

Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County

November 17, 2008

Chairman Charles Spencer called the Regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, November 17, 2008 in the Community Center, Ocracoke, N.C. The following members were present: Alice Armstrong, Gene Ballance, Barry Swindell, and Charles Spencer. Also present were County Manager Carl Classen; County Attorney Sid Hassell; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and members of the public. Commissioner Tom Davis was absent.

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

Agenda:

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the November 17, 2008 meeting Agenda as presented by the Clerk. Commissioner Swindell moved to accept the Agenda as presented by the Clerk with the addition of Item V. C. – Schedule of Values and Item V. D. – Ocracoke Airport Improvement Plan. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Consideration of Minutes:

Chairman Spencer asked for approval of meeting minutes.

Commissioner Ballance moved to approve the November 3, 2008 Meeting Minutes with page 9, line 24 quote corrected. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Spencer, and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Special Presentation – Great American Smokeout:

Ocracoke Students Against Tobacco (OSAT) presented the 2008 Great American Smokeout Proclamation.

Commissioner Ballance moved to adopt the 2008 Great American Smokeout Proclamation. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Spencer, and Swindell; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Public Comments:

Chairman Spencer called for comments from the public.

Ann Ehringhaus, Ocracoke – stated that the Ocracoke Civic and Business Association and the Ocracoke Planning Board will ask the Board to amend the Hyde County Noise Ordinance in early Spring, 2009.

Resolution Adopting The Outer Banks Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan and Nominating The Byway For National Designation

At the October 20 Commissioners meeting Mr. Earl O'Neal, Chairman of the Carteret/Dare/Hyde Scenic Byway Committee, and Elizabeth Watson, consultant for the Committee, reported to the Board on the work of the Committee and requested endorsement of their application for moving forward.

Mr. O'Neal presented a draft summary report prepared by Elizabeth Waston, Consultant to the Outer Banks Scenic Byways Committee, which Carteret, Dare, and Hyde counties are asked to approve.

After discussion, Commissioner Swindell moved to adopt Resolution Adopting The Outer Banks Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan and Nominating The Byway For National Designation contingent upon the same approval by Carteret and Dare County. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of "Resolution Adopting The Outer Banks Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan and Nominating The Byway For National Designation" is attached herewith as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

Other Matters:

Budget Revisions and Transfers

County Manager Carl Classen is requesting transfer of \$210,000.00 as requested by Tax Administrator Linda Basnight for contracted services with Pearson's Appraisal Tax Service for the 2009 revaluation; transfer of \$25,500.00 overage from Ocracoke service contract needed to buy maintenance items. Further, he reported credit of \$5,055.82 insurance money received for repairs to a generator that was struck by lightning, and transfer of \$9,444.18 to cover unexpected breakdowns in maintenance and equipment lines and to cover uniforms for the water department employees as requested by Utilities Department Manager Clint Berry; transfer of \$5,000.00 to cover the costs of inspections done by the contract building inspector as requested by Emergency Services Director David Warren.

Commissioner Ballance moved to approve all of the budget transfers as presented. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Central Communications Services

On November 3, following presentations by the Fire Chiefs Association and the Sheriff regarding dispatch services, the County Commissioners created a Central Communications Advisory Group to review the work of the dispatch/central communications system and to make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners also authorized funding for dispatcher training through the existing CAD administrator.

Commissioner Swindell moved to appoint the following persons to serve on the Central Communications Advisory Group and direct that administrative support be provided by the Emergency Services Department:

Law Enforcement Representatives

- Deputy Joshua Legan
- Deputy Blake Cutrell

Fire Service Representatives

- Chief Lindsey Mooney
- Chief Jeffrey Stotesberry

Emergency Medical/Emergency Management Representatives

- Deputy Fire Marshal Justin Myers
- EMT-B Dale Mutro

and, to appoint each person to serve on the Advisory Group until December 31, 2009 or until another person is appointed by the County Commissioners.

The Advisory Group shall select a chairman and vice chairman from among their members. The chairman and vice chairman shall represent different functional areas. The chairman and vice chairman shall serve until December 31, 2009 at which time a new chairman and vice chairman shall be elected through the following December 31. No person may hold the same position two years consecutively but may serve more than one non-consecutive term. The Advisory Group shall bylaws and rules of procedure, as they deem necessary, for the conduct of the Board and the completion of their work.

The Advisory Group shall report to the Board of Commissioners periodically but not less than annually on the following:

- Central communications services (both dispatch and users) and recommendations/actions for addressing needs;
- Central communications equipment (both dispatch and users) and recommendations/actions for addressing needs; and,
- Other matters the Advisory Group feels important to bring to the County Commissioners.

Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Schedule of Values

On November 3, the County Commissioners conducted a public hearing in regards to the proposed Schedule of Values for the 2009 Revaluation. The public hearing comments are contained in the November 3 meeting minutes.

Of note, several people asked about delaying the Revaluation as late as possible to take into account declining property values. Tax Administrator Linda Basnight followed up on these comments with a call to the NC Department of Revenue. Her comments follow:

I have talked to the people at the Department of Revenue and their recommendation is to go ahead and adopt the schedule of values as planned and wait until after January 1 to mail out the revaluation notices. That way all sales for the year can be considered and any value adjustments to compensate for a shift in the market can be handled with an economic or market adjustment. This is what other counties that are having a reval become effective 01/01/09 are going to do.

Commissioner Armstrong moved to adopt the proposed Schedule of Values for the 2009 Revaluation. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Ocracoke Airport Improvements Plan

Earl O'Neal, Ocracoke Airport Advisory Board, presented the Board a copy of the Ocracoke Airport Improvements Plan.

After discussion and thanking Mr. O'Neal for work done on the project, Commissioner Ballance moved to join in partnership with the Ocracoke Airport Advisory Board and to send a letter of support to the Congressional Delegation and Stan White. Mr. Swindell seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

County Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Ballance reported progress is being made at the RegNeg ORV meetings; 16% of the total spiny dogfish fishery annual quota has been given to North Carolina fishermen; and that Ocracoke Fish House renovations are progressing.

Commissioner Armstrong thanked citizens for selecting her to serve as commissioners for the past three years.

Commissioner Swindell reported new Health Board members are still needed and will be appointed in January. Mr. Swindell also reported requests from citizens that someone be available in the Inspections Department daily.

Chairman Spencer reported that he would like to remain on the ABC Board and that a member is needed from Ocracoke. Mr. Spencer also reported the new Medical Center is progressing rapidly.

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

County Manager's Report:

Inspections Department - County Manager Carl Classen reported that EMS Administrative Assistant Crystal Edgar covers the Inspections Department when Jane Hodges is out of the office. Permit applicants should call ahead to schedule a permit review.

Mattamuskeet EMS Station - Mr. Classen reported that the new \$203,848 (including a 10% contingency) construction proposal for the new Mattamuskeet EMS Station is within budget.

Commissioner Swindell made motion to move this topic to the next scheduled Commissioners meeting on December 1, 2008 or January 5, 2009, and to direct staff to further investigate the cost of operating EMS stations in conjunction with the Swan Quarter and Engelhard fire stations. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

Ocracoke Convenience Site/County Building Improvements – Hyde County is seeking contractors to perform the painting and related minor repairs.

Ocracoke NPS Boat Ramp – Progressing.

Ponzer Community Building Repairs – Completed.

Other projects discussed included the Swan Quarter Dike Project; Engelhard Water Treatment Plant; Mattamuskeet Lodge Sewer Projects; Swan Quarter Park Project; Engelhard Community Park Maintenance; and Old Courthouse Building Re-Use.

Administrative Matters:

Department Progress Reports – The Board received monthly reports from the Board of Elections; Register of Deeds; Health Department; Finance Department; Emergency Services Department; Tax Department; Planning & Economic Development; Senior Center; and Utilities Department.

Closed Session:

Mr. Swindell moved to enter Closed Session in accordance with NCGS §143A-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel matters, and with NCGS §143A-318.11(a)(3) for consultation with legal counsel. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

The Commissioners entered closed session at 8:10 PM.

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

The Commissioners re-entered regular session at 8:20 PM.

Commissioner Swindell moved to increase the Veterans Affairs Officer stipend to \$10,000.00. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

There being no further matters to come before the Commissioners, Mr. Swindell moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Spencer seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Armstrong, Ballance, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Davis.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the _____ day of _____, 2008.

Lois Stotesberry, Clerk
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

SEAL

Tom Davis, Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A – *“Resolution Adopting The Outer Banks Scenic Byway
Corridor Management Plan and Nominating The Byway
For National Designation”*