



CURRITUCK COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

November 14, 2022

Minutes – Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

6:00 CALL TO ORDER-WORK SESSION

The Currituck County Board of Commissioners met at 6:00 PM in a Special Meeting. The meeting was held in the Board Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse, 153 Courthouse Road, Currituck, North Carolina. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following:

- Discussion and direction for replacement of the Moyock Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Consideration of lobbying firm bids and potential contract for lobby services for the County
- Consideration of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners Authorizing Disposal of Real Property Pursuant to N.C. General Statute §160A-269
- Discussion of Currituck County Access Permit
- Discussion of Digital Community Calendar
- Approval of J. Owen Etheridge to serve as Currituck County's Voting Delegate-2022 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

Chairman Payment called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

The Board of Commissioners acknowledged the sudden passing of Currituck County resident, Will Crodick, and offered a prayer and moment of silence in remembrance. Mr. Crodick had previously served on the Currituck County Board of Education and had just been re-elected to serve again on the school board. Mr. Crodick was remembered for his service to the community and to the students of Currituck County.

A) Consideration of a Resolution of the Board of Commissioners Authorizing Disposal of Real Property Pursuant to N.C. General Statute §160A-269

Commissioner White, who was absent from the November 7, 2022, Board of Commissioners meeting when initially discussed, was asked to provide comment on the

potential sale of the Moyock Welcome Center after receiving an unsolicited bid for its purchase. Commissioner White said he understood concerns were related to the need to temporarily close the existing Welcome Center and the price that was offered for the property. County Manager, Ike McRee, reported the bidder had submitted a modified offer for Board consideration. The bid was increased to \$2.5 million, up from \$2.2 million, and would allow at least one year before closing to provide time to plan for a new Welcome Center.

Commissioner White said a majority of Tourism Advisory Board members he spoke with agreed to the sale provided a plan was in place for a future visitor center. Commissioner Beaumont suggested a review of the appraisal to ensure all aspects of the property were considered in the valuation.

Commissioners considered the purpose of the Welcome Center and, after discussion, Commissioner McCord moved that the County not accept the bid. Commissioner J. Owen Etheridge seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner
SECONDER:	J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner
AYES:	Michael H. Payment, Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner, Bob White, Commissioner

B) Discussion and Direction for Replacement of the Moyock Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

County Manager, Ike McRee, recalled for the Board an October 11, 2022, presentation by consulting firm PFAL, (Project Finance Advisory Limited), on results of an assessment of the Moyock Regional Wastewater Plant that analyzed various options for providing wastewater utility services in Moyock. Assistant County Manager, Rebecca Gay, used a powerpoint to review the results of PFAL's analysis and the recommended delivery options. A Design/Build/Operate/Maintain (DBOM) scenario was presented as the most efficient, followed by Design/Build/Fund/Operate/Maintain (DBFOM). Ms. Gay presented utility rates associated with each scenario and reviewed the timeline for procurement, construction and opening of a new plant, estimated to be mid-2025 at the earliest.

Commissioners discussed wastewater capacity and expansion costs and considered whether there would be a need for local legislation to move forward with the DBFOM option. Negatives of the DBFOM option were discussed, and it was noted that two of the three were also specified as negatives for the DBOM option.

Following Board discussion, Chairman Payment made a motion to move forward with DBFOM delivery option. Commissioner Beaumont seconded the motion. The motion passed, 5-2, with Commissioners Mary Etheridge and Selina Jarvis opposed.

RESULT:	APPROVED [5 TO 2]
MOVER:	Michael H. Payment, Chairman
SECONDER:	Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman
AYES:	Michael H. Payment, Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner, Bob White, Commissioner
NAYS:	Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner

C) Consideration of Lobbying Firm Bids and Potential Contract for Lobby Services for the County

Commissioners reviewed bids from lobbying firms who responded to the County's request for proposals (RFP) for lobbying services. Commissioners discussed whether the County needed a firm to lobby on the County's behalf, and ultimately determined that there was. Commissioners suggested a firm that was familiar with issues of Coastal counties.

Each Commissioner provided feedback on their top choices, and Ward and Smith was selected by a 4-3 majority. Commissioner White, Commissioner J. Owen Etheridge, and Commissioner McCord preferred Old North Strategies.

Rebecca Gay, Assistant County Manager, was directed to reach out to Ward and Smith to begin negotiations to contract and to schedule a time when representatives could meet with Board members.

D) Approval of J. Owen Etheridge to Serve as Currituck County's Voting Delegate-2022 NCACC Legislative Goals Conference

Commissioner Beaumont moved for approval of J. Owen Etheridge to serve as voting delegate for the County. Commissioner Mary Etheridge seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman
SECONDER:	Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner
AYES:	Michael H. Payment, Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner, Bob White, Commissioner

E) Discussion of Currituck County Access Permit

County Manager, Ike McRee, reviewed the timeline for distribution of the 2023-2024 Currituck County Access Permit to residents and property owners and recalled previous discussion among Board members who wished to charge a fee for additional or replacement permits. Following discussion, Commissioner Mary Etheridge moved that a \$75 fee be charged for additional permits and no charge for replacement if a damaged

permit is turned into the County. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner
AYES:	Michael H. Payment, Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner, Bob White, Commissioner

F) Discussion of Digital Community Calendar

County Manager, Ike McRee, reported a meeting with a vendor, One Boat, to consider developing a Community Calendar for placement on the County's website. The calendar would promote businesses and events taking place in the County. Commissioner White said it would be a way to represent all businesses in the County, similar to how tourism businesses are being promoted. He said people would be able to go to one site to see what is happening in the County, and One Boat would manage the site to ensure appropriate messaging. Commissioners asked that a link be shared so they can view similar sites and requested the vendor attend a meeting to present to Commissioners.

ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn Meeting

The Board had no further business and Commissioner Mary Etheridge moved to adjourn. Commissioner Jarvis seconded the motion. The motion carried, 7-0, and the Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners adjourned at 7:18 PM.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner
AYES:	Michael H. Payment, Chairman, Paul M. Beaumont, Vice Chairman, J. Owen Etheridge, Commissioner, Mary "Kitty" Etheridge, Commissioner, Selina S. Jarvis, Commissioner, Kevin E. McCord, Commissioner, Bob White, Commissioner