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Minutes

**Board of County Commissioners
Hyde County
June 20, 2011**

Chairman Sharon Spencer called the regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners to order at 7 PM on Monday, June 20, 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; Chairman Spencer, Commissioners 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; Commissioner Darlene Styron; Deputy Clerk, Jamie Tunnell. Commissioner Anson Byrd was absent.

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

Consideration of the minutes:

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the June 6, 2011 meeting minutes as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve minutes as presented by the Clerk.

Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: none

Consideration of the Budget Workshop minutes:

Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the June 13 and June 14 Budget Workshop minutes as presented by the Clerk.

Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the Budget Workshop minutes as presented.

Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

Nays: none

1 **Consideration of the agenda:**

2 Chairman Spencer asked for any changes to the June 20, 2011 meeting agenda as
3 presented by the Clerk.

4
5 Manager Smith requested that the following items be added to the agenda:

6
7 Item 15 Deputy Clerk on Ocracoke Island be moved to first item of business
8 after Public Comments.

9
10 Item 31 Mosquito Control Board

11
12 Commissioner Styron made a motion to approve the agenda as amended.
13 Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

14
15 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

16
17 Nays: none

18
19 **Public Comments:**

20 **Marcy Brenner**, Ocracoke commented on the proposed noise ordinance and her
21 recommendation to designate the acceptable level to be 75 decibels.

22
23 **Jocelyn Wright**, Ocracoke asked if there have been specific complaints about
24 certain businesses and why has the issue been revisited?

25
26 Commissioner Styron answered that the Board has been working on the noise
27 ordinance issue for several years and been reviewing it at every meeting and it's
28 not towards a specific business.

29
30 **Aaron, last name unknown**, Ocracoke, a musician from Raleigh stated that a
31 decibel level of 75 be more acceptable for a three hour show.

32
33 **Marcy Brenner**, Ocracoke, purchased her own decibel meter and got some
34 readings over the weekend. Her findings were that a conversation in a
35 restaurant is 70-75 decibels, traffic is 60 decibels, live music outside of a bar is
36 58-68 decibels.

37
38 **Appointments**

39 **Deputy Clerk to the Board**

40 Commissioner Styron made a motion to appoint Keith Parker-Lowe as Deputy
41 Clerk to the Board on Ocracoke Island.

42
43 Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

44
45 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

46

1 Nays: none

2

3 Katherine Parker-Lowe administered the Oath of Office to Keith Parker-Lowe.

4

5 **Jury Commission**

6 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to appoint Doris Weston to serve as a
7 jury commission member for a term of two years, commencing on July 1, 2011.

8

9 Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

10

11 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

12

13 Nays: none

14

15 **Resolution to Meet Only Once in August**

16 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to support the Resolution to Meet Only
17 Once in August on the 15th.

18

19 Mrs. Spencer seconded the motion.

20

21 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

22

23 Nays: none

24

25 **Agreements**

26 Kris Noble, Grants Technician, presented to the Board an award of a grant from
27 Golden Leaf for the construction of the Mattamuskeet Lodge Sewer Project and
28 requests that the Board authorize the execution of the documents for acceptance
29 of the grant.

30

31 Commissioner Styron made a motion to approve and authorize County Manager
32 Smith to negotiate and execute the Grantee Acknowledgement and Agreement in
33 proceeding with the acceptance of the grant and grant requirements.

34

35 Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

36

37 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

38

39 Nays: none

40

41

42 **Animal Control Officer Convert to Full-time Position**

43 Wesley Smith, Health Director, explained to the Board the current animal control
44 situation and the fact that it is a contracted position. He listed the four
45 requirements that are mandated by the state for animal control. The services
46 are to investigate cruelty; to enforce law to decrease rabies; safeguard the public

1 from dangerous animals and to follow up on complaints regarding wandering
2 animals. He stated that he and Hugh Watson, Health Inspector, were both
3 involved with animal control and asked if the Board would like the current
4 process to continue or to hire a full-time Animal Control Officer.

5
6 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to continue with the animal control as a
7 contracted position, using \$35,807 of the budget, reducing the line item by
8 \$20,000.

9
10 Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

11
12 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

13
14 Nays: none

15 **Increase the hourly rate for EMS to attract part-time employees**

16 Justin Gibbs, ES Director, proposed the Board to increase the rate of pay for EMS
17 personnel to attract part-time people to work for Hyde County and in return
18 reducing overtime.

	Current	Proposed
19 EMT	\$7.25	\$11.00
20 EMT-I	\$9.38	\$12.50
21 Paramedic	\$12.50	\$15.00

22
23
24 Chairman Spencer questioned why would you increase full-time employee's
25 rates when they are salaried and have benefits.

26
27 Mr. Gibbs answered that it wouldn't be fair to increase the part-time rates
28 without increasing the full-time also because part-time pay would be more than
29 full-time pay for performing the same job.

30
31 Chairman Spencer commented that Commissioner Byrd is not happy with
32 \$240,000 being designated for EMS overtime and would be happy to take it
33 away.

34
35 Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to approve budget for EMS as presented.

36
37 With no second, the motion died.

38
39 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to reduce the overtime budget by
40 \$98,000 equaling a one cent decrease in the overall tax rate.

41
42 Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

43
44 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell

45
46 Nays: Tunnell

1 Chairman Spencer made a motion to give authority to Justin Gibbs and Mazie
2 Smith to increase the salaries of the part-time employees in order to recruit
3 more part-time employees as long as it does not increase the budget.

4

5 Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

6

7 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

8

9 Nays: none

10

11

12 **Convert Deputy Emergency Director positions to Exempt Status**

13 Manager Smith presented to the Board her request that the Deputy Emergency
14 Services Directors positions, currently held by Jeff Hibbard and Brian Carter, be
15 reclassified to exempt status. It is hoped that these elimination of overtime pay
16 in these positions will decrease the amount of overtime being paid by the
17 County. The new salary would be approximately \$59,000, resulting in a savings
18 of over \$29,000 to the County based on salary figures from the previous year.

19

20 Mr. Hibbard said that he had looked at this as a cost saver and was willing to
21 make the sacrifice if it freed up money to help the County recruit part-time
22 personnel. He said he was interested in younger people getting involved with
23 EMS and he hoped he would have more time to devote to that cause.

24

25 Brian Carter commented that he was willing to sacrifice the option to earn
26 overtime because he didn't just want to maintain services, he wants to take them
27 to the next level and he knew this was what it was going to take.

28

29 The Board agreed that this was a commendable move for EMS.

30

31

32 **Reclassify Acting Director of Emergency Services**

33 Mazie Smith also requested that the Board approved reclassifying the Director of
34 Emergency Services salary grade from a 71 to a 77 to more accurately
35 compensate the Director for the duties performed. This increase is
36 approximately \$2,500 more per year.

37

38 Commissioner Tunnell made a motion to approve the salary grade change to a
39 77 for the Director of Emergency Services.

40

41 Chairman Spencer seconded the motion.

42

43 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

44

45 Nays: none

46

1 **Administrative Budget Transfers**

2 In accordance with provisions in the FY 2010-2011 Budget Ordinance, County
3 Manager Smith approved several revisions administratively.

4
5 **ADAP---\$10,000.00---**Money transferred to pay for unexpected floor repairs.

6
7 **\$10,000.00 does not increase the budget.**

8
9 **Home Health---\$1,000.00---**To transfer funds from the Contract Physical
10 Therapist line into the Advertising/Marketing line to ensure there are sufficient
11 funds to cover advertising expenses for the Home Health Nursing Supervisor I
12 position, becoming vacant on June 21, 2011.

13 **\$1,000.00 does not increase the budget.**

14 **Planning---\$150.00---**Move money from cell phone account to cover cost of
15 extra telephone expense.

16 **\$150.00 does not increase the budget.**

17 **Planning---\$281.47---**Move money to cover cost of travel needed for
18 department before FYE and to cover additional telephone expense.

19 **\$281.47 does not increase the budget.**

20 **Planning---\$492.18---**Move money to cover cost of travel needed for
21 department before FYE.

22 **\$492.18 does not increase the budget.**

23 **Soil and Water---\$500.00---**To repair front wheel bearings and brakes on
24 Technicians truck.

25 **\$500.00 does not increase the budget.**

26 **Sheriff---\$1,044.13---**Money moved to cover expense for the Sheriff Conference.

27 **\$1,044.13 does not increase the budget.**

28 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to accept the approved budget revisions.

29 Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

30 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

31

32 Nays: none

1 **Budget Revisions**

2 **Sheriff**---\$4,665.00---Unexpected medical cost for inmate with chest pains in
3 Washington County Jail. \$4,665.00

4
5 **Does not increase the budget.**

6
7 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the budget revisions as
8 presented to the Board.

9
10 Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

11
12 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

13
14 Nays: none

15
16
17 **Support of Beaufort-Hyde Arts Council**

18 Manager Smith asked that the Board contribute \$1000 to the Beaufort-Hyde Arts
19 Council for their work for the past year including the stained glass in the
20 Government Center.

21
22 Chairman Spencer made a motion to contribute money to the Beaufort-Hyde
23 Arts Council.

24
25 Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

26
27 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

28
29 Nays: none

30
31
32 **Mosquito Control**

33 Rex O'Neal, Ocracoke Mosquito Board, announced to the Board that the
34 Mosquito Board has leftover money in their budget because the projects that
35 were planned can't be completed before the end of the fiscal year. They would
36 like to resume the projects after Labor Day and decrease the tax rate from 2% to
37 1.5%.

38
39 **Budget Ordinance**

40 The Board expressed the need for more time to look over the budget and have
41 discussion. It was decided to have another budget workshop on Monday, June
42 27th from 7pm-9pm and if needed, on Wednesday, June 29th from 5pm to 7pm.

43
44 In discussion regarding the budget, it was mentioned that possible cuts to the
45 budget for consideration might be to eliminate the merit pay, close the ADAP

1 Center, and decrease the Sheriff's Department Budget by \$25,000 leaving them
2 with funds to buy three cars instead of the initial request of four.

3

4 **Commissioner Reports**

5 **Commissioner Styron-** reported she had met with the County Manager and
6 worked on the Noise Ordinance. She stated she had attended the Planning Board
7 Meeting and mentioned that the convenience site renovations are moving
8 forward. She also announced that the Ocracoke Little League baseball team won
9 the Championship. She said she appreciates every the employees are doing for
10 Ocracoke and commended Mrs. Smith for an outstanding job.

11

12 **Commissioner Swindell-** reported he attended the Health Board meeting, and
13 said he felt if we could hold the budget to a six-cent tax increase that it wouldn't
14 be bad since there have been no increases in five years.

15

16 **Commissioner Tunnell-** had nothing to report.

17

18 **Chairman Spencer-** said she attended the Albemarle Commission meeting and
19 stated that most counties are raising taxes. She said was able to attend both
20 graduations for Hyde County and enjoyed them both very much. She announced
21 that Commissioner Byrd was absent because of having surgery.

22

23

24 **County Manager Report**

25 Manager Smith said that everyone had been working hard on the budget. She
26 stated she had met with Dave Weldon, NC Emergency Management, regarding
27 Hurricane preparedness. She also met with Mike Twiddy regarding workshops
28 for business owners on Ocracoke Island

29

30

31 **NCACC Annual Conference**

32 Manager Smith and Chairman Spencer announced that they will be attending the
33 NCACC Annual Conference in August.

34

35

36 **Closed Session**

37 Commissioner Styron made a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to
38 G.S. N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4).

39

40 Mr. Swindell seconded the motion.

41

42 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

43

44 Nays: none

45

46

1 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to return from closed session.

2

3 Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

4

5 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

6

7 Nays: none

8

9

10 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to approve the County Manager contract
11 with the amendments made.

12

13 Mr. Tunnell seconded the motion.

14

15 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

16

17 Nays: none

18

19 Commissioner Swindell made a motion to adjourn.

20 Ms. Styron seconded the motion.

21

22 Ayes: Spencer, Styron, Swindell, Tunnell

23

24 Nays: none

25

26

27 The June 20, 2011 Regular meeting of the Hyde County Board of Commissioners
28 adjourned at 10:34pm.

29

30 Respectfully submitted:

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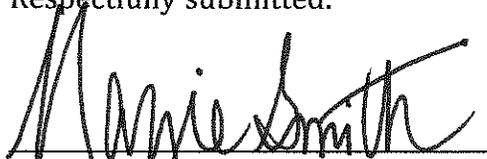
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Mazie Smith, Clerk


Sharon Spencer, Chairman