

Special Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County

January 26, 2012

Chairwoman Sharon Spencer called the special meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, January 26, 2012 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 Sharon Spencer and Anson Byrd; Attorney Fred Holscher; Deputy Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner Darlene Styron; Deputy Clerk to the Board Jamie Carter; and, members of the public. Commissioners Dick Tunnell and Barry Swindell; and, County Manager Mazie Smith were absent.

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

Agenda:

Chairwoman Spencer asked for any changes to the January 26, 2012 meeting Agenda as presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Byrd moved to approve the agenda as presented by the Clerk. Ms. Styron seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer, Styron

Nays – None

Absent – Tunnell and Swindell

Public Comments:

Chairwoman Spencer called for comments from the public.

There being no further comments from the public, Chairwoman Spencer continued the meeting.

Items of Consideration:

Options for Funding Hurricane Recovery

Corrinne Gibbs, Finance Officer, stated that Hyde County owes J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. \$2,979,516.98 for completion of disaster recovery projects in Hyde County following Hurricane Irene. Per contract agreement, the payment schedule for this disaster recovery work is that payment could be delayed up to ninety (90) days from acceptance of the invoice to aid the County in the State and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reporting and reimbursement process. Ms. Gibbs reported that the timeline on these invoices has passed and that reimbursement from FEMA is not guaranteed. She also reported that when the federal reimbursement requested is more than one million dollars the project must be sent to Washington, DC for approval.

Chairwoman Spencer reported that because the bid tab sheet for the debris removal contract is missing from the procurement process FEMA may or may not reimburse Hyde County.

Corrinne Gibbs, Finance Officer and Clint Berry, Utilities Director reported that FEMA is questioning the debris removal contract procurement process. In response to questions from the Board, they reported that a verbal bid assessment was conducted. Mr. Berry stated that employees who were involved in awarding the J. B. Coxwell contract are no longer with the County.

Fred Holscher, County Attorney, stated that a logical answer as to why J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. was selected along with oath of affidavit obtained from former Emergency Management Director Mark O'Mara is legal.

Commissioner Byrd stated that Hyde County needs a process in place to follow when opening bids. He stated that a commissioner, department head and the county manager should attend all bid openings.

Commissioner Styron stated that Hyde County does need a debris removal contract in place and that Ocracoke Island cannot wait for NC DOT to clean up after a disaster.

Finance Officer Corrinne Gibbs has concurred with County Auditor Andrew Harris and appreciates his assistance. Ms. Gibbs reported that the only feasible option was to transfer funds from Investments to cover expenses incurred due to Hurricane Irene.

Commissioner Byrd moved to grant authorization to utilize funds in Investments to cover the J. B. Coxwell Contracting, Inc. invoices while waiting for possible FEMA reimbursements; and, to approve transfer of \$2,979,516.98 from Investments line to Sewer Spray field and Road Debris lines. Ms. Styron seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer and Styron

Nays – None

Absent – Tunnell and Swindell

Chairwoman Spencer stated that she did not feel that FEMA was denying the claim but that it may expect the County to accept a reduced payment.

Chairwoman Spencer and Commissioner Styron commended Corrinne Gibbs, Finance Officer; Clint Berry, Utilities Director and Justin Gibbs, Emergency Manager for work done on this project.

Commissioner Byrd moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Styron seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ayes – Byrd, Spencer and Styron

Nays – None

Absent – Tunnell and Swindell

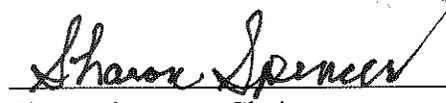
The meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 6th day of February, 2012.


Lois Stotesberry, Deputy Clerk
Hyde County Board of Commissioners




Sharon Spencer, Chair
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

Attachments: (none)