

7. OLD BUSINESS**A. ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – HUNTING WEAPONS RESTRICTED**

This item is carried over from last month following the close of your public hearing. Attached for your reference please find a copy of the latest version of the ordinance amendment with the additional language that was suggested by Supervisor Phillips last month (“from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset”).

For your reference I’ve also attached a news article out of North Carolina last month which indicates that they’re wrestling with the same issue. I’m open to your direction on how you’d like to proceed.

B. COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM CONTRACT

This item is also carried over from last month. Supervisor Edwards asked if I would invite Sheriff Stutts to this month’s meeting to get his ideas and learn of his plans regarding the radio communications maintenance agreement with Mr. Francis. He indicated that he has a conflict Monday evening but provided a written response to the question posed last month regarding redundancy and succession. A copy of his response is attached. I’m open to your direction.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 OF THE SOUTHAMPTON COUNTY CODE
BY REVISING SECTION 10-26 TO PROVIDE FOR THE HUNTING OF
GROUNDHOGS AND COYOTES WITH RIFLES LARGER THAN .22 CALIBER
OUTSIDE THE GENERAL FIREARMS DEER SEASON

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Supervisors of Southampton County, Virginia that the Southampton County Code be, and hereby is, amended by revising paragraph (a) of Section 10-26 to provide for the hunting of groundhogs and coyotes with rifles larger than .22 caliber outside the general firearms deer season:

1 **Sec. 10-26. - Hunting weapons restricted.**

2
3 (a) ~~It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than twenty-two one hundredths of an inch~~
4 ~~(.22) caliber rim fire except rifles of a larger caliber may be used for hunting groundhogs~~
5 ~~between March 1 and August 31; It shall be unlawful to hunt with a rifle larger than .22 caliber,~~
6 ~~except rifles of a larger caliber may be used for hunting groundhogs and coyotes outside the~~
7 ~~general firearms deer season from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset;~~
8

9 (b) It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzle-loading rifle at anytime;

10
11 (c) It shall be unlawful to hunt with a muzzle-loading shotgun loaded with slugs or sabot
12 slugs; and

13
14 (d) Any person violating the provisions of this section, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a
15 Class 3 Misdemeanor and shall be punished accordingly.

A copy teste: _____, Clerk
Southampton County Board of Supervisors
Adopted : June 25, 2012



Published on HamptonRoads.com | PilotOnline.com (<http://hamptonroads.com>)

North Carolina may OK night hunting of coyotes, hogs

North Carolina plans to ramp up a campaign to control two rapidly multiplying, disease-carrying wild animals that often turn up in suburban neighborhoods.

The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission proposes allowing night hunting of feral hogs and coyotes with flashlights on private land. Night hunting with lights is generally prohibited. Commissioners expect to decide on the new rule in July, and, if approved, it would take effect Aug. 1.

State officials have consistently expanded rules on trapping and hunting coyotes and feral hogs to control the animals, which reproduce quickly, eat just about anything and live just about anywhere, including near humans.

As of 2005, coyotes were documented in all 100 counties in North Carolina, said Colleen Olfenbittel, a biologist with the wildlife commission.

"Coyotes are here to stay," she said.

Coyotes are wily, just as their reputation indicates. About as big as medium-size dogs, coyotes will eat pet food and snatch squirrels, rabbits and feral cats attracted to food in backyards.

"Bird feeders are a hot spot," Olfenbittel said.

She recommended cleaning out bird feeders during the summer, when food for birds is plentiful.

Feral hogs also have rapidly expanded their range. A herd can double every four months. On the Outer Banks, wild hogs have damaged parts of the Currituck National Wildlife Refuge and the wild horse habitat.

Rooting up the ground with their snouts and tusks, they create large, muddy wallows in an incessant search for food such as bird eggs, young mammals, wildflowers and grazing grasses used by other wildlife.

Last year in Elizabeth City, wild hogs emerged from a swampy area near the Pasquotank River and tore up gardens and yards in a neighborhood near Albemarle Hospital. Police shot nine hogs before the problem abated.

Typically, feral hog populations are no more than domestic swine gone wild that over time get darker and grow longer hair and bigger tusks, said Evin Stanford, a state biologist. Herds have been documented in Bertie, Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck counties.

"They are not native. They destroy habitat and they carry disease," Stanford said. "They are simply not desirable."

Game wardens will be on the watch for hunters that might take advantage of night hunting to shoot deer after dark, which is illegal, said Capt. Norman Watts, an enforcement officer with the wildlife commission.

Some groups fear that hunters looking to shoot coyotes will mistakenly kill red wolves, a rare and important species that lives in five eastern counties. Coyotes take up red wolf habitats and often breed with their cousins. Shooting coyotes should help, Olfenbuttel said.

Hog and coyote seasons already run year-round, but if the rule is approved, hunters would be able to track them down night and day, except on Sundays.

"Yeah, I'm going to do that," said Richard Pridgen, an avid hog hunter.

Pridgen already enjoys dressing in full camouflage, loading his 12-gauge shotgun with buckshot and ever-so-carefully stepping through the maritime forests of the Currituck Outer Banks in search of wild hogs.

In warmer months, he wears boots and chaps to protect himself from snakebites. He tries to approach a swine herd from the downwind side; one misstep, and a wary hog grunts the warning that sends the others scrambling.

He uses a half-full bottle of water in his pocket to test his stealth.

"If you hear the water slosh, you're walking too fast," he said.

Pridgen can take down a boar with buckshot from 50 yards, he said.

Since he works weekdays, Saturday morning is usually the only time he gets for hunting hogs. If the new rule passes, he can practice his hobby at night after work - and with the game warden's blessing.

Jeff Hampton, 252-338-0159, jeff.hampton@pilotonline.com [1]

Source URL (retrieved on 06/20/2012 - 16:46): <http://hamptonroads.com/2012/05/north-carolina-may-ok-night-hunting-coyotes-hogs>

Links:

[1] <mailto:jeff.hampton@pilotonline.com>

**MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENT**

June 13, 2012

Mr. Johnson,

Regarding the question from a board member as to what plan is in place in the absence or unavailability of our radio maintenance contract person in the event a problem with the radio system develops:

1. An agency supervisor is being trained to deal with many of the same issues mentioned in the contract.
2. This same supervisor already works closely with Gately Communications on vehicle radio maintenance issues.
3. A manual is to be prepared that will include photographs of the different items of equipment at the towers, their function and any required maintenance as per contract.

Contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

J. B. Stutts, Sheriff