

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
January 16, 2024
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 Kascsak, Communications Director
Jim Hartsell, 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

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Thompson asked for the following adjustments to the agenda:

- Remove the Closed Session cited in the agenda and announce personnel action item.
- Add Emergency Services Extreme Cold Preparations under Presentations.

Commissioner Williams asked for the following adjustments to the agenda:

- Add NC DOT presentation regarding the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge Repairs prior to the Public Comment period.

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

Chairman Thompson announced the promotion of Bryan Batton from Assistant County Attorney to the County Attorney effective February 1, 2024, following the retirement of Bob Shaver, effective January 31, 2024. Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to appoint Mr. Batton as the County Attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. NC DOT PRESENTATION

Chad Kimes, North Carolina Department of Transportation, presented the plan for the repair work that will be required to take place over the next several months to the Cape

Fear Memorial Bridge, the expected closure dates, and the future of the bridge replacement along with available options for funding.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Thompson opened the public comment period at 6:40 p.m. with the following comments:

Mr. Glenn Marshall spoke of his concerns about the proposed insurance rate increase.

Ms. Ann Rando spoke to her concern with clear cutting and the rate of development.

Ms. Jean Toner spoke of her concern about rapid and sustainable development, clearcutting, residential building temporary moratorium, and stormwater concerns. Md. Toner also presented the Clerk with a signed petition in opposition to clear cutting. This document has been duly filed in the Clerk's office.

Ms. Marjorie Burnside spoke of her concern with the loss of wetland areas, overdevelopment, clearcutting of land, system development fees, and the rise of proposed insurance rates.

Ms. Liz White spoke of her concern with the loss of ecosystem with the current rate of building, stormwater, and the rate of clearcutting in the County.

Ms. Holly Long spoke of her concerns about development, slowing growth, clearcutting, setting up a monthly report card to report to the public what the County has completed with measurable indicators.

Ms. Ash Ramos spoke of her concerns about overdevelopment, clearcutting, and the growing lack of wetlands as development occurs.

Ms. Holly Segalla spoke of her concerns about overdevelopment in the residential sector.

Matt Wilson spoke to his concerns regarding the overdevelopment of the County, the housing shortage that does not exist as the vacancy rate of homes is currently in excess of thirty percent (30%).

VI. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sykes moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

- 1. Clerk to the Board - Meeting Minutes - December 4, 2023, Regular Meeting**
The Board approved the Minutes from the December 4, 2023 Regular Meeting.
- 2. County Attorney - Boiling Spring Lakes Self Storage DOD**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Boiling Spring Lakes Self Storage.
- 3. County Attorney - Declaration of Surplus Property**
The Board declared property obtained by the County through tax foreclosure as surplus property to be placed on the County's website for possible future purchase.
- 4. County Attorney - Grande Palms, Phase 3, Lots 1-10, 12-31, and 83-98**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure in Grande Palms, Phase 3, Lots 1-10, 12-31, and 83-98.
- 5. County Attorney - Meadows at Wildwood Village (Shallotte), Phases 1 & 2 DOD**

The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water infrastructure only in the Meadows at Wildwood Village (Shallotte), Phases 1 & 2.

- 6. **County Attorney - Ocean Pointe, Phase 1, Lots 1-8 and 47-75 DOD**
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Ocean Pointe, Phase 1, Lots 1-8 and 47-75.

- 7. **Emergency Services - Approval of Ambulance Franchise Agreement with Novant Health New Hanover Mobile Integrated Health Airlink/Vitalink/PCTS**
The Board approved the ambulance franchise agreement with Novant New Hanover Mobile Integrated Health Airlink/Vitalink/PCTS.

- 8. **Finance - Brunswick County Schools Contracts for Town Creek Elementary School Addition Phase II**
The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign a Construction Manager At Risk Agreement with W.M. Jordan Company, Incorporated for \$4,262,761, and to ratify a Design Consultant Agreement with Becker Morgan Group, Inc. for \$294,850, both associated with facility upgrades at Town Creek Elementary School Phase II.

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

- ETSF Revenues Budget Amendment**
Appropriating ETSF revenues for FOCUS telephone expenditures.

- Closeout 74-76 Industrial Park Water Transmission Main Project**
Close the 74-76 Water Tank project of the main extension and transfer design of tank and connection to existing water main extension to new project.

- Tap on Supplies Budget Amendment**
Appropriating \$2,500,000 of taps and connections revenue for capital outlay taps on supplies needed to meet current demands.

- BSL Dam Project Funding Budget Amendment**
Transferring \$750,000 from the county capital reserve to the general fund for payment of the first portion of the City of Boiling Springs Lakes Dam Project Funding.

- NEBRWWTP Project Closeout and Biosolids Processing Project Budget Amendments and CPO**
Close out Northeast Brunswick Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and Transmission Project and transfer the remaining debt to Biosolids Processing project. Appropriate expendable net assets in the wastewater fund and credit partner's debt payment for unexpended debt portion.

- Airport Grant 36.237.45.20.1 Grant Agreement**
Approved and authorized the chairman to sign the grant agreement for the federal airport grant 36237.45.20.1 in the amount of \$53,595, with local match of \$5,955. Funding for the grant and local match was approved on December 4, 2023 Board of Commissioner's meeting.

- Airport Grant 36.244.58.16.1 Budget Amendment and CPO**
Appropriating \$13,500,000 of transportation reserve state funding allocated to the Cape Fear Regional Jetport for airport improvements with no local match required.

- Financial Reports for December 2023 (unaudited)**
Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA and Opioid project statuses, key revenue indicators, and Cash and Investment detail are included. All

year-to-date fiscal reports are provided at:

<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/305/Financial-Reports#>

10. Information Technology - Approve purchase of (150) Standard LENOVO Laptops for Brunswick County Elections Department via State Contract.

The Board approved the purchase of 150 LENOVO standard laptops via State Contract. Approved funding is appropriated in the FY24 Elections Department budget.

11. Health Services - WARM 2024 Urgent Repair Program Support Request

The Board approved the resolution supporting an application and twenty percent (20%) funding match up to a maximum of \$20,000 for the 2024 Urgent Repair Program to be submitted by the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Inc. (WARM) for their housing rehabilitation activities in Brunswick County. The Resolution reads as follows:

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY WARM URGENT REPAIR
APPLICATION RESOLUTION OF COMMITMENT**

WHEREAS, Brunswick County wishes to demonstrate local support for the Wilmington Area Building Ministry, Inc. (WARM) Urgent Repair application; and

WHEREAS, WARM wishes to submit a competitive application to the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to assist Brunswick County residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County hereby resolves to commit \$ 20,000.00 in unrestricted local revenues to the Urgent Repair Program project. If the project is funded, these funds will be restricted in use for Brunswick County residents and be disbursed for "hard cost only" at the discretion of the Urgent Repair administrator during the FY-2025 budget year.

RESOLVED this 16th day of January, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board

12. Planning - NC Map Review Officer Resolution Update

The Board approved a North Carolina Map Review Officers Resolution that amends the list of NC Map Review Officers designated within Brunswick County. The Resolution reads as follows:

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY MAP REVIEW
OFFICER DESIGNATIONS FOR MAPS AND PLATS**

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute §47-30.2 has been enacted into law by the North Carolina General Assembly of 1997, and pursuant to that statute, the Brunswick County Commissioners have to designated certain persons as map review officers, and

WHEREAS, there has been staffing changes within Brunswick County, and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Brunswick County Commissioners to provide an adequate number of map review officers to prevent patrons from unnecessarily waiting and to avoid delay in the recording maps or plats.

NOW THEREFORE, the Brunswick County Commissioners hereby amend the Map Review Officer Resolution of September 15, 1997, to add the names of and

hereby charge Jeff Walton and Tyler Connor to execute the duties and obligations of that office, as proscribed in the above-named General Statute. Furthermore, the Brunswick County Commissioners hereby amend the said Resolution to remove the names of Nicole Morgan and Hugo Bryant. Except as Amended herein, the previous Resolution of September 15, 1997, remains in full force and in effect. This instrument shall be duly executed and then filed with the Brunswick County Register of Deeds Office and indexed in the Grantor Index in the name of the Map Review Officer named above.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting this 16th day of January 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

- 13. Public Housing - Payment Standards Change Request**
The Board approved a payment standard rate increase from 110% to 120% of HUDS published Fair Market Rents (FMR).
- 14. Public Housing - Request to Schedule Public Hearing**
The Board scheduled a public hearing on April 15, 2024, to hear any comments or suggestions on the Public Housing Agency’s goals, objectives, and policies.
- 15. Sheriff’s Office - Approval of Agreement for 911 Backup Site Consoles**
The Board approved an agreement with Evans Consoles Inc. for the purchase of the 911 Center Backup Site console workstations. The contract, valued at just over \$146,000, is covered by the Emergency Telephone System Fund (ETSF).
- 16. Sheriff’s Office - GHSP LEL Grant Application Approval**
The Board approved a grant application for the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program Law Enforcement Liaison position. This grant is valued at \$30,000 with no county match required.
- 17. Sheriff’s Office - GHSP Traffic Unit Grant Application Approval**
The Board approved the application for the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program grant for the Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit, consisting of three deputies. This is the third year of this grant with a 50% county match requirement.
- 18. Sheriff’s Office - Honeywell/USDD - 911 Automated Paging RFP**
The Board awarded and approved the associated contract with Honeywell International Inc. for their response to the 911 Center's Automated Paging RFP. This RFP was published initially in the summer of 2023 and re-advertised in September 2023. The value of the contract is \$111,131.65 and is covered using the Emergency Telephone System Fund (ETSF).
- 19. Sheriff’s Office - Sole Source Resolution & Agreement - LPR Cameras**
The Board approved a Sole Source Resolution and associated agreement authorizing the purchase of cameras and associated license plate reading proprietary software approved as part of the FY24 budget request. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF FLOCK SAFETY
APLR CAMERAS AND SOFTWARE SOLUTION 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, the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office desires to purchase and install several automated license plate reader ("ALPR") cameras in its jurisdiction for law enforcement investigation and intelligence purposes; and

WHEREAS, Flock Group, Inc. is the sole manufacturer, developer, and distributor of Flock Safety® ALPR cameras with associated proprietary comprehensive monitoring, processing, and machine vision software and services necessary to integrate with the ALPR cameras; and

WHEREAS, the Flock Safety® ALPR cameras are the only law enforcement grade ALPR system to offer various proprietary features, including, without limitation, Vehicle Fingerprint Technology®, an integrated cloud software and hardware platform, integrated audio and gunshot detection, and live video integration; 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 16th day of January, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

20. Tax - January 2024 MV Discovery Valuation & Levy for December 2023

The Board approved the January 2024 motor vehicle value & levy discovery created in December 2023.

21. Utilities - Cape Fear Engineering -23- Bolivia By-Pass Transmission Force Main

The Board authorized the Chairperson and Clerk to the Board to execute the Professional Service Agreement with Cape Fear Engineering in the amount of \$848,110 for engineering related services for the Bolivia By-Pass Transmission Force Main Project.

22. Utilities - McKim & Creed Contract for Brunswick County Sewer System Hydraulic Modeling

The Board approved a resolution to waive the Mini Brooks requirements for the selection of an engineer and approve a 3-year contract with McKim & Creed Engineers, PA in the amount of \$49,000 for engineering services related to updating, maintenance, and as-needed engineering and modeling services of the County's sewer system. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION EXEMPTING SEWER SYSTEM
HYDRAULIC MODELING FROM G.S. 143-64.31**

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.31 requires the initial solicitation and evaluation of firms to perform architectural, engineering, surveying, construction management-at-risk services, and design build services (collectively "Services") to be based on qualifications and without regard to fee;

WHEREAS, the County proposes to enter into one or more contracts for Services in connection with updating and maintaining the County’s sewer hydraulic model; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 143-64.32 authorizes units of local government to exempt contracts for such Services from the qualifications-based selection requirements of G.S. 143-64.31 if the estimated fee is less than \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, the estimated fee for the Services for the above-described project is less than \$50,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS THAT:

- 1. The above-described project is hereby made exempt from the provisions of G.S. 143- 64.31.
- 2. This resolution shall be effective upon adoption. Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to Board

VII. PRESENTATION

- 1. **Emergency Services – Preparations for Extreme Cold Weather**
David McIntire reported to the Board regarding the status of preparation for the extreme cold weather with County non-profit partnerships.
- 2. **Clerk to the Board - Proclamation in Support of MyFutureNC Attainment Goals.**
Vice - Chairman Forte presented the proclamation and made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The vote for approval passed (4 to 1) in favor. The poll is as follows:

Commissioner Thompson: Aye
Commissioner Forte: Aye
Commissioner Cooke: Aye
Commissioner Sykes: Nay
Commissioner Williams: Aye

The Proclamation reads as follows:

**PROCLAMATION TO SUPPORT THE MYFUTURENC
ATTAINMENT GOAL**

WHEREAS, MyFutureNC is a statewide non-profit organization focused on educational attainment and is the result of cross-sector collaboration between North Carolina leaders in education, business and government; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has the goal that 2 million North Carolinians will have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County is committed to build an educated and highly skilled workforce by supporting the development of future-driven and accessible education and training opportunities for students of all ages and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners along with other key partners, will help advance the educational attainment of students in North Carolina by providing the

highest level of service to support an active, dynamic and thriving community. In cooperation with our local and regional partners, we collaborate to provide responsive and efficient services that support and advance the development if our community’s educational, recreational, and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners agrees that North Carolina faces a gap between the projected needs for citizens with high-quality credentials or postsecondary degrees and the attainment of those high-quality credentials or postsecondary degrees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT: the Board of Commissioners supports the attainment goal of MyFutureNC that 2 million North Carolinians should have a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030; and

The Board supports and adopts the local educational attainment goal of continuing to collaborate with county educational partners to support their efforts to teach and retain student, faculty and staff and encourage those individuals in attaining a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030 in Brunswick County; and

The Board, along with leaders in business, education, state and local government, and community organizations, will continue to foster collaboration to achieve the goal by developing an action plan, defining successes with measurable outcomes, executing on the action plan, and sharing successful practices with MyFutureNC and peer communities.

Adopted this the 16th day of January, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chair
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Daralyn Spivey NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

3. **Finance - Water and Sewer System Development Fee - Update**
The Board received an update to Brunswick County's Water and Sewer System Development Fee Analysis originally presented on April 3, 2023, from Stephanie Cuthbert with RVE. Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve posting the report for public review and comment. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).
4. **Planning – Waccamaw River Drainage Study Community Announcement from Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development**
The Board received a presentation by Executive Director, Danielle Darkangelo, Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development, regarding the Waccamaw River Drainage Project in Brunswick County.
5. **Communications – New Brunswick County Website Overview**
At the request of Steve Stone, County Manger, this item was moved to the recessed Goals Workshop meeting convening at 9:00 a.m. January 17, 2024, in the Chambers.

VIII. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Planning - Request to consider a petition to abandon by resolution a portion of Bill Holden Road (SR 1148) from the State Maintained Secondary Road System located 0.38 Miles East of Village Point Road (SR 1145) at the intersection with Milligan Lane and River Bend Drive to the End of State Maintenance for a total distance of 0.02 Miles.

Chairman Thompson opened the Public Hearing at 8:16 p.m. with the following comments:

Mr. Barry Holden commented on his desire to have the road removed from the secondary road system and allow the closure for better securing of the property.

Hearing no further comments. Chairman Thomspon closed the public hearing at 8:18 p.m.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the resolution to allow for the closure by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Resolution reads as follows:

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION
Of HIGHWAYS REQUEST FOR DELETION TO STATE
MAINTAINED SECONDARY ROAD SYSTEM**

North Carolina
County: Brunswick

Road Description: Abandon a portion of SR 1148 (Bill Holden Road) from 0.38 miles east of SR 1145 to end of maintenance for a distance of 0.02 miles.

WHEREAS, the attached petition has been filed with the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Brunswick requesting that the above described road, the location of which has been indicated in red on the map (see agenda packet), be deleted to the Secondary Road System, and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is of the opinion that the above described road should be deleted from the Secondary Road System

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Brunswick that the Division of Highways is hereby requested to review the above-described road for the deletion from the Secondary Rad System.

CERTIFICATE:
The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Brunswick at a meeting on the 16th day of January 2024.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this the 16th day of January 2024.

Official Seal
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk, Board of Commissioners

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

- 1. Clerk to the Board – Resolution Establishing the FY24-25 Board of Commissioners Meeting Schedule**
This item was tabled until the February 5th meeting at the Board’s request.
- 2. Administration – Brunswick County Response to Proposed Homeowners Insurance Rate Increase**
The Board discussed a response for staff to draft a letter to the North Carolina Rate Bureau regarding the steep proposed increase in homeowners’ insurance rates.

X. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Clerk to the Board - Board Appointment – Brunswick Community College Board of Trustees**

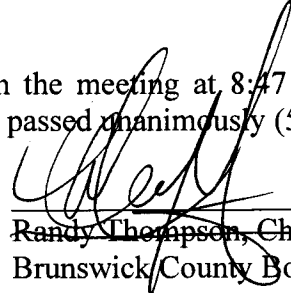
Vice - Chairman Forte made the motion to appoint Ann Landis to the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

XI. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

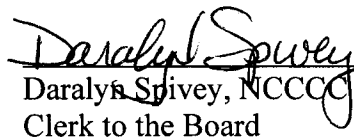
1. Commissioner Cooke would like to see the Work Session meetings reinstituted.
2. Commissioner Williams acknowledged Mr. Bob Shaver (County Attorney) as this will be his last Board Meeting before retiring effective January 31, 2024.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sykes moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (5 to 0).


~~Randy Thompson, Chairman~~ Mike Forte, vice-chair
 Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


 Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC
 Clerk to the Board

