

RECORD OF MINUTES
DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2014
9:30 A.M.
OUTER BANKS WELCOME CENTER ON ROANOKE ISLAND
MANTEO, NC 27954

ATTENDING: Tim Cafferty, Chair; Susie Walters, Vice-Chair; Dorie Fuller, Treasurer; Ervin Bateman, Assistant Treasurer; Nancy Caviness, Secretary; Tonia Cohen, Sheila Davis, Natalie Kavanagh, Donny King, Wally Overman, Martha Wickre and Jay Wheless, Legal Counsel.

EXCUSED ABSENCE: Ernie Foster and Leo Holland.

STAFF:

Lee Nettles, Executive Director
Diane Bognich, Director of Administration
Amy Wood, Clerk to the Board/Administrative Specialist

OTHERS: None.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Overman moved to approve the agenda as amended (removing approval of minutes. [Minutes from the Special Meeting will be approved at the next full Board meeting]). Mr. King seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed the history leading up the creation of Resolution 2015-2, *Dare County Tourism Board Resolution In Support Of Dare County Request That The North Carolina General Assembly Allow Dare County To Levy A Quarter Cent Sales Tax Without A Referendum.*

Ms. Davis moved to approve Resolution 2015-2, *Dare County Tourism Board Resolution In Support Of Dare County Request That The North Carolina General Assembly Allow Dare County To Levy A Quarter Cent Sales Tax Without A Referendum.* Mr. Bateman seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

With no further business before the Board, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Attested:


Secretary, Dare County Tourism Board

DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DARE COUNTY REQUEST THAT THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ALLOW DARE COUNTY TO LEVY A QUARTER CENT SALES TAX WITHOUT A REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, a crisis situation exists for Dare County inlets that warrants immediate action; and

WHEREAS, inlet shoaling conditions have progressively worsened over the last five months for both Hatteras and Oregon Inlets and have reached a level whereby the navigable channel at Oregon Inlet is nearly closed for commercial and charter fishermen, boat builders, and many others who depend on the inlet to the Atlantic Ocean as their highway to work; and

WHEREAS, without immediate intervention, irreparable financial harm will occur and further jeopardize the 4,348 jobs associated with Oregon Inlet alone and the \$548 million annual benefit that it generates; and

WHEREAS, a Moffatt-Nichol study of economic impact estimates that 46% of the Oregon Inlet's impact is tourism-related, and tourism is the County's leading economic engine delivering nearly one-billion dollars in annual spending, 11,750 local jobs and more than \$87 million in state and local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, not only do Dare County inlets serve as an economic cornerstone, they also provide direct channels to the Atlantic Ocean for the United States Coast Guard to use when responding to rescue missions and the worsening inlet conditions pose a serious risk to public safety, which threatens lives and property, and in just the past week two vessels sustained damage trying to navigate the inlet; and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Board of Commissioners has vigorously sought funding sources to provide ongoing dredging as an urgent matter of public safety and economic importance and has determined that swift, immediate action is needed in order to preserve the jobs and economic benefits that are associated with Hatteras Inlet and Oregon Inlet; and

WHEREAS, the Dare County Board of Commissioners, needing an immediate funding source for ongoing management of Dare County's inlets and waterways, has asked the North Carolina General Assembly to expand the local option sales tax and authorize a quarter cent sales tax without a referendum as an urgent and timely matter of public safety and economic importance – which has been authorized as House Bill 388 and is entitled Dare County Local Option Sales Tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Dare County Tourism Board does hereby strongly support the request of Dare County for a local option sales tax for the management of Dare County's Oregon Inlet and Hatteras Inlet - and supports Dare County's request that it remain in effect until the new Bonner Bridge is built and the existing Bonner Bridge has been successfully removed.

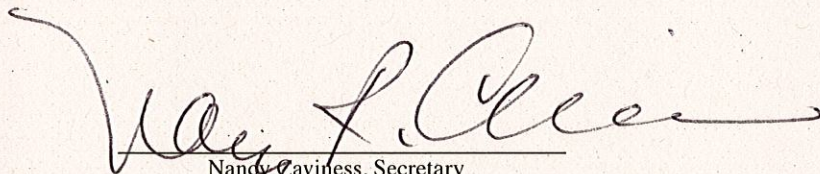
ADOPTED THIS 14th DAY OF APRIL, by unanimous support of the Dare County Tourism Board.

DARE COUNTY TOURISM BOARD



Tim Cafferty, Chair

ATTEST:



Nancy Caviness, Secretary