

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 20, 2023
6:00 P.M.**

The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners met in Regular Session on the above date at 6:00 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 Kascak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, IT
Lt. Bond, 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 6:00 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 asked for adjustments to the agenda.

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to approve the 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 6:02 p.m. with the following comments:

Ms. Jane Mathews spoke to the many improvements of the Library and encouraged the approval of the upcoming Library budget in FY 23-24.

Ms. Diana Dornfield spoke to the opportunity to serve on the Library Board of Trustees, the many resources the Library provides, and seeking support for the FY 23-24 upcoming budget.

Mr. Nick Cherasaro spoke to the upcoming tax assessment, making the tax rate revenue neutral, the need for the Commissioner's meetings to be broadcast, and does not want to have county tax dollars supporting the proposed baseball field in Leland.

Commissioner Sykes expressed concerns regarding election integrity in Brunswick County and her opposition to the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence with the Board of Elections. She supports Senate Bills 725 and 89 which will prohibit the use of private money in public elections if adopted.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1. **Clerk to the Board - Meeting Minutes – March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting - Approved**
The Board approved the Minutes from the March 6, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- 2. **Code Administration – Budget Amendment – Tyler Technologies - Approved**
The Board approved the execution of the first addendum to the Software Service Contract with Tyler Technologies, along with the associated budget amendment to Fees Fire Inspections 104355-426010 Computer Software.
- 3. **County Attorney – Hickman’s Crossing Subdivision DOD - Approved**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Hickman’s Crossing Subdivision.
- 4. **County Attorney – Prequalification for Construction at Town Creek Elementary School – Approved**
The Board approved the Prequalification Assessment Tool and Criteria for Construction at Town Creek Elementary School Expansion.
- 5. **County Attorney – Stanbury Creek Force Main DOD - Approved**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Stanbury Creek Offsite Force Main.
- 6. **County Attorney – the Villas at Shingletree DOD – Approved**
The Board approved the Deed of Dedication for the water infrastructure for The Villas at Shingletree.
- 7. **Emergency Services – Bolivia Tower Amateur Radio Project - Approved**
The Board approved the requested budget amendment for the Bolivia Tower Amateur Radio Project in the amount of \$31,323.20.
- 8. **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:
 - Environmental Health Mosquito Control Additional Revenues Budget Amendment**
Appropriating \$2,500 of additional federal funding for Mosquito Control to be used to enhance Mosquito and Tick control efforts.
 - WIC Client Services Additional Revenues Budget Amendment**
Appropriating \$37,101 of additional state revenues to update work areas and technology capabilities at all WIC sites and improve workflow to better serve clients.
 - Sheriff Insurance Proceeds Budget Amendment**
Appropriating \$40,000 of insurance proceeds revenue for the replacement of total loss vehicle VIN 4720-2017Nissan Maxima
 - Mulberry Branch WRF-.75 MGD-Southport Budget Amendment**
Appropriating \$40,000 for Southport Contribution revenue to the Mulberry Branch WRF 0.75 expansion for the fees associated with the rebid of construction.

-Financial Reports for February 2023 (unaudited)

Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA, and Opioid project statuses, key revenue indicators, and Cash and Investment details are included. All year-to-date financial reports are provided at <http://brunswickcountync.gov/finance/reports>

9. **Health Services – Consolidated Agreement for FY 2023-24 with NCDHHS, Division of Public Health and Brunswick County Health Services - Approved**
The Board approved the annual FY2023-24 Consolidated Agreement with the NC DHHS Division of Public Health.
10. **Sheriff's Office – COSSUP Grant Application Approval - Approved**
The Board approved a grant application for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) grant program titled "FY 2023 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-Based programs (COSSUP). This grant is valued at \$1,267,949.47 with no county match required. If awarded, the Sheriff will use this grant to establish an evidence - based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment program within the Brunswick County Detention Center.
11. **Sheriff's Office – Port Security Grant Application Approval - Approved**
The Board approved the grant application for the Port Security Grant Program valued at \$775,390.41 with a 25% County match. The grant will assist the Sheriff's Office with reaching one of the major goals for FY24, aligning with one of the Board of Commissioners Goals – "Healthy and Safe Communities".
12. **Soil and Water – StRAP Service Agreement for Stream Debris Removal - Approved**
The Board approved the service agreement between Brunswick County and J&J Environmental for stream debris removal services in the amount of \$157,920 as included with the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program RFP dated February 7, 2023 Scope of Work.
13. **Tax – Tax Admin - March 2023 Releases - Approved**
The Board approved the March 2023 releases.
14. **Utilities – 211 STP Chemical Budget Amendment - Approved**
The Board approved a budgeted amendment of \$148,239 to recover line item 421300 for chemical costs for the remainder of the fiscal year (March 2023-June 2023).
15. **Utilities – Final Adjusting Change Order No. 1 with the Harper Corporation - Sea Trail WWTP Improvement Project – Approved**
The Board approved the final adjusting change order No.1 with the Harper Corporation.
16. **Utilities – Ratify Appropriations Requests FY24 - Approved**
The Board ratified the Brunswick County Grant Application Forms and authorized letters of support signed by the Chairman.

VI. PRESENTATION

1. **Clerk to the Board - Resolution- National County Government Month**
Commissioner Williams read the resolution in support of National County Government Month. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL AS
NATIONAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT MONTH
IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, the nation’s 3,142 counties, parishes and boroughs serving more than 334 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

WHEREAS, counties provide public health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of National Association of Counties Past President Larry Johnson, NACo is demonstrating how “Counties THRIVE,” especially in supporting residents and businesses during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs, and services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Brunswick County Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2023 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

ADOPTED this 20th day of March, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Resolution supporting National County Government Month. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

- 2. Health and Human Services – Brunswick Substance Use and Addiction Commission Quarterly Report**
The Board received a report from Father Eberle, Leah McGhee and Jennie Lucas of the Brunswick County Substance Use and Addiction Prevention Commission regarding efforts of the last quarter.
- 3. Utilities - Wastewater Master Plan Presentation**
The Board received the Wastewater Master Plan from Tony Boahn of McKim and Creed.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- 1. Communications – Brunswick County Branding Project and Concept Update**
Ms. Kascsak presented, along with Twanda Williams and Amber Merklinger, the Board with the current concept of the County Seal for consideration and adoption. This will replace the logo that was last adopted in December of 1975.

Vice – Chairman Forte moved to adopt the new seal. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).
- 2. Human Resources – Proposed Temporary Telecommuting Pilot Program**
Ms. Turrise presented and asked for the Board for approval of the Temporary Telecommuting Pilot Program beginning April 1, 2023 and to run through October 31, 2023.

Commissioner Cooke moved to adopt the Temporary Telecommuting Pilot Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

1. Commissioner Williams presented the following resolution for consideration and made the motion for approval:

RESOLUTION REGARDING PRIVATE MONEY IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY ELECTIONS

Introduced by Commissioner Frank Williams

WHEREAS, the issue of election integrity is on the minds of citizens throughout Brunswick County, the State of North Carolina, and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, controversy has arisen over the Brunswick County Board of Elections' membership in an organization called the U.S. Alliance for Election Excellence (hereinafter "the Alliance"); and

WHEREAS, the Alliance was launched in 2022 by the Center for Tech and Civic Life (hereinafter "CTCL"), which is funded in part by Mark Zuckerberg and other tech billionaires; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners believes the integrity of our elections is fundamental to the survival of our republic; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners opposes the use of private money from sources with potentially partisan motives to fund elections in Brunswick County or elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners has received requests for it to force the Brunswick County Board of Elections to withdraw from membership in the Alliance; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Attorney has stated that the Brunswick County Board of Elections is an independent entity, Brunswick County government is not a party to the agreement, and that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners cannot terminate an agreement to which it is not a party; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners allocates the Brunswick County Board of Elections' overall budget, but as an independent entity the Brunswick County Board of Elections exercises control over how those funds are spent; and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Brunswick County Board of Elections has stated a need and desire to network with other elections directors for the purpose of sharing best practices; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners strongly encourages the Brunswick County Board of Elections to terminate its membership in the Alliance; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners directs Brunswick County staff to work with the Director of the Brunswick County Board of Elections to identify suitable alternatives to the Alliance and to include reasonable membership dues and travel expenses in the Brunswick County Board of Elections' budget to cover the elections director's participation in a suitable alternative organization; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners supports legislation to prohibit private money from influencing North Carolina elections, such as Senate Bill 89 that has been introduced in the 2023-24 session; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners encourages the North Carolina General Assembly to appropriate funds to ensure that North Carolina elections directors can receive adequate training and best practices from non-partisan sources; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners encourages the North Carolina Association of Directors of Elections and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners to research ways to partner to provide elections directors with training and opportunities to network and share best practices.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Brunswick County Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

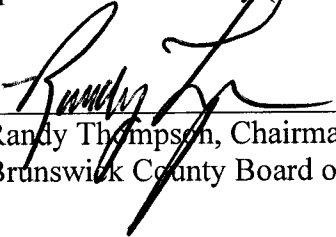
Chairman Thompson called for a brief five (5) minute recess to allow time for the Commissioners to look over the proposed Resolution at 7:51 p.m.

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m. and asked for those in favor of the proposed Resolution. The Resolution passed unanimously (5-0).

Commissioner Cooke recognized Sheriff John Ingram on receiving the 2023 Order of the Long Leaf Pine award and noted the passing of Joe Taylor of Sunset Harbor, who was influential in the creation of the golf cart ordinances within the County and a U.S. Air Force Veteran.

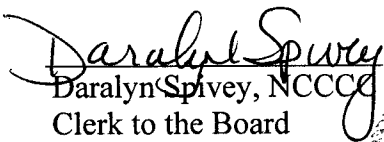
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Vice – Chairman Forte moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 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

