

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 6, 2023
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: Steve Stone, County Manager
Bob Shaver, County Attorney
David Stanley, Deputy County Manager
Haynes Brigman, Deputy County Manager
Aaron Smith, Finance Director
Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board
LeAnn Weigand, Executive Assistant
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director
Jim Hartsell, IT
Lt. Siler, Sheriff's Office

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

Chairman Thompson gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Thompson noted the change in the agenda moving the Sheriff's Office – Resolution Supporting the Reclassification of Brunswick County Dispatchers from Presentations to Consent. There were no further adjustments to the agenda.

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Thompson opened the public comment period at 3:03 p.m. with the following comments:

Ms. Marilyn Shapiro spoke to her support of the Brunswick County Libraries and urged approval of the upcoming proposed budgetary items for FY23-24.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0). See individual items for approval status:

1. Administration - Application to NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) for No Wake Zones on Lockwood Folly River – Approved

The Board approved a resolution to the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) asking that the WRC authorize a "No Wake Zone" on the Lockwood Folly River adjacent to a portion of the Rourk's Landing Subdivision. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING ESTABLISHMENT OF NO-WAKE
ZONE IN LOCKWOOD FOLLY RIVER ADJACENT TO
ROURK'S LANDING IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Brunswick County was contacted by certain residents living on the Lockwood Folly River adjacent to Rourk's Landing requesting the County's assistance in creating a N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission "No-Wake Zone" for certain areas of the Lockwood Folly River, and;

WHEREAS, the County seeks to establish a No-Wake Zone for certain areas of the Lockwood Folly River for the purpose of mitigating hazards to water safety, and;

WHEREAS, the NC Wildlife Resources Commission is the agency responsible for establishing official No-Wake Zones, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners discussed and adopted this resolution requesting the establishment of a No-Wake Zone for certain areas of the Lockwood Folly River at its regularly scheduled meeting held on March, 6, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that a single continuous No-Wake Zone be established for the two areas of the Lockwood Folly River as well as the area in between those two areas as described in the No-Wake Zoning Matrix document provided by the NC Wildlife Commission.

Adopted, this the 6th day of March, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

2. Administration - Request for Proposals for Pandemic-Related Non-Profit Community Assistance Program - Approved

The Board approved a request for proposals for Pandemic Related Non-Profit Community Assistance Programs and the associated budget amendment.

3. Clerk to the Board - Meeting Minutes – February 20, 2023 Regular Meeting - Approved

The Board approved the Minutes from the February 20, 2023 Regular Meeting.

4. County Attorney – Approve the Release of Easement and all claims to Parcel 0202A001 - Approved

The Board approved the release of easement and all claims to parcel 0202A001.

5. Engineering - Ash Waccamaw MultiUse Building - Sawyer Sherwood Additional Services - Approved

The Board approved the architect's request for additional construction administration time and fees.

6. Engineering - Ash Waccamaw MultiUse Building - Special Inspections & Construction Material Testing Services – Approved

The Board approved using ECS Southeast, LLP for the required Special Inspections & Construction Materials Testing for the Ash Waccamaw MultiUse Building project.

7. Finance – Brunswick County Schools Contract for Data Center Cisco Equipment Upgrades – Approved

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign a contract with Internetwork Services Incorporated for Data Center Systems upgrades.

8. Finance - Brunswick County Schools Contract for Supply Elementary Roof Replacement- Approved

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign a contract in the amount of \$2,177,497 with Highland Roofing Company for the roof replacement at Supply Elementary School.

9. Finance - Fiscal Items- Approved

The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances and Fiscal Items of a routine nature on the consent agenda to include the following:

-Tuberculosis Additional Revenues Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$2,350 of additional state revenues restricted to be utilized to enhance tuberculosis infection screening and treatment.

10. Health Services - Grant Request Approval: Application to Apply for Public Health Workforce Development Funds - Approved

The Board approved funding in the amount of \$49,200. These funds require no county match and require minimal reporting burden. The funds are made available from NC Public Health ARP funds and are being administered for our 9-county public health region by Duplin County. The full grant amount will be sent from Duplin to Brunswick County upon grant application approval.

11. Information Technology - Grant Request Approval: Application to apply for E-Rate Funding Internet Connectivity – Approved

The Board approved the application for E-Rate funding that will cover 85% of the cost (\$29,220.96) of providing continued internet connectivity in each branch of the Brunswick County Library. County funding will be needed in FY24 to cover the remaining 15% of the cost (\$5,156.64).

12. Information Technology - Grant Request Approval: Application to apply for E-Rate funding Structured Cabling over four (4) branches (Leland, Rourk, Oak Island, and Southport) - Approved

The Board approved the application to cover 85% of the cost (\$78,582.87) of structured cabling for (4) branches (Leland, Rourk, Oak Island, Southport) of the Brunswick County Library. County funding will be needed in FY24 to cover the remaining 15% of the cost (\$13,867.57).

13. Sheriff's Office – Resolution Supporting the Reclassification of Brunswick County Dispatchers – Approved

The Board approved a resolution supporting the reclassification of 911 dispatchers from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE RECLASSIFICATION
OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY 911 DISPATCHERS**

WHEREAS, in September of 2021, U.S. Representatives Norma J. Torres and Brian Fitzpatrick announced that their 9-1-1 SAVES Act passed the House as part of the Fiscal Year 2022 National Defense Authorization Act. The 9-1-1 SAVES Act is bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 dispatchers from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog; and

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers are the first line of response during an emergency, and

they deserve to be classified in a way that recognizes their work is on par with the work of other public servants classified as first responders; and

WHEREAS, Senator Richard Burr introduced the reclassification bill in the United States Senate, where it remained; and

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers are working with elected officials to re-introduce this legislation with the next Congress, and local support will assist this effort; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners is in support of such a legislative change;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners is in support of bipartisan legislation to reclassify 911 dispatchers from "Office and Administrative Support" to "Protective Service Occupations" in the Office of Management and Budget's Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) catalog.

Adopted this the 6th day of March, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

- 14. **Utilities – Water Construction Budget Amendment – Approved**
The Board approved additional funding in the amount of \$106,200 to have adequate funds for the remainder of the year.

VI. PRESENTATION

- 1. **Administration Legislative Update – Mike McIntyre**
The Board received the annual legislative program update and a preview of the recently started new session of Congress from Mr. McIntyre of Ward and Smith.
- 2. **Social Services - Social Work Month Proclamation**
The Board received a request to approve a proclamation declaring March 2023 as National Social Worker Appreciation Month in Brunswick County and to present the Proclamation to Health and Human Services in support of the Social Work Profession. The Proclamation reads as follows:

**SOCIAL WORK MONTH 2023 PROCLAMATION:
SOCIAL WORK BREAKS BARRIERS**

WHEREAS, Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation to overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day and in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers, and in federal, state, and local government; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Social Work Month theme, "Social Work Breaks Barriers" embodies how social workers help empower individuals, families, communities, and our society to overcome hurdles that prevent them from achieving better well-being; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation's opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and prevail over substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, Child, Family, Adult, and School Social Workers work to protect

and meet the needs of individuals, helping them cope with stressors and address mental health, physical, and academic needs; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers serve, advocate for, and empower millions of Americans each day. Brunswick County Social Workers collectively assisted over 5000 individuals and families in the last year; and

WHEREAS, Social Workers endeavor to work throughout our society to meet people where they are and help empower people and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain;

NOW THEREFORE, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America's Social Workers and the contributions made by the Brunswick County Social Services, Health Department and School Social Workers, proclaim the month of March, 2023 as "National Social Work Month" and call upon all citizens to join the National Association of Social Workers and Brunswick County Social Services, Health Department, and the School System in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

This, the ____ day of 20 ____.

Randy Thompson,
Chair Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

- 3. **Utilities - Raftelis Organizational Assessment**
The Board received the results of the Utilities Organizational Assessment from Mr. Brian Kirsch with Raftelis Consultants.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- 1. **County Attorney - Opioid Litigation Settlements with Pharmacy Defendant**
The Board heard a request from Mr. Shaver to adopt the following resolution regarding the Opioid Litigation Settlements with Pharmacy Defendants. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK AUTHORIZING
EXECUTION OF OPIOID SETTLEMENTS AND APPROVING THE
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS
BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS ON PROCEEDS RELATING TO THE SETTLEMENT
OF OPIOID LITIGATION**

WHEREAS, the opioid overdose epidemic had taken the lives of more than 32,000 North Carolinians (2000-2021);

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded the opioid overdose crisis, increasing levels of drug misuse, addiction, and overdose death; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the total economic burden of prescription opioid misuse alone in the United States is \$78.5 billion a year, including the costs of healthcare, lost productivity, addiction treatment, and criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, relative to other counties in the State, Brunswick County ranks among the highest in dispensed opioid prescriptions and has experienced opioid overdose death rates higher than the state average; and

WHEREAS, certain counties and municipalities in North Carolina joined with thousands of local governments across the country to file lawsuits against opioid manufacturers, pharmaceutical distribution companies, and chain drug stores to hold those companies accountable for their misconduct; and

WHEREAS, settlements have been reached in litigation against Walmart, Inc., Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Allergan Finance, LLC, Allergan Limited, CVS Health Corporation, CVS Pharmacy, Inc., and Walgreen Co., as well as their subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, and directors named in these Settlements; and

WHEREAS, representatives of local North Carolina governments, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North Carolina Department of Justice have negotiated and prepared a Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds (SAAF) to provide for the equitable distribution of the proceeds of these settlements; and

WHEREAS, by joining the settlements and approving the SAAF, the state and local governments maximize North Carolina's share of opioid settlement funds to ensure the needed resources reach communities, as quickly, effectively, and directly as possible; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to all North Carolinians for local governments, including Brunswick County and its residents, to sign onto the settlements and SAAF and demonstrate solidarity in response to the opioid overdose crisis, and to maximize the share of opioid settlement funds received both in the state and this county to help abate the harm; and

WHEREAS, the SAAF directs substantial resources over multiple years to local governments on the front lines of the opioid overdose epidemic while ensuring that these resources are used in an effective way to address the crisis;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County hereby authorizes the County Attorney to execute all documents necessary to enter into opioid settlement agreements with Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, Allergan, and Teva, to execute the SAAF, and to provide such documents to Rubris, the Implementation Administrator, and ratifies all such documents signed prior to the execution of this resolution.

Adopted this the 6th day of March 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Clerk to the Board - Brunswick County Joint Community Advisory Committee Appointment

The Board heard a request to appoint Kristina Johnson to the Brunswick County Joint Community Advisory Committee. Commissioner Williams made the motion

to approve the appointment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

No further discussions.

X. CLOSED SESSION

- 1. The Board entered into closed session pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) to consult with the attorney and to approve Closed Session Minutes from February 6, 2023.

Mr. Shaver noted the above statutory requirements.

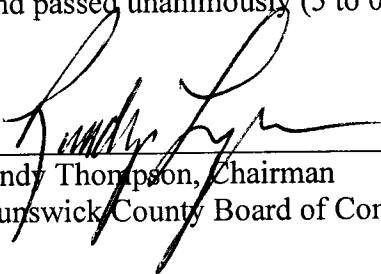
Commissioner Cooke made the motion to enter Closed Session at 4:06 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Thompson called the Regular Session to order at 4:47 p.m.

Mr. Shaver stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

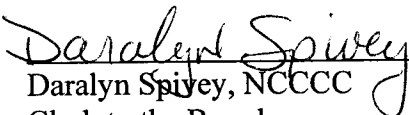
XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice - Chairman Forte made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).



Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

