

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
September 18, 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 J. Martin Cooke
Commissioner Mike Forte, Vice-Chairman
Commissioner Frank Williams
Commissioner Pat Sykes
- STAFF:

Steve Stone, County Manager
Bob Shaver, County Attorney
David Stanley, Deputy County Manager
Haynes Brigman, Deputy County Manager
Aaron Smith, Finance Director
LeAnn Weigand, Deputy Clerk/ Executive Assistant
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, IT
Lt. Beck, 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

Vice – Chairman Forte gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Thompson asked for adjustments to the agenda. Hearing none, Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Thompson opened the public comment period at 6:00 p.m. with the following comments:

Ms. Shendle Watson brought to the Board information regarding “Pieces to Peace” initiative and the homeless in Brunswick County.

Mr. Nick Cherasaro reminded the Board of his request to have the meeting broadcasted for transparency purposes.

Ms. Shaunda Blake spoke to the Board regarding budgetary concerns.

Mr. Carl Parker spoke to the Board regarding the need for water and sewer accessibility for the underserved of the Navassa area.

Ms. Mary Sand spoke to the Board regarding the Daughters of the American Revolution and the upcoming celebration of Constitution Week.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Cooke 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. **Administration – Request for Approval of Reimbursement Resolution for Utilities Capital Expenditures Prior to Issuing Debt – Approved**

The Board approved the Resolution declaring the intent of Brunswick County to reimburse itself for capital expenditures incurred prior to debt financing. The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK, NORTH CAROLINA DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK, NORTH CAROLINA TO REIMBURSE ITSELF FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURES INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the County of Brunswick, North Carolina ("*County*") has determined that it is in the best interests of the County to finance certain improvements to its water system and infrastructure, specifically including water transmission improvements in the County (collectively, the "*Project*");

WHEREAS, the County presently intends, at one time or from time to time, to finance all or a portion of its costs of the Project with proceeds of tax-exempt obligations and reasonably expects to execute and deliver such obligations (the "*Obligations*") to finance, or to reimburse itself for, all or a portion of its costs of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the County desires to proceed with the Project and will incur and pay certain expenditures in connection with the Project prior to the date of execution and delivery of the Obligations (the "*Original Expenditures*"), such Original Expenditures to be paid for originally from a source other than the proceeds of the Obligations, and the County intends, and reasonably expects, to be reimbursed for such Original Expenditures from a portion of the proceeds of the Obligations to be executed and delivered at a date occurring after the dates of such Original Expenditures;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Brunswick, North Carolina as follows:

Section 1. ***Official Declaration of Intent.*** The County presently intends, and reasonably expects, to reimburse itself for the Original Expenditures incurred and paid by the County on or after the date occurring 60 days prior to the date of adoption of this Resolution from a portion of the proceeds of the Obligations. The County reasonably expects to execute and deliver the Obligations to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project and the principal amount of Obligations expected to be executed and delivered by County to pay for all or a portion of the costs of the Project is approximately \$41,000,000.

Section 2. ***Compliance with Regulations.*** The County adopts this Resolution as a declaration of official intent under Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations promulgated under Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to evidence the County's intent to reimburse itself for the Original Expenditures from proceeds of the Obligations.

Section 3. ***Itemization of Capital Expenditures.*** The Director of Fiscal Operations of the County, with advice from bond counsel, is hereby authorized, directed and designated to act on behalf of the County in

WHEREAS, Brunswick County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids, including settlements with drug distributors Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen, and the drug maker Johnson & Johnson and its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceuticals;

WHEREAS, the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and certain bankruptcy resolutions (“Opioid Settlement Funds”) are governed by the Memorandum of Agreement Between the State of North Carolina and Local Governments on Proceeds Relating to the Settlement of Opioid Litigation (“MOA”);

WHEREAS, Brunswick County has received Opioid Settlement Funds pursuant to these national settlement agreements and deposited the Opioid Settlement Funds in a separate special revenue fund as required by section D of the MOA;

WHEREAS, section E.6 of the MOA states:

E.6. Process for drawing from special revenue funds.

- a. Budget item or resolution required. Opioid Settlement Funds can be used for a purpose when the Governing Body includes in its budget or passes a separate resolution authorizing the expenditure of a stated amount of Opioid Settlement Funds for that purpose or those purposes during a specified period of time.
- b. Budget item or resolution details. The budget or resolution should (i) indicate that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; (ii) state the specific strategy or strategies the county or municipality intends to fund pursuant to Option A or Option B, using the item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to identify each funded strategy, and (iii) state the amount dedicated to each strategy for a stated period of time.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, in alignment with the NC MOA, Brunswick County authorizes the expenditure of opioid settlement funds as follows:

1. First strategy authorized

- a. Name of strategies: Collaborative Strategic Planning
- b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A of MOA
- c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A to the MOA: #1
- d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$39,560.00
- e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date September 18, 2023, through June 30, 2024.
- f. Description of the program, project, or activity: The Health Educator I position will primarily coordinate Brunswick County’s substance use prevention and recovery efforts by facilitating, planning, implementing, and evaluating evidence-based strategies of the NC Opioid Settlement MOA; staffing the Brunswick County Substance Use and Addiction Commission; and performing additional related Substance Use programming. The employee will also assist with other Health Promotion work as needed. The employee will assist the Brunswick County Substance Use and Addiction Commission with data requests and specific projects. The employee will lead regular meetings with stakeholders to share strategies and report progress on substance use and addiction prevention and recovery. The employee will proactively seek new ideas and partnerships while implementing outreach and education efforts that reach and engage people with Opioid Use Disorder

(OUD) or any co-occurring substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health condition.
g. Provider: Department of Health Services

The total maximum dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated for the above-named strategies for the period of this resolution is \$39,560.00. Funds from the Opioid Settlement will be used for these services only when the HE I work is focused on Opioid MOA work.

Adopted this the 18th day of September, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

- 8. **Health Services – The Healing Place Fiscal Year 2024 Agreement – Approved**
The Board approved the FY 2024 Agreement between Brunswick County and The Healing Place of New Hanover County for residential addiction treatment services.
- 9. **Sheriff’s Office – 911 Grant Application Approval – Approved**
The Board approved the application for a grant provided by the North Carolina 911 Board. If awarded, funds will be used to purchase portable radios for each approved seat in the primary 911 Center. The total value of the grant is approximately \$66,647 with no County match or funding required.
- 10. **Sheriff’s Office – SCAAP Grant Award Acceptance – Approved**
The Board approved the award from the BJA FY 2022 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) grant in the amount of \$24,041 with no County match requirement.
- 11. **Tax – Tax Admin – September 2023 Releases – Approved**
The Board approved the September 2023 releases.
- 12. **Utilities – Golden LEAF Economic Catalyst Program Application for the Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park Water Tank - Approved**
The Board ratified the “Brunswick County Grant Application Evaluation” form for the HWY 74/76 Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park Water Tank Project, authorizes the Chairman of the Board and County Manager to sign the “Golden LEAF Economic Catalyst Program Application Certification and Signature Form” and authorizes staff to submit the required application package to Golden LEAF – Economic Catalyst Program for consideration of a grant in the amount of \$3,000,000.
- 13. **Utilities – Grant Agreement EPA-Northwest Water Treatment Plant to Bell Swamp Pump Station Water Transmission Project – Approved**
The Board approved and accepted the Grant Agreement with the EPA for the Northwest Water Treatment Plant to Bell Swamp Pump Station Water Transmission Project. The Grant value is \$2,631,250 and requires a 20% match.
- 14. **Utilities – Purchase of 3000 Neptune Water Meters - Approved**
The Board approved the budgeted purchase of 3000 Neptune ¾” water meters from Core and Main in the amount of \$425,292.00 in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(6).
- 15. **Utilities – Southeast Area Improvement – St. James Project -Design-Build Applied Criteria – Approved**
The Board approved the design-build delivery method for the Southeast area water infrastructure improvement project (Southeast Area Improvements-St. James Project).

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Clerk to the Board – General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Brunswick County: “Step Up to End Hunger Day of Service”.

Commissioner Williams read the following resolution and made the motion to adopt the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Brunswick County: “Step Up to End Hunger Day of Service”. The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION DECLARING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023, AS THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN’S CLUBS OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY: “STEP UP TO END HUNGER DAY OF SERVICE" IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) is a 133 year old international federation of women’s clubs with more than 60,000 members and dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service and is located at 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC of North Carolina has the GFWC-Cape Fear Woman’s Club, GFWC of Holden Beach, GFWC-South Brunswick Islands, Shallotte Junior Woman’s Club, and Southport Woman’s Club located in Brunswick County with over 100 years of service and 125 members dedicated to community service; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Inaugural National Day of Service is designated as a day in which all state federations and club members come together to create awareness around the critical issue of food insecurity, hunger, and food safety within the United States; and with North Carolina identified as the 8th highest state in the nation for food insecurity with 22% of Brunswick County children and 15% of residents food insecure; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Brunswick County Clubs continually address this widespread community-based issue and partner with local organizations whose missions align with GFWC; and

WHEREAS, the GFWC Brunswick County Clubs on September 30, 2023 are raising awareness by collecting, donating, and delivering non-perishable food, volunteering at local food pantries and backpack buddies programs, fundraising, and assisting with providing community meals.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners concurring therein, designate Saturday, September 30, 2023, as “GFWC Brunswick County Clubs’ National Day of Service Step Up to End Hunger throughout Brunswick County, North Carolina.”

This, the 18th Day of September, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

LeAnn Weigand
Deputy Clerk to the Board

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vice - Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

2. Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – Constitution Week 2023

Commissioner Sykes read the following resolution and made the motion to adopt honoring Constitution Week 2023. The Resolution reads as follows:

PROCLAMATION OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PROCLAMING SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2023 AS CONSTITUTION WEEK IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

WHEREAS: The Constitution of the United States is one of America’s Charters of Freedom; and

WHEREAS: The Constitution establishes our form of limited government and protects our rights and freedoms; and

WHEREAS: September 17, 2023, designated as Constitution Day, commemorates the two hundred and thirty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Constitution of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week; and

WHEREAS: It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this historic document and to reflect upon the form of government it established.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week and urges all citizens to read and study the U.S. Constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves.

Adopted this, the 18th day of September, 2023

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Commissioners

ATTEST:

LeAnn Weigand
Deputy Clerk to the Board

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

- 3. **Health Services – Proclamation of Suicide Prevention Month**
David Howard, Health Director, read the following Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation.

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, Suicide prevention is a serious and pressing concern in North Carolina and nationally as it impacts individuals, families, and communities of all backgrounds and circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between 10 and 34, and the 4th leading cause of death for those 25 to 45; and

WHEREAS, Suicide was the 9th leading cause of death in North Carolina during 2022, taking the lives of 1,539 people ages 10 and older; and

WHEREAS, From 2016 to 2020 rates of suicide were 16.3 per 100,000 for Brunswick County and 15.6 for North Carolina, and suicides were 75% of all violent deaths in Brunswick County for this period; and

WHEREAS, Work to prevent suicides is on-going and available from many dedicated Brunswick County organizations; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County fully supports those working in fields addressing suicide, such as mental health and substance use treatment providers, educators, and law enforcement; and .

WHEREAS, The Brunswick County Commissioners encourage all residents to recognize that deaths by suicide are preventable and everyone can help prevent suicides through education and awareness; and

NOW, THEREFORE, The Brunswick County Board of Commissioners in regular session September 18, 2023, does hereby proclaim the month of September 2023 as Suicide Prevention Month in Brunswick County and commend its observance to all county residents and conveys our deepest condolences to families and friends who have lost someone to suicide.

Randy Thompson
Board Chair

ATTEST:

LeAnn Weigand
Deputy Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Proclamation. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

4. Heath Services – Trillium Presentation of Suicide Prevention Efforts and the 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline

The Board received a presentation from Cecelia Peers of Trillium regarding suicide prevention and the 988 Suicide Lifeline.

5. Utilities – Wellhead Protection Area Zoning Overlay District – Performance Standards Proposal

Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to accept the agreement with ECS Southeast in the amount of \$47,760 to develop performance standards associated with the Brunswick County Wellhead Protection Area Zoning Overlay Map. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Clerk to the Board – Public Hearing Regarding the Purchase of 539 Acres Located in the Mid- Atlantic Industrial Rail Park

Chairman Thompson opened the Public Hearing at 6:44 p.m. Hearing no comment, Chairman Thompson closed the public hearing. Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and was passed unanimously (5 to 0).

2. Planning – UDO Text Amendment – First Responders Training Facilities

Chairman Thompson opened the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m.

Mr. Carl Parker asked if there were any plans filed to know if the facility that is proposed is above or below ground or if there is any risk of ground contamination. Chairman Thompson explained there were no plans in place to draw any information from.

Chairman Thompson closed the Public Hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Kirstie Dixon Planning Director, read the following Consistency Statement:

CONSISTENCY & REASONABLENESS DETERMINATION

Per NCGS, zoning regulations shall be made in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Prior to adopting or rejecting any zoning amendment (including map and text amendments), a statement regarding plan consistency shall be adopted.

This request is consistent with the goals, recommendations, and policies of the following plans adopted by Brunswick County and is reasonable and appropriate based upon the following findings:

- Clarifies Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) by addressing a use that was not permitted.
- Blueprint Brunswick Goals & Objective, Education Goal, states that Brunswick County should promote quality education and lifelong learning opportunities.
- ED-1, states that Brunswick County should maintain and expand job opportunities in the County.
- ED-1 Bullet #2, supports workforce development/training.

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| ☐ <i>Agricultural Development Plan</i> | ☒ <i>Unified Development Ordinance</i> |
| ☐ <i>Brunswick County Comprehensive Transportation Plan (CTP)</i> | ☐ <i>Southeastern North Carolina Hazard Mitigation Plan</i> |
| ☐ <i>Brunswick County Trail Plan</i> | ☐ <i>Airport Height Control Ordinance</i> |
| ☒ <i>Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Comprehensive I (CAMA Plan)</i> | ☒ <i>Other: _____</i> |

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to require a special use permit in the IG district to include the adoption of the above consistency statement. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Administration – Brunswick Guarantee Agreement

Chairman Thompson made the motion to renew the Agency Funding Agreement for the Brunswick Guarantee College Tuition Scholarship Program with the Brunswick Community College. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

2. Administration – First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement Between Brunswick County and the City of Southport for the Provision of Wastewater Treatment Services

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the first amendment to the Sewer Service Agreement with the City of Southport originally adopted on November 2, 2020. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

3. Health Services – Request Purchase Approval for Updated COVID – 19 Vaccine

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the purchase of the updated COVID – 19 Vaccine. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed with a vote of 4 to 1 with the Commissioners voting as follows:

Chairman Thompson - Aye
 Vice – Chairman Forte – Aye
 Commissioner Sykes – Nay
 Commissioner Williams – Aye
 Commissioner Cooke – Aye

4. Sheriff's Office – PSGP Grant Award Acceptance

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to accept the Port Security Grant Program, awarded by the US Department of Homeland Security for a total of \$643,584.00 with a twenty five percent (25%) required local match. The motion was seconded

by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed with a vote of 4 to 1 with the Commissioners voting as follows:

Chairman Thompson - Aye
 Vice – Chairman Forte – Aye
 Commissioner Sykes – Nay
 Commissioner Williams – Aye
 Commissioner Cooke – Aye

IX. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment Jury Commission

Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Mr. Stone to the Jury Commissioner for a period of two (2) years. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

2. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment Substance Use and Addiction Commission Chief Superior Court Judge Designee

Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Johnnie McAdams to the Substance Use and Addiction Commission as Chief Judge Disbrow's designee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

3. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment Town of Sunset Beach ETJ Board of Adjustments Appointment.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Ms. Sybil Kesterson to the Board of Adjustments for the Town of Sunset Beach as the ETJ Appointee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

4. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment – Town of Oak Island ETJ Planning Board Appointee

Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Gene Brooks to the Planning Board for the Town of Oak Island as the ETJ Appointee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

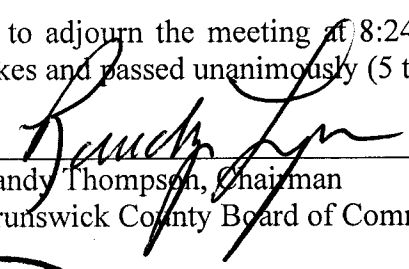
X. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Williams:

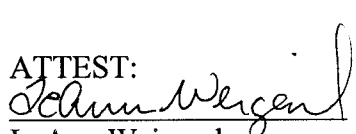
- Would like to keep the GSTATS and the MPO payment of dues in mind during the budget process and for each group to be treated equally.
- Blueprint Brunswick: Will look to future UDO Changes and an upcoming workshop for discussion.
- Veterans Services: Numbers have spiked in August and would like to keep a close watch on those numbers.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).


 Randy Thompson, Chairman
 Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


 LeAnn Weigand
 Deputy Clerk to the Board

