BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 5, 2021
3:00 P.M.

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on the above date at 3:00 p.m., Commissioners' Chambers, David R. Sandifer Administration Building, County Government Center, Bolivia, North Carolina.

PRESENT:	Commissioner Randy Thompson, Chairman Commissioner Mike Forte, Vice-Chairman Commissioner J. Martin Cooke Commissioner Pat Sykes Commissioner Frank Williams
STAFF:	Randell Woodruff, County Manager Bob Shaver, County Attorney Steve Stone, Deputy County Manager David Stanley, Deputy County Manager Julie Miller, Finance Director Andrea White, Clerk to the Board Jared Galloway, Deputy Clerk to the Board Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director Neal Galloway, MIS

Board Action, containing all items in this set of minutes, is filed within the Clerk to the Board's office.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Williams gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Thompson asked for adjustments to the agenda.

Chairman Thompson requested that item *VII. Operation Services – Integrated Supply Amendment* be moved to the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Thompson briefly reviewed the Public Comments Policy and called those who had signed up to speak. The following individual addressed the Board:

1. Mr. William Flythe, resident of Southport, spoke in opposition to the recent Board decision to approve six new positions for the Sheriff's Office.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cooke moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The following items were approved:

1. **Administration - Brunswick County Schools Lincoln Roof Replacement**
   Approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Highland Roofing Company contract for roof replacement at Lincoln Elementary School in the amount of $709,365.

2. **Board Appointment - Fire Fee Committee - Southport Fire District**
Appointed Ms. Mary McCarthy as the community member to represent the Southport Fire District on the Fire Fee Committee and reviewed the committee member list for any additional changes. No additional changes were requested.

3. **Board Appointment - Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) - Chief District Court Judge Designee**
Approved the selection of Judge Pauline Hankins as the Chief District Judge Designee on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC).

4. **Clerk to the Board - Meeting Minutes**
Approved the draft minutes from the March 15, 2021 Regular Meeting.

5. **Finance - Fiscal Items**
Approved the following Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances, and Fiscal Items of a routine nature:

   - **NC Concealed Weapons Fees Budget Amendment**
   Appropriated $70,000 of concealed weapons permits revenue estimated through June 30, 2021 for payment of the NC Bureau of Investigation Concealed Handgun Permit Fees.

   - **Sheriff's Sales and Services Budget Amendment**
   Appropriated $73,165 of sales and services revenue to reimburse overtime and temporary part-time line items for hours worked at Brunswick Community College and various community events. This funding is not associated with COVID-19 related events.

6. **Operation Services - Lease Agreement for Southport Probation & Parole Office**
Approved a two-year lease with Mr. Marvin Fullwood in the amount of $1,200 per month for the probation and parole office located at 800 N. Howe Street, Southport.

7. **Sheriff's Office - 911 Center Phone System Contract Extension**
Approved an extension of the existing 911 Center Phone System agreement with ePlus Group, Inc. for six months, maintaining the current monthly rate in the state 911 budget 224376.

8. **Tax Administration - ESRI Small Government Agreement (SGEA)**
Approved the three-year licensing agreement for GIS mapping services with ESRI in the amount of $90,000 the first year, $100,000 the second year and $110,000 the third year.

9. **Utilities - 211 WTP Change Order # 1**
Approved Change Order #1 in the amount of $31,750 and 90 additional days for the 211 WTP Lab Building contract with Coastal Carolina Builders, Inc.

10. **Utilities - Comprehensive Wastewater Master Plan 2021**
Approved a budget amendment and authorized the Chairman and Clerk to the Board to execute the Professional Services Agreement for Architectural, Engineering and/or Surveying Services with McKim and Creed, PA, in the amount of $120,000 for engineering services associated with the 2021 Comprehensive Wastewater Master.

11. **Utilities - McKim & Creed Soil Testing Budget Amendment**
Approved the Professional Services Agreement for Architectural, Engineering, and/or Surveying Services with McKim & Creed, P.A., in the amount of $55,400 for engineering services associated with the addition to the Northeast Brunswick Regional Force Main Off-Site Transmission Improvements Project and to continue the previous contract to provide an on-site testing protocol plan and daily on-site environmental monitoring during construction.

12. **Operation Services - Integrated Supply Amendment** ***(moved from Administrative Report to the Consent Agenda during Adjustments to the Agenda)***
Approved an amendment to the Integrated Supply Agreement with Atlantic Auto & Marine Inc. (d/b/a NAPA Auto Parts).

VI. PRESENTATION

1. **Presentation - Brunswick BID Marketing/Campaign Information (Bill Early, Executive Director and Kevin Lackey, Business Development Manager)**
Request that the Board of Commissioners receive a presentation from Brunswick BID to include their marketing efforts and campaign moving forward.

Mr. Early spoke briefly about the year-long marketing/campaign process and asked Kevin Lackey, Business Development Manager, to provide an overview of the marketing that was developed for Brunswick County to attract industrial-type firms to the county.

Mr. Lackey reviewed the process for developing the marketing campaign and provided examples of print and digital advertising. The Bid on Brunswick campaign was created as a way for Brunswick BID to connect with consumers to communicate what truly makes Brunswick great, and why this is where they should establish their new base of operations for their business.

Following the presentation, Mr. Early gave a brief update on the progress of PACON Manufacturing, as well as an update on the activities and infrastructure at the mega-site property.

No action was taken.

2. **Presentation - Final Mission, Vision, and Values Statements (Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director)**
Request the Board of Commissioners receive a presentation on the final mission, vision, and value statements for Brunswick County and to consider their adoption.

Ms. Kascsak presented the final draft of the FY 2022 mission, vision, and values statements and focus areas. Once adopted, these items will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the mission, vision, and values statements and focus areas as presented for FY 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes.

Following a brief discussion, the Board requested that Administration consider a future amendment to the values to include protecting the freedoms of the citizens.

Chairman Thompson called for a vote on the motion to approve the mission, vision, and values statements and focus areas as presented for FY 2022. The vote of approval was unanimous.

The following statements were approved:

Mission - We provide the highest level of service to support an active, dynamic, and thriving community. In cooperation with our local and regional partners, we collaborate to provide responsive and efficient services that support and advance the development of our community's educational, recreational, and economic prosperity.

Vision - Brunswick County is a prosperous, vibrant, and forward-thinking community that offers opportunities to enhance and sustain the highest quality of life for residents.

Values
Respect – We treat our residents and one another with the highest regard for dignity and courtesy. We exemplify the dedication, efficiency, and effectiveness recognized as exceptional customer service qualities.

Integrity - We strive to be honest and transparent in all that we do. We provide accurate information and guidance to strengthen positive relationships between residents and their county government.

Collaboration - We are open-minded and welcoming to new ideas and diverse perspectives. We engage and foster strong, long-lasting partnerships to expand our opportunities for feedback and representation in our decisions and actions.

Accountability - We honor the authority entrusted to us to serve and protect our residents and preserve our natural and fiscal resources through ethical and responsible stewardship.

Innovative - We are a goal-oriented and future-driven community that seeks out thoughtful and industrious means to improve service quality and delivery both effectively and affordably.

Focus Areas
Economic Development - Purpose: To grow and strengthen economic prosperity through exceptional service and collaborative efforts to recruit and retain quality employers that advance our commercial, industrial, agricultural, tourism, and hospitality sectors.

Objective No. 1: Foster partnerships to collectively develop strategies and inspire a positive business environment.
Objective No. 2: Support policies and developments that strengthen and diversify the county tax base and create jobs that pay a living wage.

Education - Purpose: To build an educated and highly skilled workforce by supporting the development of future-driven and accessible education and training opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds.

Objective No. 1: Continue to collaborate with county educational partners to support their efforts to teach and retain students, faculty, and staff.
Objective No. 2: Identify pathways to future success and skill development for students after high school and beyond.

Excellent Government - Purpose: To demonstrate forward-thinking and high-performing standards within the county government through exceptional leadership, planning, and customer service.

Objective No. 1: Maintain the county government's positive financial position, low tax rate, and credit strength.
Objective No. 2: Attract and retain an experienced, skilled, and diverse county government workforce.
Objective No. 3: Create an environment where residents feel respected and engaged in county government decisions.

Growth & Sustainability
Purpose: To encourage the development of innovative strategies and policies for infrastructure, transportation, and the environment that support residential, commercial, and industrial growth.

Objective No. 1: Continue efforts to offer utility customers with robust, reliable, and high-quality water and wastewater services.
Objective No. 2: Form and sustain partnerships to provide a strong regional utility system for the benefit of all customers countywide.
Objective No. 3: Encourage forward-thinking development and construction practices that balance respect for natural resources and private property.
Objective No. 4: Support accessible and multimodal transportation options that connect residents to services and employment opportunities.

Health & Safe Community
Purpose: To support the advancement of health and safety efforts in our county that incorporate current best practices and anticipate the county's future growth and development.

Objective No. 1: Continue to respond timely and effectively to emergency situations when they arise.
Objective No. 2: Support policies and initiatives that deter criminal activity and reduce risks for residents and visitors while incorporating mitigation strategies learned from previous reviews and experiences.
Objective No. 3: Develop proactive and responsible programs focused on reducing negative outcomes related to preventable health issues, diseases, mental health challenges, and substance abuse.

3. **Presentation - Health and Human Services - COVID-19 Update (David Stanley, Deputy County Manager for HHS)**
Request that the Board of Commissioners receive an update on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and vaccine availability.

Mr. Stanley provided an update on COVID-19. Since the beginning of the pandemic until today, there are 8,682 known cases, 8,311 recovered, 225 active cases, and 146 deaths. Approximately 34% of the population of the county have received at least one vaccine with 25.8% completed vaccines. In addition to the main vaccine location on the campus of Brunswick Community College, a site has been added at the old movie theater in Shallotte. In addition, strike teams are identifying locations to vaccinate the workforce of other entities and working with homebound staff to vaccinate those with transportation issues. The percent positivity rate is currently 6.4% with a goal of 5% or lower.

Mr. Harrelson announced that Brunswick County Health Services is now scheduling vaccination appointments for all adults ages 16 and up. Individuals are encouraged to schedule online at www.care.novanthealth/vaccine or call the call center at 910-253-2339.

No action was taken.

VII. Administrative Report

1. **County Attorney - Resolution of Support for Bald Head Island Transportation Authority (Bob Shaver, County Attorney)**
Request that the Board of Commissioners consider approval of a Resolution of Support for the Acquisition of the Bald Head Island Ferry Transportation System by the Bald Head Island Transportation Authority.

Mr. Shaver presented a resolution of support for the acquisition of the Bald Head Island transportation system by the Bald Head Island Transportation Authority. The resolution stemmed from a recent meeting held to provide an update of the acquisition process. Commissioner Sykes, Vice Chairman Forte, Southport Mayor Joe Hatem, Senator Bill Rabon, Representative Charlie Miller and members of the Authority were in attendance.

Mr. Shaver provided the following background information. In 2017, the legislature passed the Ferry Transportation Act, and the Authority was formed for the purpose of undertaking the necessary process to acquire the Bald Head Island Transportation System held by Bald Head Island Limited. The system includes the ferry, barge, two terminals, tram system, and the parking areas at Deep Point Marina. The Authority has bond counsel, other attorneys, and financial advisors, and has pursued consultants with expertise in ferry and port terminal systems. After the agreements were drawn and were pending approval by the Local Government Commission (LGC), the Village of Bald Head Island announced that it wanted to investigate the acquisition of the system by the Village. The Authority is seeking from the Board of Commissioners, City of Southport, and other entities, a resolution of support and confidence in the process the Authority has followed in its attempt to follow the statute and acquire the system. If approved the resolution will be transmitted to Brunswick County's legislative delegation and the State Treasurer encouraging the LGC to schedule this matter for the hearing it deserves to be considered for approval.

It was clarified that through the adoption of the resolution, the Board would be supporting the concept of the sale, not the specific terms or dollar amounts.

Commissioner Sykes moved to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE BALD HEAD ISLAND FERRY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM BY THE BALD HEAD ISLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, on July 18, 2017, the North Carolina General Assembly enacted S.L. 2017-120, known as the Ferry Transportation Authority Act (now Article 29 of Chapter 160A); and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2017, the Bald Head Island Transportation Authority (the "Authority") filed its Articles of Incorporation with the Office of the Secretary of State, and is governed by an 11-member Board of Trustees consisting of 1 Governor's appointee, 2 General Assembly appointees, 3 NCDOT appointees, 3 Village of Bald Head Island appointees, 1 City of Southport appointee, and 1 Brunswick County appointee; and

WHEREAS, over the last four years the Authority has engaged in extensive meetings with interested governmental stakeholders, private businesses, property owners, and BHI residents regarding a process for the Authority to acquire the Bald Head Island Transportation System (consisting of ferry, barge, tram, terminals, parking facilities and related assets -- the "System") from its current owners, Bald Head Island Limited, LLC and Bald Head Transportation, Inc. (collectively "Limited"); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has engaged in extensive due diligence and feasibility studies with appraisers, bond counsel, financial advisers, and port and terminal consultants to develop an acquisition strategy that would acquire the System at or slightly below its appraised value; and

WHEREAS, on December 8, 2020, the Authority adopted a resolution approving an Asset Purchase Agreement and adopted a Findings Resolution required as a prerequisite to pursuit of Local Government Commission (the "LGC") approval for a bond sale; and

WHEREAS, on March 22, 2021, the Village of Bald Head Island (the "Village") expressed to the LGC its interest in acquiring the System instead of the Authority; and

WHEREAS, Limited, the owners of the System, have notified the LGC by letter dated March 26, 2021 that the Village has never made a formal offer to purchase the System and that Limited "does not intend to engage in negotiations with the Village."; and

WHEREAS, in contrast to the diverse constituency represented by the Authority, the permanent residents of the Village represent less than 10% of annual ferry ridership; and

WHEREAS, Limited has unequivocally stated that it "stands ready, willing, and able to close the transaction with the Authority, and only with the Authority, upon the terms and conditions set forth in the Asset Purchase Agreement finalized and approved by the Authority at its December 8, 2020 meeting."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK, NORTH CAROLINA:

1. Brunswick County expresses its support and confidence in the work of the Bald Head Island Transportation Authority.

2. Brunswick County supports the sale of the System by Limited to the Authority.

3. Brunswick County believes the purpose and function of the legislature's passage of the Ferry Transportation Authority Act was to provide accountable representation of all constituent interests in the ownership and operation of a ferry transportation system, and that the Authority is the appropriate entity by statute to acquire ownership of the Bald Head Island Transportation System.

4. Brunswick County encourages the Local Government Commission to promptly consider and schedule the Authority's request for approval to proceed with acquisition and bond issuance.

5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately on its adoption.

Adopted this, the 5th day of April 2021.

Randell Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Andrea White, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

No other business was brought forth.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sykes moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Andrea White, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board