

## Meeting Minutes

### **Board of County Commissioners Hyde County**

**October 4, 2010**

Chairman Tom Davis called the Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, October 4, 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 Tom Davis, Sharon Spencer, Anson Byrd, and Ken Collier; County Attorney Sid Hassell; Interim County Manager/Clerk to the Board David Smitherman; Deputy Clerk to the Board Justin Gibbs; and members of the public. The following members were present on Ocracoke: Commissioner Darlene Styron; Deputy Clerk to the Board Jamie Tunnell; and members of the public.

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

#### Consideration of the Agenda

Chairman Davis asked for any changes to the October 4, 2010 meeting agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Byrd asked for the addition of Item V. D. – EMS Services.

Commissioner Collier made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition requested by Commissioner Byrd. Commissioner Styron seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron

Nays – None

#### Consideration of Minutes

Chairman Davis asked for the approval of minutes from the September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting and the September 22, Emergency Meeting.

Chairman Davis recommended changing paragraph 3 on page 6 of the September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes to read as follows:

*Chairman Davis thanked all of the people that gave their time during the Hurricane Earl event and said that he felt things went as smoothly as anyone could have hoped for.*

Chairman Davis recommended changing paragraph 4 on page 15 of the September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes to read as follows:

*Chairman Davis asked Commissioner Styron, Commissioner Spencer, and the Interim County Manager to serve on the subcommittee of the Board, with no objections from the Board, the nominees were appointed to serve on the Unified Government Subcommittee.*

Commissioner Styron recommended correcting the name on the second public comment on page 4 to Francis Frank.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 7, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes with the changes recommend by Chairman Davis and Commissioner Styron. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

Chairman Davis recommended changing the opening sentence of the September 22, 2010 Emergency Meeting Minutes to read as follows:

*Vice-Chairwoman Spencer called the Emergency Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 3:25 PM on Wednesday, September 22, 2010 in the Hyde County Government Center, Multi-Use Room, and the Ocracoke School Commons Area using electronic conferencing equipment.*

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the September 22, 2010 Emergency Meeting Minutes with the change recommended by Chairman Davis. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

**Request for a Letter of Support from the Hyde County Board of Commissioners for Collaboration between the Engelhard Medical Center, Inc. and Ocracoke Health Center for New Access Point (NAP) Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Grant**

Cheryl Ballance, Ocracoke Health Center Administrative Director, informed the Board that the Ocracoke Health Center and Engelhard Medical were collaboratively applying for the Federally Qualified Health Center New Access Point Funding and Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alike Status. Mrs. Ballance stated the additional federal funding would compensate for the declining North Carolina State Funding and would allow them to provide additional services for the underserved Hyde County Communities. The Administrative Director said the centers were in the process of gathering letters of support to be submitted with their applications that are due in November 2010, December 2010, and January 2011. Mrs. Ballance also informed the

Board that the centers were forming a corporation combining the individual entities under what will be know as the Coastal Community Health Alliance.

Chairman Davis asked Mrs. Ballance if a resolution of support would be sufficient. Mrs. Ballance replied that a resolution would be fine.

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to approve a resolution supporting the collaborative efforts of the Engelhard Medical Center and Ocracoke Health Center in applying for Federally Qualified Health Center New Access Point Funding and Federally Qualified Health Center Look Alike Status. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

### **Public Comments**

**Rufus Keel, Ocracoke Resident** – stated he was disappointed the Pay as You Throw service was discontinued and the Board should consider reinstating the service. Mr. Keel also stated that the rental cottages on the island were not considered businesses and were only subject to a \$35.00 charge for trash collection, but the rental cottages produced the most trash and should be considered businesses.

**Leslie Lanier, Ocracoke Resident** – expressed the importance of the paramedic services on Ocracoke due to the limited access to the island and distance that has to be travelled in order to receive medical attention.

### **Appointments – Ocracoke Board of Adjustment**

Commissioner Styron stated she had appointments for the Ocracoke Board of Adjustment, but was unsure on what the ordinance called for regarding the appointment of officers to that board. The County Attorney replied the Hyde County Ordinance 36-204 called for the appointment of five members and two alternates, but he stated the ordinance did not discuss the appointment of officers and recommended that the Commissioners appoint the members and appoint a chairperson at a later date if necessary.

Commissioner Styron made a motion to appoint the following members to the Ocracoke Board of Adjustment:

### **Members**

Jim Borland (2 year term to expire June 30, 2012)

Bill Monticone (1 year term to expire June 30, 2011)

Elizabeth Chamberlain (3 year term to expire June 30, 2013)

Tim Fields (2 year term to expire June 30, 2012)

Dale Mutro (3 year term to expire June 30, 2013)

Alternates

Rufus Keel (1 year term to expire June 30, 2011)

Daphne Bennick (2 year term to expire June 30, 2012)

Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron

Nays – None

**Appointments – Northeastern Workforce Development Board**

Commissioner Spencer informed the Board the Hyde County Chamber of Commerce would be making recommendations to fill the vacant seats on the Northeastern Workforce Development Board.

**Budget Revisions and Transfers**

The Department of Social Services requested a transfer of \$300.00 from the food line item to the travel line item for food for the consumers reimbursed by the Booster Club funds.

The Finance Office requested a transfer from the FEMA Reimbursement line item for Hurricane Earl Expenses.

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to approve the budget revisions and transfers submitted by the Department of Social Services and the Finance Office. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron

Nays – None

**Adoption of the Health Department Fee Schedule**

Wesley Smith, Health Director, informed the Board that local health departments are required by the Division of Public Health to follow established guidelines when determining how much to charge for services provided by local health departments and the charges for services provided are based on the current Medicaid rates, cost analysis, and comparisons of neighboring health departments fees for services. Mr. Smith stated

the fee schedule should be reviewed on at least an annual basis to ensure the fees being charged do not fall below the approved Medicaid rate for those services covered by the Medicaid Program. Mr. Smith also stated the fee schedule must be approved by both the Hyde County Board of Health and the Hyde County Board of Commissioners prior to implementation. Mr. Smith said the fee schedule was reviewed and approved by the Hyde County Board of Health at their regularly scheduled quarterly meeting on September 21, 2010.

Commissioner Collier made a motion to adopt the proposed FY2010-2011 Health Department Fee Schedule. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

### **Lake Landing Canal No Wake Zone**

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to hold a public hearing regarding the Lake Landing Canal No Wake Zone at the October 18, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

### **EMS Services**

Commissioner Byrd stated he was concerned about the EMS overtime budget because they had already expended twenty five percent and he felt they would experience a deficiency of approximately \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00 this fiscal year. Commissioner Byrd said he did not feel the County would be able to continue paramedic level service on the Mainland.

Chairman Davis asked the Interim County Manager what the savings would be if the County decided to decrease the level of service on the Mainland. Mr. Smitherman replied that the County would save approximately \$100,000.00.

Commissioner Byrd said the County was expending a tremendous amount of money to provide paramedic level service and he did not think the Board could make a decision regarding continuing the current level of service because inaccurate figures were presented during the EMS Review Committee Meetings. Commissioner Spencer replied that she agreed with Commissioner Byrd and felt the Commissioners needed to have a work session in order to make an informed decision about the future of Emergency Medical Services in Hyde County.

Commissioner Collier stated he felt the County should keep paramedic level service but the Board should investigate ways to train the current staff to the paramedic level in order to address staffing deficiencies.

The Interim County Manager stated he would prepare options for the Board regarding the levels of emergency medical services and the possibility of outsourcing the billing/collections. Mr. Smitherman also stated he would produce a timeline for the Board to help expedite the decision making process. Commissioner Byrd replied that he wanted to know exactly what it would cost to provide each level of emergency medical services.

Commissioner Byrd said the County went to billing/collecting in house to increase the collection rate. Mr. Smitherman replied that he did not believe the billing was as heavily Medicare/Medicaid laden as they originally thought.

Mr. Smitherman reported he had been in discussions with a private provider and was hoping to acquire figures from the agency before the next meeting.

Commissioner Styron proposed the Board hold a special meeting on October 18, 2010 at 3:30 PM utilizing the video conferencing equipment to establish a connection with the Information Highway System at Ocracoke School or holding a Special Meeting on October 15, 2010. The Board directed the Interim County Manager to advertise a Special Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners on October 18, 2010 at 3:30 PM contingent upon a connection being established with the Information Highway System at Ocracoke School.

### **County Commissioners' Reports**

**Commissioner Styron** – stated during the recent tropical rain event that the officials on Ocracoke experienced problems communicating with the NCDOT Ferry Division. Commissioner Styron also reported the Ocracoke Volunteer Fire Department had their open house and it was very successful.

**Commissioner Spencer** – reported the Albemarle Commission Regional Planning Organization discussed the Transportation Improvement Plans and that Hyde County ranks last amongst the State priorities regarding addressing transportation issues. Commissioner Spencer stated she felt that the Board needed to voice their concerns relating the transportation issues in the County.

Commissioner Spencer informed the Board the Unified Government Subcommittee would be receiving the information prepared by the County Attorney, to produce public education material regarding unified government and the subcommittee would be meeting with community organizations before presenting the information to the public at the planned town meetings.

**Commissioner Collier** – Nothing to report

**Commissioner Byrd** – Nothing to report

**Commissioner Davis** – reported he attended at meeting in Raleigh with Interim County Manager to discuss the funding for the Mattamuskeet Sewer Project.

**County Manager's Report**

Mr. Smitherman reported the meeting in Raleigh was interesting and he felt that progress was made. The Interim County Manager stated the funding agencies are comfortable with their positions with respect to funding the project. Mr. Smitherman informed the Board that the County revised the Clean Water Trust Fund application and the surveys were currently being completed. The Interim County Manager reported the County would not be able to access the full \$1,500,000.00 promised, but there was the potential to receive up to ninety percent of the funding. Mr. Smitherman said the County would receive the award letters in December and he was comfortable that the sewer project would be ahead of the lodge renovation project schedule.

Mr. Smitherman said he would like to thank all of the emergency responders for the long hours worked during the recent tropical rain event.

The Interim County Manager stated he would continue trying to compile the information concerning emergency medical services for the work session.

**Closed Session**

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3). Commissioner Byrd seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

Commissioner Byrd made a motion to return from closed session. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

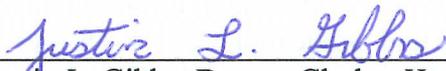
Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn the October 4, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion, the motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes – Commissioners Davis, Spencer, Byrd, Collier, and Styron  
Nays – None

The October 4, 2010 Regular Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010.

  
Justin L. Gibbs, Deputy Clerk – Hyde County Board of Commissioners

  
Tom Davis, Chairman – Hyde County Board of Commissioners

