

AGENDA

HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MONDAY, MAY 14, 2020

BOARD OF EQUILIZATION & REVIEW 5:00 PM

PURSUANT TO N.C.G.S. 105-322 the Board of E&R will meet as required by law to hear, upon request, any and all taxpayers who own or control taxable property assessed for taxation in Hyde County with respect to the valuation of such property or the property of others and to fulfill duties and responsibilities as required by law.

SPECIAL MEETING 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES – May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes

ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION - FY2020-2021 Hyde County Budget Discussion

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments are a time for the public to make comments to the County Commissioners. Comments should be kept to three (3) minutes or less and comments should be directed to the entire Board and not to individual members, the staff or to other members of the public. Comments requesting assistance will typically be referred to the County Manager for follow-up or for Board action at a future meeting.

BUDGET MATTERS (none)

MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Message From Hyde County Commissioner Tom Pahl

The Commissioners, County Manager and Assistant County Manager will share with the public their various activities and ideas for continuous improvement of government services to the citizens.

CLOSED SESSION (discussion and possible action if required)

ADJOURN

1 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

2
3 **HYDE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
4 **MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020**

5 Following the Board of Equalization & Review meeting at 5:00p.m., the regular Board of Commissioners
6 meeting began with opening prayer by Commissioner Swindell; and, Pledge of Allegiance, Chairman Pugh
7 called the Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00p.m., on Monday, May
8 4, 2020 in the Hyde County Government Center Multi-Use Room and the Ocracoke Community Center.

9 Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the May 4, 2020 Hyde County Board of Commissioners meeting was live
10 streamed via the Hyde County Facebook page. The video is available on Facebook and on the County's
11 YouTube channel for download to a personal device.

12 The following members were present on the mainland: Chairman Earl Pugh, Jr.; Commissioners Ben Simmons,
13 Shannon Swindell and James Topping; County Manager Kris Cahoon Noble; Attorney Fred Holscher; Clerk to
14 the Board Lois Stotesberry; IT Director Donnie Shumate; and, Sheriff Guire Cahoon. Building Inspector Rumley
15 Everett and Permits Technician Jane Hodges joined the meeting during presentation of matters requiring input.

16
17 Vice-chairman Tom Pahl and Emergency Manager Justin Gibbs attended via live stream from Ocracoke.

18
19 Health Director Luana Gibbs and Extension Director Natalie Wayne attended via live stream.

20
21 **CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA:**

22 Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the Monday, May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Agenda as presented by
23 the Clerk with District Two Recovery Court, Solar Energy Building Inspections Fee Schedule and Life & Health
24 presentations tabled to the June 1, 2020 commissioners meeting. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion.
25 The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None;
26 Absent or not voting – None.

27
28 **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:**

29 **March 2, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

30 Commissioner Simmons moved to approve the April 6, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented.

31 Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl,
32 Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

33
34 **PUBLIC HEARING:**

35 **Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Subdivisions, Sections, Article VII, Ocracoke Development Ordinance**

36 Commissioner Simmons moved to open Public Hearing on Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Subdivisions,
37 Sections, Article VII, Ocracoke Development Ordinance. Commissioner Pahl seconded the motion. The motion
38 passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not
39 voting – None.

40
41 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported the public hearing on Ocracoke Development Ordinance
42 amendments was properly advertised and approved by the Ocracoke Planning Board. Amendments include
43 Section 36-173 (d) ~~180 days~~ **365 days** from the date of destruction; and, Section 36-174 (1) ****No structure or**
44 **appurtenance attached to any structure, except chimneys, antennas, church steeples and weather instruments shall**
45 **exceed the 35 feet maximum building height and no exempted structure shall exceed 40 feet.**

1 Hearing no public comment, Commissioner Simmons moved to close Public Hearing on Ordinance to Amend
2 Chapter 36, Subdivisions, Sections, Article VII, Ocracoke Development Ordinance. Commissioner Pahl seconded
3 the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays
4 – None; Absent or not voting – None.

5
6 Commissioner Pahl moved to approve Ordinance to Amend Chapter 36, Subdivisions, Sections, Article VII,
7 Ocracoke Development Ordinance (36-173(d) and (36-174(1) as presented. Commissioner Swindell seconded the
8 motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays –
9 None; Absent or not voting – None.

10

11 **Hyde County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance**

12 Commissioner Simmons moved to open Public Hearing on Hyde County Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance.
13 Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl,
14 Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

15
16 Jane Hodges, Permits Technician, reported Hyde County flood maps will become effective on June 19, 2020.

17
18 Commissioner Pahl discussed Hurricane Dorian and increasing flood levels on Ocracoke Island. He will meet
19 with the North Carolina Flood Plain Committee on Tuesday and report his findings at the June 1st commissioners
20 meeting.

21

22 Commissioner Swindell moved to recess the public hearing on the Hyde County Flood Damage Prevention
23 Ordinance to the June 1, 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting in order to receive as much public comment as
24 possible. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh,
25 Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

26

27 **PRESENTATIONS:**

28 **Tax Report**

29 Emergency Manager Justin Gibbs presented (virtual) report on the April 2020 TR-407 Daily Distribution Report.
30 Mr. Gibbs reported total collections in April 2020 are down 45% from April 2019.

31

32 Commissioner Simmons moved to accept the TR-407 Tax report as presented; and, to extend the Board of
33 Equalization & Review meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2020 followed by meeting and adjournment on Monday,
34 June 1, 2020, beginning at 5:00p.m., to be as inclusive as possible for all citizens to ensure 2020 property values
35 are as consistent as possible. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following
36 vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

37

38 **District Two Recovery Court (Tabled to June 1, 2020)**

39

40 **COVID-19 Update**

41 Luana Gibbs, Health Director presented (virtual) update on COVID-19. Ms. Gibbs reported one active case in
42 Hyde County and no deaths. Ms. Gibbs discussed Governor Cooper's relief efforts to include Phase I – III. She
43 recommended everyone remain vigilant - stay home and be safe.

44

45 Commissioner Swindell moved to lift mainland Hyde County visitor restrictions effective Wednesday, May 6,
46 2020 at 5:00a.m.; and, to lift Ocracoke non-resident property owner restrictions on Monday, May 11, 2020.

47

1 Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl,
2 Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

3
4 Commissioner Pahl moved to allow Chairman Pugh to negotiate Ocracoke visitor’s re-entry date in coordination
5 with Dare and Currituck County and to abide by Governor Cooper’s executive orders. Commissioner Swindell
6 seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and
7 Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

8
9 **Employee/Volunteer/Friend of the Month**

10 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, recognized former County Commission John Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher
11 served as Hyde County Commissioner representing Ocracoke Township from December 2012 to December 2016.
12 Mr. Fletcher passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2020.

13
14 **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

15 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported many questions and comments concerning re-entry to Ocracoke
16 Island were received. These comments include residents, non-resident property owners and visitors. Written
17 comments were received from Cheri Larsen, Dawn Moore, Chris Anderson & Betsy Shepard, Teresa Still, Sue
18 Dayton, Karen & David Sawyer, Vinnie Ciancio, Mike Noles, Andy Kennell, Brenda & Jeffrey Peacock,
19 Lawrence “JR” Gyger, Jr., Bob Chestnut, Wayne Clark, Stewart Roberts, Kacie Brewer, Elizabeth Dyer, Peggy
20 Harrell, Jay & Valerie Willis and a letter to Governor Cooper signed by County Manager and/or Board Chairmen:
21 Bill Smith-Carteret County, Thomas Mark- Craven County, Frank Emory-Jones County, Onslow County, Pat
22 Prescott-Pamlico County and Ray Mayo-Wayne County. All comments received are posted on the Hyde County
23 website to allow for public viewing. Future comments received will be posted.

24
25 Hearing no further comment from the public, Chairman Pugh continued the meeting.

26
27 **ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION:**

28 **Proclamation – Older Americans Month 2020**

29 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported every May the Administration for Community Living leads our
30 nation’s observance of Older American Month.

31
32 This year’s theme “Make Your Mark” was selected to encourage and celebrate countless contributions that older
33 adults make to our communities. Their time, experience and talents benefit family, peers and neighbors every
34 day. Communities, organizations and individuals of all ages are also making their marks. This year’s theme
35 highlights the difference everyone can make – in the lives of older adults, in support of caregivers and to
36 strengthen communities.

37
38 Commissioner Simmons moved to adopt Proclamation – Older Americans Month 2020. Commissioner Swindell
39 seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and
40 Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

41 *Clerk’s Note: A copy of “Proclamation - Older Americans Month 2020” is attached herewith as Exhibit A and*
42 *incorporated herein by reference.*

43
44 **Project Budget Ordinance NCORR Temporary Cash Assistance**

45 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported in April the Hyde County Board of Commissioners accepted a
46 \$1,000,000.00 loan from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency for temporary cash flow

1 assistance in relation to Hurricane Dorian expenditures. These funds will be utilized for cash flow while awaiting
2 FEMA reimbursement.

3 Commissioner Swindell moved to adopt Hyde County North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency
4 Temporary Cash Flow Assistance to Local Governments Project Budget Ordinance – May 4, 2020.
5 Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl,
6 Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

7 *Clerk's Note: A copy of "Hyde County North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency Temporary Cash Flow
8 Assistance to Local Governments Project Budget Ordinance – May 4, 2020" is attached herewith as Exhibit B and
9 incorporated herein by reference.*

11
12 **Project Budget Ordinance NCORR State Grant**

13 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported in April the Hyde County Board of Commissioners accepted a
14 \$500,000.00 grant from the North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency for the following grant activities:

- 15 • Disaster Recovery Specialist – Hyde County will contract with an experienced individual to
16 assist the county with FEMA programs, reimbursement and managing project documentation.
17 This individual will also assist the county with long-term recovery and resiliency planning
18 and project implementation including identifying funding opportunities for resilient housing
19 and business recovery.
- 20 • Grant Administrator – Hyde County will hire a grant administrator to work with local staff,
21 consulting staff, state and federal partners and individual citizen applicants to manage grant
22 funding including but not limited to CDBG-DR, HMGP, FMA, Golden LEAF, OSBM and
23 other funding sources.
- 24 • Ocracoke Affordable Housing Study – the county will work with stakeholders to develop an
25 affordable housing study to further efforts of an existing grassroots affordable housing
26 initiative.
- 27 • General payroll obligations and administrative assistance for disaster recovery activities.

28 Commissioner Swindell moved to adopt Hyde County North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency State
29 Grants for Financially Distressed Local Governments Project Budget Ordinance – May 4, 2020. Commissioner
30 Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell
31 and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

32 *Clerk's Note: A copy of "Hyde County North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency State Grants for Financially
33 Distressed Local Governments Project Budget Ordinance – May 4, 2020" is attached herewith as Exhibit C and
34 incorporated herein by reference.*

35
36 **Proclamation – Ratify COVID-19 Proclamation Amendments**

37 Emergency Manager Justin Gibbs presented resolution to ratify proclamations enacted by Chairman Pugh on
38 behalf of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners during a declared "State of Emergency – Coronavirus 2019".
39

40 Commissioner Simmons moved to adopt Resolution To Ratify Board Action Related To State of Emergency
41 Declaration Coronavirus-2019 (COVID-19) – May 4, 2020 to incorporate Amendment Number Four – Adopting
42 Gubernatorial Executive Order 135, Locally Extending The Stay at Home Order and Lifting The Ocracoke Non-
43 resident Property Owner Entry Restriction on May 11, 2020 – adopted April 24, 2020.
44
45

1 Commissioner Pahl seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl,
2 Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

3 *Clerk's Note: A copy of "Amendment Number Four – Adopting Gubernatorial Executive Order 135, Locally*
4 *Extending The Stay at Home Order and Lifting The Ocracoke Non-resident Property Owner Entry Restriction on May*
5 *11, 2020 – adopted April 24, 2020" is attached herewith as Exhibit D and incorporated herein by reference.*

6 *Clerk's Note: A copy of "Resolution To Ratify Board Action Related To State of Emergency Declaration Coronavirus-*
7 *2019 (COVID-19) – May 4, 2020" is attached herewith as Exhibit E and incorporated herein by reference.*
8

9
10 **Appointment – Hyde County Minimum Housing Code Officer**

11 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, reported complaints have been received in the Building Inspections Office
12 regarding a few structures that need to be investigated in relation to occupation by residents. Article III –
13 Minimum Housing Code requires the county to have a Minimum Housing Code Officer.

14
15 Commissioner Simmons moved to appoint Rumley Everett to serve as the Hyde County Minimum Housing
16 Code Officer. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes –
17 Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

18
19 **Solar Energy Facilities Building Inspections Fee Schedule (Tabled to June 1, 2020)**

20
21 **Designation of Applicant's Agent**

22 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, presented Resolution Designation of Applicant's Agent naming primary
23 and secondary agents to represent Hyde County. Agents will be authorized to execute and file applications for
24 federal and/or state assistance on behalf of Hyde County for the purpose of obtaining state and federal assistance.

25
26 Commissioner Pahl moved to adopt Designation of Applicant's Agent appointing Corrinne Gibbs to serve as
27 Primary Agent and Justin Gibbs to serve as Secondary Agent to execute and file applications for federal and/or
28 state assistance on behalf of Hyde County. Commissioner Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on
29 the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting –
30 None.

31 *Clerk's Note: A copy of "Resolution Designation of Applicant's Agent – North Carolina Division of Emergency*
32 *Management" is attached herewith as Exhibit F and incorporated herein by reference.*
33

34 **Request for FAA Approval of Agreement to Transfer of Entitlements**

35 Jane Hodges, Airport Manager, reported in accordance with 49 USC § 47117(c)(2) Hyde County will waive
36 receipt of Non-Primary Entitlement (NPE) Funds from 2016 in the amount of \$100,904.00 for Hyde County
37 Airport (7W6) parking area re-pavement project. This is an unavoidable delay in coordinating schedules
38 between the surveyors and the Hyde County Airport for survey of the airport parking area due to Hurricane
39 Dorian debris staged for disposal in the parking area. The waived funds will be transferred to Odell Williamson
40 Municipal Airport (6OJ) from Ocean Isle Beach.

41
42 Commissioner Swindell moved to approve release and transfer of the NPE monies (\$100,904.00).
43 Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl,
44 Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

1 **NCLM Life & Health Insurance Renewals and Adding Spousal Coverage to Current Plan**
2 **(Tabled to June 1, 2020)**

3
4 **Hyde County CDBG-Neighborhood Revitalization Program Inspection Services**

5 Kris Cahoon Noble, County Manager, received nine vendor proposals for the Hyde County CDBG-NR Program
6 for Asbestos Inspection Services Proposals. Holland Consulting Planners reviewed and ranked the proposals and
7 recommended the asbestos inspection services contract be awarded to W. F. Bulow Inspections.

8
9 Commissioner Swindell moved to award the Hyde County CDBG-NR Asbestos Inspection Services Contract to
10 W. F. Bulow Inspections. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following
11 vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

12
13 **Hyde County NC DPS Community Program – County Funding Plan**

14 Natalie Wayne, Cooperative Extension Director, presented (virtual) Hyde County DPS Community Program –
15 County Funding Plan. The plan was derived through a planning process by the Hyde County Juvenile Crime
16 Prevention Council and represents Hyde County’s Plan for use of these funds in FY2020-2021.

17
18 Commissioner Swindell moved to approve the 10% County Cash Match in the amount of \$5,906.00 for the
19 NC DPS Community Program – County Funding Plan. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The
20 motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None;
21 Absent or not voting – None.

22
23 **BUDGET REVISIONS**

24 **Department of Social Services**

- 25 • Maintenance & Repairs \$ 9,900.00
- 26 • Vehicle Maintenance \$ 2,000.00
- 27 • Drug Testing \$ 2,000.00
- 28 • LIEAP \$ 11,467.00
- 29 • SSBG Legal Services \$ 10,000.00
- 30 • Office Supplies \$ 3,000.00

31
32 **Health Department**

- 33 • Bioterrorism 17-20\$ 750.00
- 34 • Healthy Communities 18-20 \$ 1,802.73
- 35 • Bioterrorism 19-20 \$ 52,439.00
- 36 • Travel 20-20 \$ 100.00
- 37 • Supplies 20-21 \$ 1,640.00
- 38 • Contract Nurse Peacrtitioner 22-20 \$ 10,500.00
- 39 • Department Supplies, Equipment \$ 7,756.15

40
41 **Sheriff’s Department**

- 42 • Equipment \$ 5,500.00

43
44 Commissioner Swindell moved to approve the Health Department, Sheriff’s Office and DSS budget transfers as
45 presented. Commissioner Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes –
46 Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays – None; Absent or not voting – None.

1 **MANAGEMENT REPORTS:**

2 The commissioners and county manager shared with the public their various activities and ideas for continuous
3 improvement of government services in Hyde County.

4
5 **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (none)

6
7 **CLOSED SESSION:** (none)

8
9 Commissioner Simmons moved to recess the meeting to June 1, 2020. Commissioner Swindell seconded the
10 motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Pugh, Pahl, Simmons, Swindell and Topping; Nays –
11 None; Absent or not voting – None.

12
13 The meeting adjourned at 9:30p.m.

14
15 Respectfully submitted:

16
17 Minutes approved on the 1st day of June, 2020.

18
19 Attest:

20
21 _____
22 Lois Stotesberry, CMC, NCCCC
23 Clerk, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

_____ Earl Pugh, Jr.
Chair, Hyde County Board of Commissioners

24
25
26 **Attachments**

27 Exhibit A: *“Proclamation - Older Americans Month 2020”*

28 Exhibit B: *“Hyde County North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency Temporary Cash Flow Assistance to
29 Local Governments Project Budget Ordinance – May 4, 2020”*

30 Exhibit C: *“Hyde County North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency State Grants for Financially
31 Distressed Local Governments Project Budget Ordinance – May 4, 2020”*

32 Exhibit D: *“Amendment Number Four – Adopting Gubernatorial Executive Order 135, Locally Extending The
33 Stay at Home Order and Lifting The Ocracoke Non-resident Property Owner Entry Restriction on
34 May 11, 2020 – adopted April 24, 2020”*

35 Exhibit E: *“Resolution To Ratify Board Action Related To State of Emergency Declaration Coronavirus-2019
36 (COVID-19) – May 4, 2020”*

37 Exhibit F: *“Resolution Designation of Applicant’s Agent – North Carolina Division of Emergency Management”*

38

**Hyde County Board of Commissioners
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET**

Meeting Date: June 1, 2020
Presenter: County Manager Kris Noble
Attachment: Handout

ITEM TITLE: FY2020-2021 Hyde County Budget Message

SUMMARY: County Manager Noble will present the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Hyde County Budget Message.

RECOMMEND: Discussion.

MOTION MADE BY: ___ PUGH
___ SIMMONS
___ PAHL
___ SWINDELL
___ TOPPING

MOTION SECONDED BY: ___ PUGH
___ SIMMONS
___ PAHL
___ SWINDELL
___ TOPPING

VOTE: ___ PUGH
___ SIMMONS
___ PAHL
___ SWINDELL
___ TOPPING

A Message From Hyde County Commissioner Tom Pahl

To Our Non-Resident Property Owners and Visitors: Welcome to Ocracoke!

You may be reading this as you are making plans to come to Ocracoke, or you may already have arrived in the village. Either way, we want you to know that we welcome you and we want your visit to be relaxing and full of great memories and great experiences. It is what Ocracoke does best.

This year has been a challenge. Not only are we dealing with the COVID virus, as you are in your own communities, but eight months ago we were hit with the worst hurricane to come ashore on Ocracoke since the hurricane of '44. Over 40% of our full-time residents were displaced from their homes and many of those are still not able to return, as the work to rebuild continues.

Things will look different. We lost a lot of our precious trees and the availability of restaurants and shops and cottages is limited. More than forty buildings suffered so much damage that they have been demolished. The good news is that no lives were lost, despite some harrowing experiences during the storm. The recovery has brought out the best of Ocracoke. We have benefitted from the great generosity of many of our NRPO's who donated their homes to displaced residents. Gifts of care from near and far have buoyed our recovery and we are proudly "Ocracoke Strong."

Just as we were beginning to see the bright light of spring ahead, we were confronted with a new challenge: the COVID virus. Unlike the hurricane, which was a local crisis, COVID is a global challenge and we are just a small piece of a global response. But it has had local impacts, including travel restrictions that are soon to be lifted and a broad set of guidelines meant to assure everyone's safety on the island.

First, and most importantly, if anyone in your group shows any signs of respiratory symptoms – like a cough or sore throat, or a fever, we are requiring that your entire party immediately return home and seek medical advice from your regular care provider. This is for your benefit as well as for your friends in Ocracoke. We have only one doctor and a daytime medical clinic only. We have only one on-duty ambulance crew, no pharmacy and a very limited COVID-specific response. Please, for your sake and ours, seek care with your regular doctor as soon as you can get there. And please notify your cottage/hotel manager by phone, so that they can take extra precautions in their cleaning protocol.

We are asking that you practice social distancing as you visit throughout the village. Keep six feet apart from others, wear a facemask when you go into shops and while waiting for to-go food. (Even us guys? Yes, even guys can wear facemasks!) You can call and order ahead for groceries to be brought out to your car. And, of course, wash your hands often.

Residents, NRPO's, visitors, workforce, businesses....we're all in this together. Please be patient and respectful with one another. Go to the beach, take walks, enjoy the sunsets, eat good food, let the sea breeze blow through your hair, take a deep breath, and be joyful that we can be here one more time.