

Special Meeting Minutes

Board of County Commissioners Hyde County

September 2, 2008

Chairman Charles Spencer called the Regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 in the Multi-Use Room, Government Center, Swan Quarter, N.C. The following members were present: Gene Ballance, Tom Davis, Barry Swindell, and Charles Spencer. Also present were Interim County Manager Carl Classen; County Attorney Sid Hassell; Clerk to the Board Lois Stotesberry; and members of the public. Commissioner Alice Armstrong was absent.

Agenda:

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the September 2, 2008 Special Meeting Agenda as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Swindell moved to accept the Agenda as presented by the Clerk. Mr. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Davis, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Armstrong.

Closed Session:

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

The Commissioners entered closed session at 4:35 PM.

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

The Commissioners re-entered regular session at 5:23 PM.

County Manager Selection Criteria

Interim County Manager Carl Classen conducted a workshop style meeting to discuss with department heads and the public what they considered to be priority for the growth of Hyde County and what they would like the Board to consider when selecting a County Manager.

Commissioner Davis moved to recess the special meeting until Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:30 PM in the Mattamuskeet and Ocracoke School Information Highway Rooms. Mr. Ballance seconded the motion. The motion passed on the following vote: Ayes – Ballance, Davis, Swindell, and Chairman Spencer; Nays – None; Absent or Not Voting – Armstrong.

The meeting recessed at 6:15 PM.

Chairman Spencer reconvened the September 2 Special Meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:30 PM in the Mattamuskeet and Ocracoke School Information Highway Rooms. The following members were present: Tom Davis, Barry Swindell, and Charles Spencer. Also present were Interim County Manager Carl Classen; and members of the public. Commissioner Alice Armstrong and County Attorney Sid Hassell were absent.

Commissioner Gene Ballance and Part-time Administrative Assistant Jamie Tunnell were in attendance on Ocracoke.

County Manager Selection Criteria (continued):

Interim County Manager Carl Classen offered a synopsis of the recessed September 2 Commissioner/staff discussion on Five-Year Priorities that Hyde County faces. After review of the Five-Year Priority handout, goals for the County were discussed and grouped into five categories as follows:

Communications – Hyde County faces critical communication problems between (a) the communities within the county; (b) between the Mainland and Ocracoke; and, (c) between the County and its citizens, property owners and guests. Hyde County Government needs to provide or otherwise encourage increased communications between all these populations.

Consistent Governance – Hyde County Government has suffered from Commissioners and county managers who serve short periods and then leave. Due to leadership turnover and communications problems, Hyde County Government is regularly the target of hysterical, negative and unfounded rumors. Hyde County Government needs to develop systems so that good citizens and staff have their positive efforts become part of equally positive government efforts without those citizens and staff suffering undue negative aggravation.

Economic Development – Hyde County has a rural economy that is significantly different on the Mainland (agriculture, financial services, government, retirees) than on Ocracoke (tourism, government). Each economy can be enhanced or further developed, thus creating jobs and wealth for County residents and property owners. Due to limited resources, Hyde County economic development must be a cooperative effort of business people and government. In addition to building jobs and wealth, a focus of economic development must be creating a tax base sufficient to maintain County Government services. Regretfully, future Hyde County Government expenses must be curtailed until the tax base is adequate to generate ongoing revenues.

Infrastructure - Public health and economic development are closely connected through infrastructure development. Hyde County Government should continue improving existing water, wastewater, solid waste and other traditional government public utilities. However, given the rural character of Hyde County, the County Government should also aggressively seek to enhance other utilities such as electricity, telecommunications, wireless communications, high-speed Internet access, natural gas and others. Hyde County Government should also encourage development of infrastructure aiding alternative fuel sources such as wind, solar, biomass, and others.

Sense of Community – Hyde County has several strong communities that reflect the pride citizens of these communities feel about their homes and hometowns. Regretfully, harmful competition between these communities sometimes hinders progressive actions otherwise being taken in these communities. Hyde County Government should encourage community pride and resourcefulness contagious throughout the county.

Closed Session:

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

The Commissioners entered closed session at 6:30 PM.

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

The Commissioners re-entered regular session at 6:39 PM.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Minutes approved on the ____ day of _____, 2008.

Lois Stotesberry, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

SEAL

Charles Spencer, Chairman
Hyde County Board of Commissioners