Minutes

Board of County Commissioners
Hyde County
July 18, 2011

Commissioner Anson Byrd called the regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7 PM on Monday, July 18, 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, 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 Sharon Spencer and Darlene Styron; Deputy Clerk, Jamie Tunnell.

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

Consideration of the minutes:
Commissioner Byrd asked for any changes to the July ~~18~~ 5 SC, 2011 meeting minutes as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to approve minutes as presented.

Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

Consideration of the agenda:
Commissioner Byrd asked for any changes to the July 18, 2011 meeting agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Manager Smith requested that the following items be added to the July 18, 2011 agenda:

Item 3A Resolution to Prohibit Use of Tobacco on County Property

Item 3B Memorandum of Agreement to Provide Health Care Benefits

Item 17A Veteran's Services/Elections

Item 22 Invitation to NAACP Humanitarian Banquet August 20th

Item 23 Hurricane Preparedness Community Meeting Flyer

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions.

Mr.Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

Public Comments:
No comments.

Resolution to Prohibit use of Tobacco on County Property

Wesley Smith, Health Director, presented to the Board the Resolution to Prohibit Tobacco Use. He stated that in the beginning House Bill two banned smoking in restaurants and now County facilities are being included. The Board of Health discussed adopting a resolution and rule to prohibit the use of tobacco in County owned and leased properties. The Board of Health then voted in favor of the proposed resolution.

Commissioner Byrd questioned the rules applying to the Ponzer Community Building and Ocracoke Community Building.

Mr. Smith answered that it would include those properties.

After further discussion, it was determined that a public hearing would need to be held in order for the Board to adopt the Resolution.

Memorandum of Agreement to Provide Health Care Benefits
Manager Mazie Smith presented to the Board a news article in the Coastland Times regarding the health insurance benefits of employees that are retiring. Manager Smith asks that the Board allow Martin County to administer the Health insurances to the retired employees on behalf of Hyde County with no cost to the County.

Management of Water Levels on Lake Mattamuskeet
Mark Carawan, Local Business Owner, expressed his concern with the current water levels of Lake Mattamuskeet and the need for stop logs. He said that it was a shame the Lake was in the shape it was due to the current Refuge Manager, Deb Pierce, failing to install stop logs. When Mr. Carawan questioned Ms. Pierce, her response was that the Lake was providing a shore bird habitat.

Mr. Carawan asked the Board to write a letter in support of installing stop logs on Lake Mattamuskeet to the Senators and Members of Congress.

Assistant Refuge Manager, Jerry Fringeli, stated that every past Refuge Manger had problems with the Lake water levels and only recently had the water levels decreased.

Secondary Roads Program-Sterling Baker
The NCDOT is required to present the Secondary Roads Program on an annual basis. Mr. Baker explained that the DOT is mandated to spend state funds as specified by them. This year's funding will replace bridges from the Hyde County to Dare County line. Funding will also allow them to replace the culverts on Hwy 94 across the Mattamuskeet Lake with aluminum ones.

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to accept the proposed Secondary Roads Program.

Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

Community Block Grant for Aging Services
Mazie Smith, presented the annual grant that is given to Hyde County to provide services for the elderly residents of the County.

East Carolina Behavioral Health-Roy Wilson/Liza Wainwright
Roy Wilson, announced the management of the Medicaid waiver. Managing Medicaid dollars allows the paying of services for citizens.

Liza Wainwright presented the ECBH quarterly report and stated that the ECBH anticipated receiving $50 million from the state.

Engelhard Water Treatment Plant Update-Clint Berry
Clint Berry, Utilities Director, updated the Board on the status of the Engelhard Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Berry stated that the plant had been in progress for ten years and the final inspection had been held. The Plant cost a total of $4.6 million to complete and filters 300 gallons of water per minute. The Plant was constructed large enough to double its capacity in the future if necessary.
Funds in the amount of $89,000 were leftover from the USDA for the project and $12,000 from engineering fees. Mr. Berry would like to use the remaining funds to construct a building in Engelhard and in Swan Quarter. Also, he would like to purchase an excavator.

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to allow the remaining funds from the Water Treatment Plant be used at the discretion of Mr. Berry and Mrs. Smith.

Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

Manager Smith asked the Board for permission to put recognition letters in the personnel files of Clint Berry, Bob Thomas and Kris Noble for all their hard work on this project.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to allow Mrs. Smith to recognize the satisfactory work of the employees involved with the Engelhard Water Treatment Plant.

Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

Approval of Capital Reserve Funds for Campus Security System
Hyde County schools would like the approval of installing a campus security system using capital reserve funds.

Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to allow the Hyde County School system to use capital reserve funds for the campus security system.

Chairman Spencer seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

Personnel Panel for Interviews
Chairman Spencer said that she noticed in the personnel policy that when a department head was appointed or hired, two Commissioners are necessary to interview them as well.

Manager Smith responded that the policy did not cover that.

Commissioner Byrd commented that the idea of Commissioner interviewing department heads arose when there was a vacancy for EMS Director and the Board had discussed adding this in the personnel policy.

Commissioner Swindell said that as a Commissioner, he had hired Manager Smith and gives her the authority to manage the staff and if needed during the interviewing process, HR would sit in. He added that the manager is hired to manage day to day operations and doesn't feel there is a need for a personnel committee.

Commissioner Tunnell stated that this issue falls under administration and agrees with Commissioner Swindell that the manager is to handle the pressures of hiring and firing. He also added that Commissioners might not be fair.

Commissioner Styron said there is no need to make accusations and there are certain ways to handle things.

Chairman Spencer made a motion to amend the personnel policy to include the County Manager, two Commissioners and the HR Director to serve on a panel to interview department heads.

Manager Smith spoke up and commented that the employees have been through a lot and the Board wanted her to bring stability to the employees. The actions of the Board are lowering moral. She said if you don't trust my decisions then she doesn't know if she needs to be here. She also mentioned that there is no HR Director and no Secretary. Mrs. Smith ended by saying we have to groom younger people for jobs in the County.

Chairman Spencer removed her motion and said that she is not against the employees and trusts Manager Smith completely.

Administrative Budget Revisions

Health---$300.00---Funds needed to cover the expenses of the Table Top Exercise on Ocracoke. $300.00
Does not increase the budget.

Chairman Spencer made a motion to approve the budget revisions as presented to the Board.

Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell Tunnell
Nays: none

Commissioner Reports

Chairman Spencer- has enjoyed being on Ocracoke and has talked with the residents and appreciates the disadvantages. Mrs. Spencer also appreciates Mr. Byrd for taking over this meeting.

Commissioner Styron-nothing to report. She will be attending the Re-entry meeting on Ocracoke, Wednesday night.

Commissioner Tunnell- attended the Mideast Housing Authority meeting.

Commissioner Byrd- attended the DSS meeting and announced Phil Emmert retired.

Commissioner Swindell- attended the Health Board meeting and attended his first Hyde Transit meeting.

County Manager Report

Manager Smith attended a meeting promoting the US 264 Association Tourism Authority. The Board is invited to attend the NAACP meeting. She added that the June collections for EMS were $145,000. There will be no meeting on August 1st and she will be visiting Ocracoke on Wednesday.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Byrd, Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell
Nays: none

The July 18, 2011 Regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners adjourned at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 15th day of August, 2011.

Mazie Smith, Clerk

Sharon Spencer, Chairman