

September 18, 2006 – Meeting - Comments

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to speak to Item #3 on today's Agenda, that being the construction of a new county administration building at an estimated cost of approximately \$13 million.

I note that the average costs of the new Nags Head, Manteo Elementary and Manteo Middle Schools stand at \$13.6, \$13.6 and \$13.3 million, respectively.

By comparison, does not this alone, make the costs associated with the new administration building, terribly excessive?

I have reviewed public data available for this new structure and I truly believe that Dare County is getting a "Cadillac building". The question is, "Are we paying a Rolls Royce price; and do we need either?"

For example, out of the 40,000 square foot total, I see 2,710 square foot allocated to our county manager. This space is larger than some of the finest homes in Dare County. Why?

I see 1,226 square feet allocated for your county commission. Does each commissioner get an office. I thought future meetings were to be held in the old courthouse once it is renovated.

Why does the Public Relations Office, with 2 employees, need 2,100 square feet; again, the size of most homes in the county?

The plans also show additional support space, exclusive of offices, at 11, 217 square feet. Is this excessive?

Finally, the outside facades of this building will rival any courthouse in our State; yet, it is not a courthouse. We are only building an office building for 68 county employees. Again, I ask, "Why?"

Please take some time in today's meeting to explain to the voters why Dare County needs to spend so many of our tax dollars on such an extravagant structure.

Thank you,

Ray Midgett
Southern Shores