Holloway from Northeast Workforce Solutions and David Howard, Hyde County Health Director to serve on the Hyde County Transit Board of Directors. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Increase In DSS Board Per Diem Rates:
Suzanne Johnson, Interim DSS Director, reported the DSS Board of Directors requests increase in per diem rates.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to increase DSS Board meeting rate of pay to $50.00; approve per diem rates for motel, meals and mileage when attending out of county meetings based on county rates; and, to pay county rates if the DSS Board meets on Ocracoke. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The

motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Report – Special Assistant Will Doerfer:
Will Doerfer, Special Assistant to County Manager Bill Rich, presented report on projects he began during the month of June. Mr. Doerfer thanked the Board of Commissioners for his fellowship opportunity with Hyde County. He is working on hurricane preparedness and debris monitoring options, FEMA training, ferry projects, EMS site relocation and discussed future projects with department heads.

ECU State Employees Credit Union Internship:
Kris Cahoon Noble, Planning Director, presented two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) for the two summer interns who will be providing assistance to the Office of Planning and Economic Development with two economic development projects. The projects are: 1) developing a business and industry survey for existing Hyde County businesses; and, 2) developing a survey to identify desired course offerings in Hyde County to be provided by Beaufort County Community College (BCCC). The interns started work on July 6, 2015 and will complete 300 hours of service.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve the two Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) between the ECU State Employees' Credit Union Internship program and the Hyde County Office of Planning and Economic Development. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Priority Pass:
County Manager Rich reported keeping ferries free from new or additional fees or tolls has been a priority in Hyde County over the past few years. The county has been successful until this year when the Senate voted to include changes to ferry funding in the FY2015-2016 State Budget. Mr. Rich reported the Senate proposes to set a $150.00 fee for a priority boarding pass in addition to applicable ferry tolls and to study privatization of the ferry system. The House of Representatives oppose ferry tolls, increases in tolls and ferry passes. Citizens have been asked to contact legislators and express their opinion on ferry passes, fees and tolls. Contact information for NC House and Senate Standing Transportation Committee and Hyde County Board of Commissioners is available on the Hyde County website www.hydecountync.gov.

Commissioner Pugh moved to specifically address the Priority Pass proposal and to adopt "Resolution Opposing the Priority Pass Concept for non-residents". Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Clerk's Note: A copy of "Resolution Opposing the $150 Senate Proposed Priority Pass" is attached herewith as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

Dare/Hyde Interlocal Agreement for Inspections:
County Manager Rich reported the Dare-Hyde Interlocal Agreement to provide fire and electrical inspection services within the territorial jurisdiction of Hyde County will expire on August 1, 2015. The renewed Agreement will be for a period of twelve (12) months.

Commissioner Pugh moved to approve the renewal of the Dare/Hyde Interlocal Agreement for fire and electrical inspection services within the territorial jurisdiction of Hyde County, effective August 1, 2015 – August 1, 2016. Mr. Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

David's Trash:
County Manager Rich reported he, Utilities Director Clint Berry and Solid Waste Director James Blount met with Rob Cuthrell who announced David's Trash will sell or give their agreement with Ocracoke for trash pick-up to another vendor.

Golden LEAF Foundation – Monthly Update:
County Manager Rich presented update on the Golden LEAF Foundation as of June 30, 2015. The current outstanding loan total is $827,371.10 and income received per month is $11,178.31.

National Park Service – David Hallac:
Kris Cahoon Noble, Planning Director, William Doefer, Special Assistant County Manager and William Rich, County Manager met with David Hallac, NPS Superintendent and Cyndy Holda, Spokeswoman for the NPS Outer Banks Group on May 22nd in Ocracoke. Topics of discussion included a passenger ferry project, trolley/tram around Ocracoke Village, lighthouse parking (develop

property), ORV and sound side access, Ocracoke Airport, ballfield public access and decrease in the buffer zone around Piping Plover nests. Ms. Noble is looking forward to joint projects with the NPS.

Topics of Concern:
Commissioner John Fletcher asked Kris Cahoon Noble, Planning Director, to research access to the beach for handicapped citizens who need to go in a vehicle; and, the boat ramp by the Park Service ferry landing. Ms. Noble will include these concerns at her next meeting with Superintendent Hallac.

Ocracoke Community Center Coordinator:
Commissioner John Fletcher reported the Ocracoke Community Center Board offered the position of Community Center Coordinator to Annie Garrish Pfeuffer. The position pays $400/month, as supplied by Ocracoke occupancy tax funds.

Commissioner Fletcher moved to approve, Annie Garrish Pfeuffer in the position of Community Center Coordinator at a rate of $400 per month, as supplied by Ocracoke occupancy tax funds. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Budget Revisions:
County Manager Rich presented one budget revision for Board approval.

Commissioner Pugh moved to approve the Cooperative Extension transfer for Copier Lease Agreement for $300.00. Commissioner Fletcher seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Management Reports:

Commissioner Fletcher – reported Dare County beach accesses are nice. County Planner Kris Noble will research and report her findings.

Commissioner Pugh – attended EMS Station and Ocracoke Dump tour with Manager Rich and Albemarle Commission, Farm to Food Bank and Ocracoke Parade meetings.

Commissioner Tunnell – also attended the Farm to Food Bank event. He reported dike improvements are complete.

Chairman Swindell – attended the Board of Health meeting.

Commissioner Simmons – absent.

Manager Rich – attended the Farm to Food Bank and Farm Tour event and reported approximately 70 people attended. Mr. Rich reported occupancy tax collections are up $21,000.00 from last year. The mainland collected $10,000.00 and Ocracoke collected $450,000.00. He also reminded the Board to try to attend the JLUS meeting in Washington. Letters will be sent next week. Mr. Rich wished everyone a happy FY15-16 new year.

Public Comments:

Chairman Swindell called for comments from the public.

Commissioner Fletcher – stated the Board needs to attract some new sources for jobs in the County, for example - gambling.

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

Closed Session:
Commissioner Fletcher moved to enter into closed session in accordance with NCGS143A-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel Matters at 7:55p.m. Mr. Pugh seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

Commissioner Pugh moved to return from closed session at 8:05p.m. Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Fletcher, Pugh, Tunnell and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – Simmons.

No action taken.

Adjourn:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:06p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 3rd day of August, 2015.

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

Barry Swindell
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attachment:

Exhibit A: *"Resolution Opposing the $150 Senate Proposed Priority Pass"*

COUNTY OF HYDE

Board of Commissioners
Barry Swindell, Chair
Earl Pugh, Jr., Vice-chair
Ben Simmons
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 Opposing the $150 Senate Proposed Priority Pass

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Ferry Service is an extension of Ocracoke Island's road system funded by the North Carolina State Gasoline Tax; and,

WHEREAS, no alternative form of roadway exists for Ocracoke Island residents; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed FY2015-2016 Senate Budget recommends changing the Hyde County priority system, which will be a tremendous hardship on the 650 resident (free) priority pass holders as well as the 280 vendors who have a free pass; and,

WHEREAS, most all of the 650 local residents who have priority now are older with below average fixed incomes and have neither the money or time to wait or pay to go to the doctor, buy groceries, etc. and then try to get home; and,

WHEREAS, for local residents riding the ferry is not the start or end of a vacation nor an adventure, it is a vital necessity and their only means to and from Ocracoke Island; and,

WHEREAS, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners passed "Resolution By the Commissioners Opposing The Institution of Tolls on Ferry Service Operations To and From Ocracoke Island or The Increase In Existing Tolls" on February 6, 2012; and,

WHEREAS, the Albemarle Rural Planning Organization (RPO) which includes Dare, Perquimans, Currituck, Chowan, Camden, Pasquotank, Gates, Bertie, Tyrrell, Washington, Martin, Hertford, Hyde and Northampton Counties unanimously approved "No Additional Fees" for the ferries in FY2015-2016; and,

WHEREAS, the Hyde County Board of Commissioners has joined other coastal counties and many Representatives in Raleigh in an effort to keep North Carolina ferries free from new or additional tolls or fees; and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners has contacted the NC House and Senate Standing Transportation Committee and expressed their opinion on ferry fees, tolls and passes and asked citizens to also express their opposition to the proposed $150 priority pass to Governor Pat McCrory; Honorable Neal Hunt; Reverend Joel D. M. Ford; Secretary of Transportation Anthony Tata; NCDOT Ferry Division Directors Ed Goodwin and Jed Dixon; Senators Bill Cook, Bill Rabon, Brent Jackson, Dan Soucek, Kathy Harrington, Ralph Hise, Rick Gunn, Warren Daniel and Wesley Meredith; Representatives Becky Carney, Charles Jeter, Chuck McGrady, Dana Bumgardner, Frank Iler, John Torbett, Nelson Dollar, Paul Tine, Phil Shepard, Rayne Brown, Rodney Moore and Wesley Meredith; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hyde County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes the Senate proposed $150 priority pass or any increase in ferry service fees to and/or from Ocracoke Island and request the $150 priority pass be denied.

Adopted this the 6th day of July, 2015, in Hyde County, North Carolina.

ATTEST: Lois Stotesberry
Lois Stotesberry, Clerk to the Board

Barry Swindell
Barry Swindell, Chairman

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