

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 2, 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 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
Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board
LeAnn Weigand, Deputy Clerk/ Executive Assistant
Meagan Kasczak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, IT
Sheriff Bryan Chism

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 asked for adjustments to the agenda. Hearing none, 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 3:01 p.m. with the following comments:

Mr. Carl Parker spoke to the Board regarding the need for water and sewer accessibility for the underserved of the Navassa area and the County as a whole in undeveloped areas, believes there must be a different approach taken and his doubt that this sitting Board will assist him in the endeavor going forward.

Mr. Robert Lazaro spoke to the Data Center text amendment that will be forthcoming at the October 16, 2023, Commissioners meeting.

Ms. Jean Toner, Mayor of St. James, thanked the Commissioners and County Utilities for support and creation of the water pressure improvement project along Highway 211. Additionally, the need to improve water/sewer availability and quality County-wide prior to further development approval.

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).

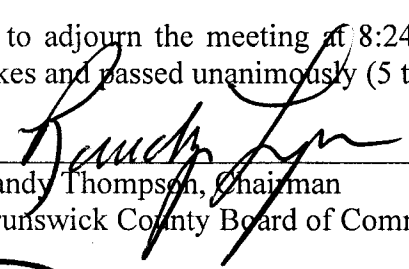
X. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

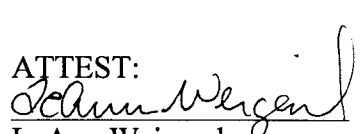
Commissioner Williams:

- 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



Mr. Dan Cooke thanked the Board for the effort undertaken with the budget and the control of the County's tax rate in comparison with the current national debt issue and the lack of fiscal responsibility of the local Legislators.

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

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Clerk to the Board – Annual Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) Funding – Approved

The Board approved and authorized the County Manager to sign the annual funding for the ROAP application.

2. Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023, Regular Meeting – Approved

The Board approved the Minutes from the September 18, 2023, Regular Meeting.

3. Emergency Services - Emergency Services Sole Source Resolution –Multiple Event Response Trailer – MERT 4 Trailer – Approved

The Board approved the Resolution authorizing the purchase of a MERT 4 Trailer under the Sole Source Exception. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF MULTIPLE EVENT
RESPONSE TRAILER (MERT-4) FOR BRUNSWICK COUNTY
EMERGENCY SERVICES UNDER SOLE SOURCE EXCEPTION TO
FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS**

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S 143-129(e)(6), Procedure for Letting of Public Contracts, allows for the waiver of formal bidding requirements for purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when performance or price competition for a product are not available, or a needed product is available from only one source of supply, or standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County Emergency Services has identified the need for a lightweight, highly visible, and rapidly deployable trailer that is equipped with safety equipment necessary to protect the public and first response personnel during an emergency or other event; and

WHEREAS, the MERT-4 response trailer will allow Brunswick County Emergency Services to have the ability to close roads, delineate traffic, post detours, keep personnel safe, and allow vital assets to be released and re-deployed; and

WHEREAS, Powell Safety Solutions, LLC is the exclusive designer, manufacturer, and distributor of the MERT-4 trailer; and

WHEREAS, the governing board must approve the purchase under this bidding exemption prior to awarding the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approves the purchases described herein utilizing the exception to formal bidding requirements contained in N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(6) and finds that the conditions described in that statute have been met.

Adopted this the 2nd day of October, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

- 4. **Finance – Fiscal Items - Approved**
-Bolivia By-Pass Transmission Force Main Budget Amendment and CPO
The Board appropriated \$3,999,999 of miscellaneous revenues associated with the Rice Creek Developers improvements agreement for the Bolivia By-Pass Transmission Force Main project approved at the August 21, 2023 Board of Commissioner's meeting.
-Financial Reports June 2023 (unaudited)
Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA, and Opioid project statuses, key revenue indicators, and Cash and Investments details are included. All year-to-date fiscal reports are provided at:
<http://brunswickcountync.gov/finance/reports>
- 5. **Finance – Update to Debt and Post Issuance Continuing Disclosure and Procedures Policy – Approved**
The Board approved amending the policy for Debt and Post-Issuance Continuing Disclosure and Procedures.
- 6. **Finance – Utility Billing Generator at 3769 Old Ocean Highway – Approved**
The Board approved the appropriations of funds for the installation of a generator that will service the Utility Billing Department at 3769 Old Ocean Highway.
- 7. **Operation Services Engineering and Design Services for Calabash Senior Roof Professional Services Agreement – Approved**
The Board approved the Professional Agreement with Raymond Engineering-Georgia, Inc. for engineering and design services for the Calabash Senior Roof.
- 8. **Superior Court – Superior Court Judge – SAMHSA Brunswick County Treatment Courts Grant – Approved**
The Board accepted the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant in the amount of \$400,000 for year one (9-30-2023 through 9/29-2024 awarded the Brunswick County Adult Treatment Court Project and approved the Contract agreement for treatment, trial court coordinator and data evaluation, subject to review and approved by County Attorney’s Office. The Grant is a five-year project period 9-30-2023 thought 9/29/2028 for a total award amount of \$2M.
- 9. **Utilities – Approval of Contract with Nobels’s Professional Grounds Management Inc., for Utilities Properties - Approved**
The Board apprvoved the annual lawn maintenance agreement, with options for a maximum of two annual renewals in the annual amount of \$97,800.
- 10. **Utilities – Grant Award – Whiteville Road Forcemain Design and Engineering – Approved**
The Board approved and accepted the Grant Award (Federal Award Identification Number: B-23-CO-NC-0955) for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$1,052,500 for the design and engineering of the Whiteville Road Forcemain Project; delegating the County Manager, Steve Stone, to execute the Grant Agreement and all other associated documents; and authorize staff to submit all required grant documentation.
- 11. **Utilities – Supplier Agreement for Water Treatment Chemicals - Approved**
The Board approved five (5) supplier agreements that total an estimated amount of \$900,631.50.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- 1. **Administration – Fiscal Year End June 30, 2023 County Manager’s Report**
Mr. Stone reported to the Board the annual information for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 to include the following topics:
 - Water and wastewater customer growth
 - Enterprise Fund debt coverage ratios
 - General Fund property (ad valorem) tax revenues

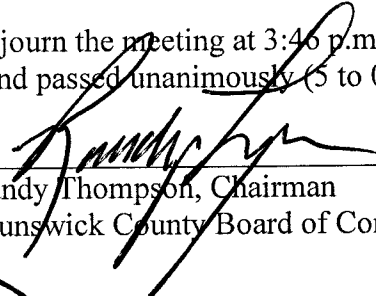
- Sales tax revenues
- Total General Fund balance and fund balance remaining for appropriation

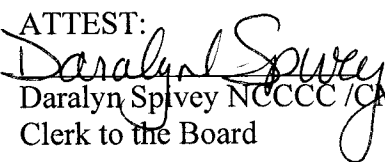
VII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Williams would like to have staff ready to answer the questions that Mr. Lazaro raised in his public comment regarding the data center text amendment public hearing that will be held October 16, 2023.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:46 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/CMC
 Clerk to the Board



