

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
April 3, 2023
3:00 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 Kascsak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, 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

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Thompson asked for adjustments to the agenda. No adjustments were requested.

Vice – Chairman Forte 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:

Mr. Dan Cook spoke of the importance of maintaining a low tax rate with the recent County-wide revaluations, the need for broadcasting this Board's meetings, and his support for the NC REACH Act.

Mr. Nick Cherasaro spoke to making the upcoming 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.

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 20, 2023 Regular Meeting - Approved**
The Board approved the Minutes from the March 20, 2023, Regular Meeting.
- 2. **Clerk to the Board – NACo Voting Delegate – Approved**
The Board approved the appointment of Commissioner Frank Williams as the Voting Delegate for the 2023 NACo Conference.
- 3. **County Attorney – Brunswick Plantation, The Hampton, Phase 2, Section 2 DOD - Approved**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Brunswick Plantation, The Hamptons, Phase 2, Section 2.
- 4. **County Attorney – Eagle Run, Phase 3 B, DOD– Approved**
T The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Eagle Run.
- 5. **County Attorney – Lean Springs, PH 4 – Sewer Pump Station DOD - Approved**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for the Lena Springs sewer pump station.
- 6. **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:
 - **ARPA Budget Revisions: Lead and Copper and OIB WWTP Centralization and Rehabilitation Projects**
Budget revisions allocating funds for RFP advertisement costs for ARPA Lead and Copper Project and increase engineering costs for OIB WWTP Centralization and Rehabilitation Project. Adjustments are line-item modifications within the approved federal UG provision budget categories. Total project amounts remain the same.
 - **County Capital Projects Funding**
Appropriation and transfer of \$710,000 to county capital reserve landfill closure project for future planned project.
- 7. **IT – SHI – Second Amendment to Microsoft EA – Azure Funding - Approved**
The Board approved the Second Amendment to SHI - Microsoft EA which adds clarifying language to existing agreement regarding monthly Azure services.
- 8. **Register of Deeds – Preservation of Record Books – Approved**
The Board concurred and authorized the removal of records from the Register of Deeds office to the Kofile Technologies facility for a period of no more than 90 days from the approval of this Board.

VI. PRESENTATION

- 1. **Administration – Water and Sewer System Development Fees**
The Board received a presentation from Stephanie Cuthbert, RVE Consulting Engineers, regarding Brunswick County’s Water and Sewer System Development Fees Analysis.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the placement of the analysis to the website. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5-0).

2. Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – Resilient and Thriving Communities Week

Commissioner Williams read the proclamation for Resilient and Thriving Communities Week. The Proclamation reads as follows:

RESILIENT AND THRIVING COMMUNITIES’ WEEK 2023

WHEREAS, resilient and thriving communities are vital to our community and state’s future health, success, and prosperity to ensure a strong foundation for everyone at all ages and stages of life; and

WHEREAS, the science is clear that resilience is built, and that communities and systems play a key role in promoting safe, secure, nurturing environments for all; and,

WHEREAS, adverse childhood and life experiences, adverse community environments, and adverse climate events impact overall quality of life and well-being of an entire community; and

WHEREAS, Healthy North Carolina 2030: A Path Toward Health by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, identifies reduction of adverse childhood experiences by 25% by 2030 as a goal; and

WHEREAS, it is our collective responsibility to collaborate in a nonpartisan fashion to promote positive experiences, secure relationships, and supportive environments to buffer stress and adversity, and to support local resilience coalitions, collaboratives, task forces, and initiatives across the state; and

WHEREAS, investing in policies, programs, and strategies that address adversity and strengthen community resilience is essential to the health of our community; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County encourages all individuals and all sectors, public and private, early childhood through post-secondary education, faith-based organizations, healthcare systems, justice systems, social services systems, businesses, and elected leaders to collaborate to strengthen our communities.

NOW THEREFORE, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 29-May 6, 2023, as “Resilient and Thriving Communities Week” and commend its observance to all citizens.

This the 3rd day of April 2023

Randy Thompson, Chair
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Williams made the motion in support of Resilient and Thriving Communities Week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

3. Clerk to the Board – Public Health Week Proclamation

Commissioner Cooke read the proclamation for Public Health Week. The Proclamation reads as follows:

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING APRIL 3-9, 2023 AS PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the week of April 3rd, 2023, is National Public Health Week. The theme is "Centering and Celebrating Cultures in Health"; and
WHEREAS, the Brunswick County public health workforce is a critical component of improving health outcomes, providing emergency response to natural and man-made disasters, and addressing disease outbreaks in our county; and

WHEREAS, the work of public health over many decades have minimized infectious diseases, improved environmental sanitation, and promoted healthy lifestyles which has contributed significantly to improved health and longer lives for the residents of our county; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County continues a commitment to prevention, protection, and promotion, and to helping all Brunswick County residents reach a better state of health; and

WHEREAS, communities are best served by working together to identify and develop solutions to health problems facing the people of Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners encourages all residents to recognize that public health staff work every day to protect residents from infectious disease, food borne disease, injury, and chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and asthma.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners in regular session, does hereby proclaim April 3-9, 2023, as "Public Health Week" in Brunswick County, and commend its observance to all county residents and conveys our deepest gratitude to those public health professionals who serve our county every day.

This, the 3rd day of April 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Brunswick County

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Board Clerk

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to adopt the Proclamation in support of Public Health Week. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

- 4. **Social Services – Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation**
Vice – Chairman Forte read the proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Proclamation reads as follows:

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION 2023 PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, children are vital to our state's future success, prosperity and quality of life as well as being our most vulnerable assets;

WHEREAS, all children deserve to have the safe, stable, nurturing homes and communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development;

WHEREAS, preventing child abuse and neglect prevention is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community;

WHEREAS, communities that provide parents with the social support, knowledge of parenting and child development and concrete resources they need to cope with stress and nurture their children ensure all children grow to their full potential;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention strategies succeed because of partnerships created among citizens, human service agencies, schools, faith communities, health care providers, civic organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the business community.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Brunswick County and call upon all citizens, community agencies, faith groups, medical facilities, elected leaders and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to support families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the communities in which we live.

This, the 3rd day of April 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Vice - Chairman Forte made the motion to adopt the Proclamation in support Child Abuse Prevention Month. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

5. Sheriff's Office – National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Recognition

Commissioner Cooke read the resolution for National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY
TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK APRIL 9-15, 2023**

WHEREAS, emergencies can occur at any time that require police, fire, or emergency medical services; the 911 Communications Center was created to provide a vital contribution to the quality of life enjoyed by citizens and visitors to Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, the Telecommunicators are trained, prepared and ready; the safety of our law enforcement officers, firefighters and EMS personnel are dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained from citizens who telephone the Brunswick County 911 Communications Center; and

WHEREAS, Telecommunicators are the first and most critical contact our citizens have with emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Telecommunicators of the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office 911 Communications Center have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients; and

WHEREAS, each Telecommunicator has exhibited compassion, understanding, and professionalism during the performance of their job; and

WHEREAS, National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week will serve to recognize the Telecommunicators of Brunswick County who provide a vital public safety service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners proclaim and declare the week of April 9th to 15th of 2023 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week in Brunswick County, in honor of the men and women whose diligence and professionalism keep our County’s citizens and visitors safe.

Adopted this the 3rd day of April 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to adopt the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- 1. Administration – Renewal of Agreement with Ward and Smith**
Vice – Chairman Forte moved to approve the two (2) year agreement with Ward and Smith from May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2025, for a total retainer not to exceed \$250,000. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Clerk to the Board – Board of Equalization and Review Appointment**
Chairman Thompson thanked Mr. Mathews for his years of service to the Board of Equalization and Review. Chairman Thompson made the motion to approve Mr. Mark Lindsey to fill the vacated and unexpired term of Mr. Mathews. This term will be in effect immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).
- 2. Clerk to the Board – Health and Human Services Advisory Board Appointment**
Commissioner Cooke made the motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Kevin Jones as the Veterinary position appointment for the Health and Human Services Advisory Board, filling the vacated and unexpired term of Dr. Flint King upon his passing. This term will be in effect immediately with an expiration date of June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).
- 3. Clerk to the Board – Southeast Sanitary District Board Appointment**
Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the statutorily required appointment to the Southeast Sanitary District Board of Mr. Bill Hurcomb to fill the vacant and unexpired term of Mr. Bob Smith to begin immediately and until the next election cycle of November 2023.
- 4. Clerk to the Board – Southeastern Community Action Partnership Board Appointment**
Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Mr. William Ballard to the Southeastern Community Action Partnership Board. His term will expire June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

1. Code Enforcement:

Commissioner Sykes expressed concerns with the excessive timeframe needed to resolve community enforcement complaints, in some cases exceeding two (2) years. Mr. Brigman reported that, with Board direction, there will be changes forthcoming to allow overall potential solutions and enforcement tactics to expedite the process. Recommendations should include burned-out structures, fencing in areas of concern, as well as potential changes to the ordinance and additional staff, if necessary. Commissioner Sykes would like to see this brought forward in the April 17, 2023, or May 1, 2023, agenda.

X. CLOSED SESSION

1. The Board entered into closed session pursuant to G.S. § 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) and (4) to consult with the attorney, to approve Closed Session Minutes from March 6, 2023, to consult with its attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, and to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Mr. Shaver noted the above statutory requirements.

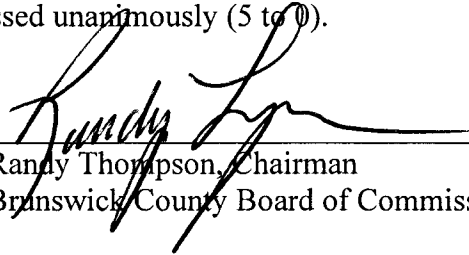
Commissioner Cooke made the motion to enter Closed Session at 4:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Thompson called the Regular Session to order at 4:53 p.m.

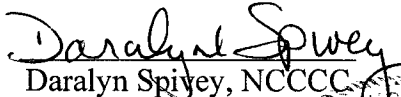
Mr. Shaver stated there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Vice – Chairman Forte moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:53 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).


Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

