



CURRITUCK COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

October 15, 2019

Minutes – Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

9:00 AM CALL TO ORDER

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Meeting at 9:00 AM in the Conference Room of the Cooperative Extension Center, 120 Community Way, Barco, North Carolina, to participate in a two-day Strategic Planning work session led by Cameron Lowe, Currituck Cooperative Extension Director. Staff in attendance included County Manager, Ben Stikeleather, County Attorney, Ike McRee, Planning and Community Development Director, Laurie LoCicero, and Public Information Officer, Randall Edwards.

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Bob White	Chairman	Present	
Mike H. Payment	Vice Chairman	Present	
Paul M. Beaumont	Commissioner	Present	
J. Owen Etheridge	Commissioner	Present	
Mary "Kitty" Etheridge	Commissioner	Present	
Selina S. Jarvis	Commissioner	Present	
Kevin E. McCord	Commissioner	Present	

County Manager, Ben Stikeleather, began with an introduction of the program and it's purpose for developing a vision and setting objectives for future planning in the county. Agendas were distributed by Cameron Lowe, program facilitator. She described her role and qualifications for training purposes, and reviewed the two-day Strategic Planning agenda with Commissioners.

Currituck County Government Strategic Visioning Retreat October 15-16, 2019

Day 1

9:00am	Welcome, Orientation & Situational Analysis
11:00am	Break
11:15am	Futuring
12:15pm	Lunch
1:00pm	Visioning
2:30pm	Break
2:45pm	Goals

3:45pm	Debrief
4:00pm	Parking Lot & Other Business

Day 2

9:00am	Welcome & Review
9:30am	Goals, Strategies
10:30am	Break
10:45am	Goals, Strategies
12:00pm	Lunch Out
1:30pm	Action Planning
3:15pm	Break
3:30pm	Action Planning, Debrief
5:00pm	Adjourn

**BOC PLANNING SESSION-DAY 1, OCTOBER 15**

Ms. Lowe discussed the Board's role in determining a vision for the county and moving forward toward achieving those goals through development and utilization of a Strategic Plan. Commissioners started the sessions participating in group exercises and looked at the county's history and assets to help identify the reasons for earlier growth in Currituck County. Commissioners participated in individual exercises and asked to look at the county in its entirety to identify strengths, weaknesses, and current trends. Commissioners analyzed and suggested reasons for growth happening currently in the county. The exercises were each followed by a review of results and discussion.

Following a lunch break, Ms. Lowe asked the Board to consider the county's growth and development within specific regional areas, and Commissioners shared their ideas and perspectives on future planning based on these geographical sub-areas: Moyock, Knotts Island/Gibbs Woods, Central Currituck-Soundside, Central Currituck-Shawboro, Southern Currituck, Corolla and Carova. Commissioner's ideas were shared, based on a twenty year vision, and priorities for the county as a whole and for each subarea were established. The priorities and their importance to the county, gauging Board support for individual goals, and challenges in accomplishing the goals were discussed.

Day one of the Strategic Planning Session concluded at 3:40 PM and Ms. Lowe reviewed plans for day two of the session.

Commissioners and staff held general discussion of a variety of topics, including:

- Code Enforcement consistency
- A review of the Unified Development Ordinance to look at definitions, complexity, and conflicting language within the code.
- Staff update on debris pickup related to Hurricane Dorian.
- Need for analysis of county water capacity for fire response, fire training and hydrant locations.
- Using stormwater district funds to hire a county staff member to provide enhanced services within stormwater districts.
- State funding shortages for schools.

Following discussion, Commissioners directed staff to move forward with a budget amendment to fund a Soil and Water employee to service county stormwater districts. Commissioners also agreed to provide funds to the school system to cover shortages and asked the County Manager to contact the Superintendent so a formal request could be brought before the Board of Commissioners.

After a short break, Commissioners were addressed by local builders concerned about the rate of residential construction in the county, particularly in the Moyock area. Jerry Old, Scott Mack, and Jeff Wilson discussed the need for a plan to help the county's small local builders who are now competing with large builders like Ryan Homes. The group spoke of the financial and service impacts to the county and its residents as a result of increased residential development and suggested phasing development could be used as a method to slow the rate of development, thus helping small, local builders compete with the larger ones. When asked, County Attorney, Ike McRee, confirmed the Board can require phasing even if adequate public facilities are present. Mr. McRee said the current circumstance would not warrant a construction moratorium.

Other ways of slowing growth were discussed and the group said they want to work with the Board to develop solutions, perhaps creating a Builders Association in the county. Commissioners agreed on the importance of supporting the local builders. Discussion concluded at 4:58 PM. The Planning Session was scheduled to resume at 9 AM Wednesday, October 16, 2020.

BOC PLANNING SESSION-DAY 2, OCTOBER 16

The Board of Commissioners and staff returned at 9:00 AM for day two of the Strategic Planning Sessions. Ms. Lowe began by introducing Cooperative Extension staff members to Commissioners. The Extension Director for Washington County, Rebecca Liverman, was also introduced and attended to assist Ms. Lowe with meeting facilitation.

Before beginning exercises, Mr. Stikeleather distributed a copy of Hillsboro University Administration's strategic plan document to demonstrate what the results of the Board's planning session might look like. Ms. Lowe resumed the exercises, beginning with a review of the data relative to the goals set the previous day. Day two exercises consisted of an assessment of the goals established on day one for both the county and its sub-areas. Commissioners identified gaps, hurdles, and challenges that would inhibit achieving the target goals. Viable solutions to those challenges were determined, as were action items

and methods to work toward achieving the set targets.

Ms. Lowe thanked the Board for participating and Mr. Stikeleather said the data would be compiled, organized and prioritized for presentation to the public and for staff to begin working toward the established goals and objectives.

Following conclusion of the Strategic Planning Session exercises, Commissioners and staff discussed a variety of general topics:

- Board commitment to concept and moving forward with Currituck Station.
- Allowing volunteer fire departments to roll over unspent funds to purchase fire apparatus.
- Accelerate the process for the surplus of county vehicles.
- Provide an opportunity for Commissioners to hear directly from Department Heads to justify budget requests when there are questions.
- Animal Services and Control staffing and response.
- Vehicle needs for the Sheriff's office and the Deputy serving as the School Resource Officer (SRO).
- Update on new school construction, with negotiations to begin on two sites being considered.
- Update on the status of the county's salary study

During discussion, Commissioners agreed to allow volunteer fire department's unused budget funds to roll into a county capital line item fund to be used toward the purchase of fire apparatus. Commissioners also agreed to provide an additional vehicle to the Sheriff's Office, to be used on the beach. A vehicle currently in use on the beach will be shifted to the mainland for the SRO.

ADJOURN

There was no further discussion and the Strategic Planning work session concluded at 5:10 PM.