

Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County

May 3, 2010

Chairman Tom Davis called the Regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, May 3, 2010 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, Ken Collier, Tom Davis, and Sharon Spencer; County Attorney Sid Hassell; Interim County Manager/ Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner Gene Ballance; Deputy Clerk to the Board Jamie Tunnell; and, members of the public.

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

Agenda:

Chairman Davis asked for any changes to the May 3, 2010 meeting Agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the agenda as presented by the Clerk with addition of Item V. – Other Matters – E. Personnel Policy Amendments – 4) Clarification of Longevity Pay; and, 5) Review of Personnel Policy in Comparison with Other Counties. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Consideration of Minutes:

Chairman Davis asked for approval of meeting minutes.

Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the April 5, 2010 Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes with Page 9 – Line 15 stating *report from the Soil & Water Board*; April 12, 2010 Commissioners Special Joint ABC Board and Hyde County Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes; April 19, 2010 Commissioners Regular Meeting Minutes with Page 7 – Line 15 stating *Article 5, Section 6*; and, April 26, 2010 Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Special Presentations:

Swan Quarter Dike Maintenance Plan – Soil & Water Board

Brandon Marshal, Hyde County Soil & Water Technician presented the Swan Quarter Dike Maintenance Plan as prepared by the Hyde County Soil & Water Board to include cost estimate.

Hearing no objection, Chairman Davis directed S&W Technician Brandon Marshal to work with Justin Gibbs, GIS, to determine acreage of Phase 8 – Phase 13; to gather such other information as necessary to determine an assessment figure; and, to send the proposal to County Attorney Sid Hassell for review.

Finance Officer Jessica Gibbs reported that any funds collected but not used would be put in a balance account for future use.

Public Comments:

Chairman Davis called for comments from the public.

Franklin Swindell, Engelhard – stated concerns about future county manager contracts; and, that money spent on the Engelhard Airport would be better spent on mosquito control.

Fred Westervelt, Ocracoke – congratulated the County government for rapidly publishing meeting agendas, highlights, and minutes on the County website; commented the electronic meeting equipment was working properly; and, asked the Board to research solid waste incineration for use on Ocracoke and to enlist opinions from the populous of Ocracoke before making a final decision and setting solid waste fees.

Darlene Styron, Ocracoke – asked that Hyde County support Dare County’s Alternative ORV Plan for free beach access.

There being no further comment from the public, Chairman Davis continued the meeting.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

National Day of Prayer Proclamation

Commissioner Spencer read the Preamble to the Constitution and the National Day of Prayer Proclamation proclaiming May 6, 2010 as Day of Prayer. Ms. Spencer invited citizens to participate.

Appointments:

Hyde County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee

Commissioner Byrd moved to appoint Ms. Jane Gibbs, Engelhard, to the Hyde County Nursing Home Community Advisory Committee. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH) Area Board

ECBH CEO/Area Director Roy Wilson in a memo dated April 14, 2010 thanked Hyde County for joining with all of the Counties which are currently members of ECBH LME. Mr. Wilson requested appointment of a Commissioner to the ECBH Area Board in order to create an equitable membership on the ECBH Area Board for each member county. The Area Board of ECBH would like to be comprised of one member from each County.

Chairman Davis moved to appoint Commissioner Anson Byrd to the represent Hyde County on the East Carolina Behavioral Health (ECBH) Area Board. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Other Matters:

Budget Amendments

Interim County Manager Lois Stotesberry reported to the Board that in accordance with the FY2009-10 Budget Ordinance several budget transfers were made administratively and she requested approval of the following:

Cooperative Extension: \$2,077.63; transferring funds to Equipment Line from Salary Line to purchase laptop and docking station. This transfer will not increase the overall budget for Cooperative Extension.

Health – Family Planning: \$1,250.00; transferring funds to Advertising, Contract Ocracoke Health Center, Contract Lab Testing, and Contract Pharmacy from Activity 151 – Family Planning to expand family planning services in Hyde County. This transfer will not increase the overall budget for the Health Department.

Health – Breast & Cervical Cancer Control (BCCCP); \$1,000.00: transferring funds to Revenue – BCCCP State and Revenue – Adult Health Patient Fees from Contract Physician to allow our health department to cover the cost of BCCCP services to qualified patients on Ocracoke. This transfer will not increase the overall budget for the Health Department.

Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the Cooperative Extension (\$2,077.64) and the Health Department (\$1,250) and (\$1,000) budget amendments as presented by Interim County Manager Lois

Stotesberry. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Two additional budget amendments were submitted for approval after the Agenda had been prepared and were handed out at the meeting. Ms. Stotesberry requested approval of the following:

Home Health: \$4,000.00; transferring funds from Contract Occupational Therapist Line to Contract Physical Therapist Line to cover anticipated expenditures for Physical Therapy to Home Health clients. This transfer will not increase the overall budget for Home Health.

Elections Department: \$12,600.00; transferring funds from Equipment Line to Department Expense Line to purchase two new computers and to Fees to Local Officials Line to pay for Precinct workers. This transfer will not increase the overall budget for the Elections Department.

Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the Home Health (\$4,000) and the Elections Department (\$12,600) budget amendments as presented by Interim County Manager Lois Stotesberry. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Budget Amendment Discussion – Approved April 5, 2010

At the April 19 Commissioners meeting, Commissioners Byrd, Collier, and Spencer requested review of the approved April 5 Emergency Services Budget Amendment (\$365,625.77).

***Emergency Services**: \$365,625.77; transferring funds from Fund Balance to cover additional personnel and operational costs for the new EMS station, increased overtime costs due to delays in hiring full time credentialed personnel from inside Hyde County or from existing personnel. Total use of General Fund Balance subjective estimate and does not reflect increased FY2009-10 revenues. This transfer will increase the overall budget for Emergency Services.*

Chairman Davis moved to approve Emergency Services (\$365,625.77) budget amendment as presented by County Manager Carl Classen. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, and Davis; Nays – Collier and Spencer; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Emergency Services Director Mark O'Mara reported that the delay in hiring full-time personnel; utilities not budgeted for in the FY2009-10 Budget; vehicle maintenance (average \$150 - \$180 per visit); unexpected vehicle repairs; and, part-time employee salaries were contributing factors for the April 5 budget amendment request. Mr. O'Mara stated that six Paramedic vacancies (4 – Ocracoke & 2 – Mainland) needed to be filled.

Assistance Finance Officer/Human Resources Coordinator Corrinne Gibbs reported that the beginning salary for a Paramedic is \$30,234 plus overtime.

Commissioner Byrd moved to authorize Emergency Services Director Mark O'Mara to hire three (3) full-time paramedics immediately and to authorize the necessary budget transfer from EMS P/T Salaries Line to EMS F/T Salaries Line to cover the costs of the three new Paramedic positions. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Chairman Davis recommended that Mr. O'Mara expedite filling the three full-time Paramedic positions. Mr. Davis asked Mr. O'Mara to research convalescence services for Hyde County and to bring report to the Board.

In response to questions about the recently formed First Responder Program, Emergency Services Director Mark O'Mara reported that Hyde County EMS averages three calls/day with First Responder Volunteer Fire Departments receiving \$50/call. Mr. O'Mara will develop guidelines for dispatching first responders based on his findings after meetings/discussion with EMS, Volunteer Fire Departments, Cross Creek Nursing Home Management, and Hyde County Dispatch.

FY2010-2011 Budget Workshop Schedule

Hearing no objection, Chairman Davis directed that the first budget workshop will begin on Thursday, May 6 at 3:30PM at which time a schedule will be determined.

Outer Banks Preservation Association – Coalition Position Statement

Commissioner Gene Ballance reported on the Outer Banks Preservation Association (OBPA) and the Dare County “Coalition Position Statement.”

After discussion, Mr. Ballance moved to endorse the Outer Banks Preservation Association (OBPA) Coalition Position Statement and the Dare County Coalition Position Statement; to include in the Hyde County Coalition Position Statement the four main issues of the Dare County Statement (1) Corridors, (2) Management Buffers, (3) Non-endangered Birds, and (4) Turtle Management; and, to send written Hyde County Coalition Position Statement. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Solid Waste Fees

At the March 19 meeting, Commissioner Collier moved to use a county-wide solid waste collection system with all paying a flat monthly fee: Ocracoke citizens \$35, Mainland citizens \$25; Ocracoke businesses \$50, Mainland businesses \$40; and, no convenience site charge county-wide, effective June 1, 2010 utility billings. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Byrd, Collier, and Spencer. Nays – Ballance and Davis; Absent or Not Voting – None.

After discussion and clarification of the effective date, Commissioner Byrd moved to rescind all convenience site fees effective May 4, 2010 and to continue dumpster tipping fees (\$140/tip) on Ocracoke. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Byrd, Collier, and Spencer. Nays – Ballance and Davis; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Hyde County Personnel Policy - Amendments

At the March 19 Board Meeting, Commissioner Collier reported that he would propose three changes to the Hyde County Personnel Policy on May 3, which include: (1) Article 5, Section 6 – Nepotism, (2) Requirements for Timesheets, and (3) Efficiency Reporting.

Commissioner Spencer also proposed changes to (4) Clarification of Longevity Pay, and reported on (5) Comparison of Personnel Policies in Other Counties.

After discussion, Commissioner Spencer moved to begin longevity pay at \$400 at five (5) years of service as of December each year; and to keep all other longevity dates and pay the same. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer. Nays – Ballance; Absent or Not Voting – None.

County Attorney Sid Hassell reported that timesheets are Finance Office records, not Personnel Policy material. Mr. Hassell will research and report on Article 5, Section 6 – Nepotism at the May 17 meeting.

County Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Ballance attended an ORV meeting this week. Mr. Ballance stated he believes that keeping the nepotism rule in the Hyde County Personnel Policy causes citizens to trust and respect their government.

Commissioner Collier attended a Hyde County Transit Board meeting and commends Ms. Beverly Paul for her management of Hyde Transit. Mr. Collier would like to see the Hyde County Emergency Evacuation Plan and asked if County vehicles can get fuel from the State. Mr. Collier commended Finance Officer Jessica Gibbs for “Kissing the Pig” and raising \$302 for Hyde County 4-H.

Commissioner Spencer request line item-by-line item review of the FY2010-2011 Budget. Budget workshops begin on Thursday, May 6. Ms. Spencer commended Cooperative Extension staff for a successful 2010 Livestock Show.

Commissioner Byrd attended a Department of Social Services (DSS) Board meeting and discussed the DSS FY2010-2011 budget.

Chairman Davis thanked Commissioner Ballance for his work done on the “Coalition Position Statement.” Mr. Davis presented three checks that he signed during the manager/interim manager vacancy: (1) NCACC GBP-Group Benefits Pool - \$935.07 – for March COBRA Payment (2) Dixie Motor Company, Inc. - \$21,405.56 – Health Department – 2006 Dodge Durango (3) Hyde County CDBG-R Program - \$6,300 – Project Expenditure.

No other Board or Committee reports were offered so Chairman Davis continued with the Agenda.

Interim County Manager’s Report:

Interim County Manager Lois Stotesberry requested approval of the March 2010 Tax Collections Report.

Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the March 2010 Tax Collections Report. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer. Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Electronic Meeting Equipment

Interim County Manager Lois Stotesberry and Deputy Tax Administrator Justin Gibbs are researching a possible resolution to ongoing problems with the electronic meeting equipment in the Multi-use Room of the Government Center and Commons Area of Ocracoke School. At this time they are collecting data in an effort to determine whether or not their proposal is cost effective. If the proposal is cost effective, Justin Gibbs will present the proposal to the Board on May 17.

Closed Session

Commissioner Byrd moved to enter closed session in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) – Consultation With Legal Counsel; and, NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) – Personnel Matters. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

The Commissioners entered closed session at 9:22 P.M.

Commissioner Byrd moved to return from Closed Session. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

The Commissioners entered regular session at 9:55 P.M.

Commissioner Byrd moved to authorize one lump sum severance payment to former County Manager Carl Classen; and directed that Mr. Classen will pay to Hyde County his portion of the family insurance (health, dental, vision) coverage and any other similar deductions that should be made. Ms. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Commissioner Spencer moved to pay Lois Stotesberry an additional \$1,500 per month while she serves as Interim County Manager. Mr. Collier seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

Chairman Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Byrd seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Byrd, Collier, Davis, and Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – None.

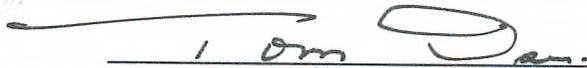
The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 17th day of May, 2010.



Lois Stotesberry, Clerk - Hyde County Board of Commissioners



Tom Davis, Chairman - Hyde County Board of Commissioners