

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 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 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, Executive Assistant
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, IT
Jim Hartsell, 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 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. Hearing none, Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes 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. Nick Cherasaro was pleased to see the steps taken to live stream the Board of Commissioners Meetings going forward.

Mr. Dennis Little spoke to the need and his support to increase the full-time inspectors as presented later in the meeting in the Code Administration division.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Vice - Chairman Forte 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. Administration - Approve Budget Amendment Needed for Building I Renovations - Approved

The Board approved the necessary budget amendment to renovate Building I in response to Utilities Customer Service moving into a new location and expansion of staff and service delivery within Building I.

2. Administration - Approval of the FY 2024 Home and Community Care Block Grant and County Agreement - Approved

The Board approved the execution the FY 2024 Home and Community Care Block Grant for Older Adults Agreement for the Provision of Community-Based Aging Services, the provider packet and attachments for the provision of county-based aging services, County Funding Plan, Provider Services Summaries, Federal Certifications, and Disclosure of Lobbying Activities forms.

3. Administration - Budget Calendar FY 2025 - Approved

The Board approved the FY 2025 Budget Calendar.

4. Administration - Long-term Lease for Brunswick Family Assistance - Approved

The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the County Manger to execute a long-term lease with Brunswick Family Assistance. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION LEASING PROPERTY TO BRUNSWICK
FAMILY ASSISTANCE AGENCY, INC. FOR A TERM
EXCEEDING TEN YEARS**

WHEREAS, Brunswick Family Assistance Agency, Inc. (“BFA”) serves the citizens of Brunswick County with a variety of programs; and

WHEREAS, BFA conducts a food panty as one of these programs; and

WHEREAS, BFA has indicated the need for warehouse space for food and other sundries as well as offices for administrative functions.; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County desires to lease to BFA such space and offices so that the public will better be served.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners shall lease the property at 925 Old Ocean Highway, Building B to Brunswick Family Assistance Agency, Inc. in accordance with NCGS 160A, Article 12 for the rate of \$6000.00 per month.

Adopted this the 6th day of November, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

5. Clerk to the Board - Meeting Minutes -October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting - Approved

The Board approved the Regular Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2023.

6. Clerk to the Board - Resolution in Support of NC DOT Application for the Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge - Approved

The Board adopted a resolution in support of the NCDOT Application to the US DOT Bridge Investment Program (BIP) for the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S (NCDOT)
APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S BRIDGE INVESTMENT PROGRAM
(BIP) FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CAPE FEAR
MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, linking US 17, US 76, and US 421 over the Cape Fear River, has been an indispensable conduit for regional transportation and economic development;

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge adds an additional lane of capacity for the projected 94,900 vehicles per day that will travel it in 2050 compared to the 2023 base year counts of 65,200 vehicles per day.

WHEREAS, the replacement of the bridge also adds a 15' Multi-use path which will serve as the only bicycle and pedestrian connection between New Hanover County and Brunswick County, which does not currently exist today.

WHEREAS, the bridge is a critical element in facilitating freight movement to and from the Port of Wilmington, ranked number 1 as the most productive port in North America and 44th in the world for 2022, underlining its importance to the regional economy;

WHEREAS, assessments from the 2021 Routine Inspection Report designate the bridge as functionally obsolete;

WHEREAS, given the repeated financial investments for its rehabilitation, including \$15M in 2019 and an anticipated \$15M-\$20M in 2024, accompanied by a 20-week one-direction (10-weeks in each direction) traffic shutdown, there exists a pressing imperative for a holistic solution;

WHEREAS, the proposed alternatives and design considerations harmonize with both regional and statewide infrastructure development goals, ensuring sustained and efficient traffic flow on one of North Carolina's key Strategic Transportation Corridors;

WHEREAS, the most recently available crash data, drawn from the bridge and its contiguous roadways, underscore the urgency of the situation, with trends consistently surpassing statewide crash metrics. The project is poised to mitigate these crash rates;

WHEREAS, beyond ameliorating current traffic and safety challenges, the replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge stands to stimulate regional economic resurgence, amplify the operational efficacy of the Port of Wilmington, and foster economic opportunities in neighboring underserved areas;

WHEREAS, this initiative holds pronounced potential environmental dividends, including a marked reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and bolstered infrastructure resilience against natural adversities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners unequivocally expresses its support and endorsement for the NCDOT's application for Federal Discretionary Grants for the much-needed replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board

7. Clerk to the Board - Resolution Requesting Fishery Resources Disaster Determination for North Carolina's Shrimp Fishery - Approved

The Board approved and adopted the Resolution Requesting a Fishery Resource Disaster Determination for North Carolina's Shrimp Fishery. The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A FISHERY RESOURCE DISASTER DETERMINATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA'S SHRIMP FISHERY

WHEREAS, the commercial shrimp fishery has long been an important economic driver for Brunswick County and its rural coastal communities; and

WHEREAS, the global supply of predominantly farm-raised shrimp has reached record highs and has far outstripped global demand; and

WHEREAS, US imports of frozen warmwater shrimp nearly doubled from 2013 to 2021 to an unprecedented level of 1.8 billion pounds; and

WHEREAS, the influx of imported shrimp in America has resulted in the catastrophic collapse of the domestic shrimp industry; and

WHEREAS, imported shrimp now dominates cold storage, distribution hubs, and the American market at a level that voids the margin of the market the domestic harvesters are able to fulfill; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of the inundation of imported shrimp into our markets have caused significant revenue loss and loss of access to the shrimp fishery resource itself, for small family owned fishing businesses and other supporting businesses; and

WHEREAS, if action is not taken, further economic harm and the potential of a complete collapse for the domestic shrimp fisheries are certain.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners urges North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper to consider submitting a request for a fishery resource disaster determination, for North Carolinas shrimp fishery, to the Secretary of Commerce.

Adopted this, the 6th day of November 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board

8. County Attorney - Bell Meadows, Phase 1 and 2 DOD - Approved

The Board approved the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Bell Meadows, Phase 1 and 2.

9. County Attorney - Declaration of Surplus Property

The Board declared property obtained by the County through tax foreclosure (parcel number 048CB018) as surplus property to be placed on the County's website for possible future purchase.

10. County Attorney - Egret Landing Phases 1 & 2 DOD - Approved

The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure in Egret Landing Phases 1 & 2.

11. County Attorney - Sunfish Cove, Phase A & B (formerly Carolina Estates) DOD - Approved

The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure in Sunfish Cove, Phase A & B (formerly Carolina Estates).

12. Emergency Services - Shallotte Point FD Firemen's Relief Fund Board Appointment - Approved

The Board appointed Phillip Cheers to the Shallotte Point Firemen's Relief Fund Board. Mr. Cheers will replace Sally Scott as she can no longer serve.

13. Finance - ARPA Funding Allocation Request for Pre-Pandemic Employment FY24 Qtr. 1 - Approved

The Board appropriated \$719,819 of American Rescue Plan Act funds to increase the pre-pandemic employment project.

14. Finance - First Citizens Administrative Services Resolution and Agreement

The Board approved Steven T. Stone, County Manager, and Aaron C. Smith as authorized representatives of Brunswick County with First-Citizens Bank & Trust Company.

15. Finance - Fiscal Items - Approved

The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances, and Fiscal Items of a routine nature on the consent agenda. The items are as follows:

-2023 Mulberry Branch WRF Revenue Bonds Budget Amendment and CPO

Appropriating 2023 revenue bonds for Mulberry Branch WRF for actual revenue bonds and premium.

-Insurance Proceeds Rollover Budget Amendment

Appropriating insurance proceeds were received in FY23 for the replacement of the total loss trailer in FY24.

16. Health Services - Health Services Immunization Update - Approved

The Board accepted the interim update on Health Services Immunizations.

17. Health Services - Request the Board of Commissioners Review and Approve Annual Board of Health Policies - Approved

The Board, acting as the Board of Health, reviewed and approved the annual Board of Health Policies.

18. Operation Services - Agreement for Modular Unit for Probation and Parole - Approved

The Board ratified the execution of the construction agreement with Modular Technologies, Inc.

19. Soil and Water - Farmland Preservation ADFP Conservation Easement Quarterly Report Approval - Approved

The Board approved the NCDA&CS ADFP quarterly report prepared for the Bellamy Family Farm LLC conservation easement grant.

20. Sheriff's Office - Wellpath Proposal Letter Approval - Inmate Medical Services - Approved

The Board approved a Proposal Letter and Bridge Agreement provided by Wellpath LLC, the Detention Center's medical services provider. The Proposal Letter and Bridge Agreement includes a 4.1% CPI increase in the current monthly expense, from \$119,152.37 to \$124,037.62. No budget amendment is needed at this time.

21. Social Services - Every Student Succeeds Act Agreement (ESSA) - Approved

The Board reviewed and approved the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Agreement between the Department of Social Services and Brunswick County Board of Education.

22. Utilities - Approval of a Contract with Michigan Underground Specialists, LLC d/b/a Ditch Witch Sales of North Carolina for the Purchase of a Directional Drill - Approved

The Board approved a contract for \$183,876.14 with Michigan Underground Specialists, LLC. d/b/a Ditch Witch Sales of North Carolina, for a directional drill machine.

23. Utilities - Bulk Purchase of Water Treatment Chemical - Polyaluminum Chloride - Approved

The Board approved the purchase of polyaluminum chloride from the lowest responsive bidder, Chemtrade Inc., in the amount of \$480,000.

24. Utilities - Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park Water Tank - Golden LEAF Grant Agreement - Approved

The Board accepted the Golden LEAF Grant (G-202408-08288) and delegated Mr. Steve Stone, County Manager, to sign the Grant Agreement along with the associated documents for the Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park Water Tank Project grant.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week

Commissioner Williams read the following and made the motion to adopt the National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Proclamation. The Proclamation reads as follows:

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 11-18, 2023 AS
NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS
WEEK IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

WHEREAS, for the past several years the National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness have sponsored National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the proclamation is to educate the public about the many reasons people are hungry and homeless in Brunswick County, North Carolina and to encourage support for those serving homeless families and individuals as well as inform the community of service opportunities for students and school organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are organizations committed to sheltering, providing supportive services as well as meals and food supplies to the homeless, including faith-based ministries and other nonprofit organizations which recognize that hunger and homelessness continues to be a serious problem for many individuals and families in Brunswick County, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the intent of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is consistent with the activities of local organizations that assist with the needs of the hungry and homeless,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim November 11 - 18, 2023 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and encourages all residents to recognize that many people lack adequate food and housing and need support from the community as well as governmental and nonprofit service organizations.

This the 6th day of November, 2023.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

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

2. Finance - Auditor's Report on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2023 (Alan Thompson, Partner - Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A.)

The Board received the annual Auditors report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023 from Alan Thompson.

3. Administration - Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Annual Report

The Board received the Annual Report and the Cape Fear Navigating Change 2050 presentation from Abby Lorenzo and Vanessa Lacer.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Administration – Organizational Structure Changes

Mr. Stone presented the proposed changes to the structures currently in place. Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the organizational structure changes. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and was passed unanimously (5 to 0).

2. Administration – Request the Submit Application for United States Army Donation Program for Combat Material

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to authorize the application process for the procurement of combat material from the US Army. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed (4 to 1). The poll is as follows:

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

3. Code Administration – Fire Marshal – Request for three (3) New FTE Fire Inspector/Investigator Positions

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the three (3) additional FTE Fire Inspector/Investigator positions and the necessary budget amendments for the positions and equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

4. Code Administration – Code Administration – Request for four (4) New FTE Multi-Trade Inspectors

Vice - Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the four (4) additional FTE multi-purpose inspector positions and the necessary budget amendments for the positions and equipment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

5. Engineering – Board Update on the Enterprise Fund Neighborhood Water Main Program and FY16 Top (7) Water Main Project

The Board received an update from Mr. Pinnix on the status of the Enterprise Fund Neighborhood Water Main Program and FY 16 Top (7) Water Main Project.

6. Health Services – Fee Schedule Adjustments – Health Services: Environmental Health and Clinical Services

Vice - Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the adjustments to the fee schedule. Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion and was passed unanimously (5 to 0).

7. Sheriff's Office – Cape Fear Regional Jetport Lease Agreement

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the lease agreement of \$39,600 annually as part of the existing budgeted funds of the Sheriff's Office approved budget. Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion and was passed unanimously (5 to 0).

8. Sheriff's Office – Emergency Truck Replacement

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to approve the replacement of the truck from insurance proceeds for \$70,000. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion with all in favor (5 to 0).

9. Sheriff's Office – Lenovo Contract Approval FY24 Approved Computers

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the contract and purchase of computers approved in the Sheriff's Office, Detention Center, 911 Communications, and Animal Protective Services budgets. Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion and was passed unanimously (5 to 0).

10. Sheriff's Office – Munson Boats Agreement

Commissioner Cooke made the motion to approve the contract with Munson Boats for the purchase of the awarded boat from the Port Security Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed (4 to 1). The poll is as follows:

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

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Clerk to the Board - Board Appointment – Substance Use and Addiction Commission (SUAC) School Board Appointee

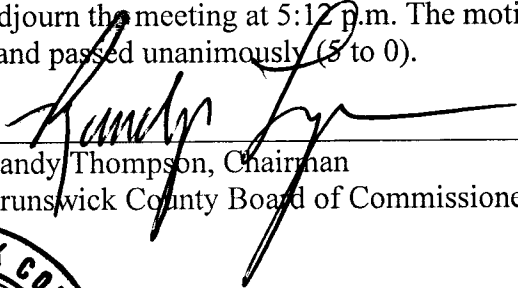
Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Ms. Meghan Wilson as the Brunswick County School Board Appointee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Williams reminded those present that today starts the weeklong recognition of Operation Green Light.

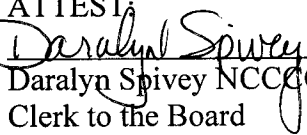
X. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 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

