

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 18, 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  
                              Bryan Batton, County Attorney  
                              David Stanley, Deputy County Manager  
                              Haynes Brigman, Deputy County Manager  
                              Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board  
                              LeAnn Weigand, 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**

Commissioner Sykes 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 COMMENT**

Chairman Thompson opened the public comment period at 3:03 p.m. with the following comments:

Mr. Gene Vasile spoke to his support regarding the tree ordinance special legislation, concerns with traffic, clearcutting, the Unified Development Ordinance, and allowing for smart growth in Brunswick County.

Ms. Holly Long spoke in disappointment in the reversal of the Commissioners regarding the placement of the Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA). Ms. Long supports the TIA placement at the beginning of the process.

Ms. Jean Toner spoke of her support of the TIA placement in the beginning of the development process.

Ms. Judy Andricak spoke to her concerns with the current status of the roads, police, medical personnel, and hospitals.

Ms. Shanda Blake spoke of her concerns regarding the placement of the TIA, aging roads systems, flooding and EMS accessibility, FEMA maps have not been properly updated, and the need to reinstate the TIA to the beginning of the development process.

Ms. Heather Bunkert spoke of her concerns with the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) and the responsibilities of the Board to adhere to the UDO and encourages the Board to pause development.

Mr. Dale Todd spoke to his concerns regarding the Brunswick County Board of Education purchase of security software to be installed in all twenty (20) schools for \$1M.

Mr. Jim Bradshaw spoke to his concerns with the TIA and residential development being important as the State needs to know about proposed development for future planning, the TIA should be placed prior to development review by the Planning Board.

Ms. Nancy Cook spoke to her concern regarding the Comprehensive Transportation Plan Resolution approval as Staff stated at the March 4, 2024, meeting that all incorporated areas had approved that resolution, when Bolivia had not. The Resolution of March 4, 2024, should be voided, on hold until all incorporated municipalities have approved as stated, and allowances be made for public comment should there be incorrect information presented in the future.

Ms. Trisha Farnham spoke of her concerns regarding the passing of the resolution regarding trees, property rights, and thanked the Board for their leadership.

Mr. Edward Barkley spoke to his disappointment with the way campaigns have been run in the County this election season, developers, and high taxes in the County,

Ms. Shelley Allen spoke to her concerns regarding proposed \$1M security/technology upgrade for Brunswick County Schools and the lack of data driven information, concerns with facial recognition software, student privacy/surveillance and any possible liability Brunswick County Schools may encounter.

## **V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. **Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024 Regular Meeting**  
The Board approved the meeting minutes of March 4, 2024.
2. **County Attorney – Cedar Hill Industrial Development, Ph 1 Deed of Dedication**  
The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Cedar Hill Industrial Development, Phase 1.
3. **County Attorney – Interlocal Agreement with Town of Leland for Planning and Inspections for a Commercial Property Within Both Jurisdiction.**  
The Board approved an interlocal agreement with the Town of Leland regarding the planning and inspections of commercial property within both jurisdictions.

- 4. **County Attorney – Sharron Creek Crossing Deed of Dedication**  
The Board approved the Deed of Dedication for water infrastructure for Sharron Creek Crossing.
- 5. **Emergency Services – Purchase of Seven Ambulances with Approved FY23/24 County Funds and ARPA Funds**  
The Board approved the purchase of the seven ambulances originally approved in the FY23/24 County budget and ARPA Funding. Ambulances to be purchased from Frazer, LTD.
- 6. **Finance – Fiscal Items**  
The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances, and Fiscal Items if a routine nature to include the following:
  - EMS Insurance Proceeds Budget Amendment**  
Appropriated \$33,000 of insurance proceeds for replacement of wrecked vehicle.
  - Miscellaneous Revenues Water Budget Amendment**  
Appropriated \$4,181 of miscellaneous revenues to repair and maintenance distribution mains for reimbursement of repairs to a line damaged by a contractor.
  - Miscellaneous Revenues Sewer Budget Amendment**  
Appropriated \$2,847 of miscellaneous revenues to repair and maintenance equipment for reimbursement of repairs to a line damaged by a contractor.
  - Financial Reports for February 2024 (unaudited)**  
Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA and Opioid project statuses, key revenue indicators, and Cash and Investments detail are included. All year-to-date fiscal reports are provided at:  
<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/305/Financial-Reports#>
- 7. **Health Services – Annual Flu and COVID Vaccine Order for FY2024-25**  
The Board reviewed and approved the annual flu and COVID vaccine order for FY2024-25 and authorized staff to execute an agreement subject to County Attorney approval.
- 8. **Health Services – Request the Board of Commissioners Approve the Agreement with Brunswick County Schools for the BOC approved Item #V9 at it’s March 4, 2024 Meeting “ARPA COVID-19 School Health Team Workforce Support”**  
The Board approved the agreement with Brunswick County Schools facilitating pass through of grant funds from NC DHHS to continue support of the BCS health team staffing.
- 9. **Human Resources – Carrier Change for County-Provided LTD, Basic Life, and Voluntary Employee Benefits**  
The Board approved the changing of lines of coverage from the current carrier VOYA to Unum and authorized the County Manager to execute the required documentation upon approval of the County Attorney including County provided long-term disability, County provided Long Term Disability, County provided Term Life Insurance, Employee Optional Lines: Supplemental Life, Voluntary Short-Term Disability and Voluntary Critical Illness.
- 10. **Human Resources – Renewal of Medical and Dental Insurance**  
The Board approved the renewal of medical insurance with the North Carolina Health Insurance Pool (NCHIP), dental insurance with Delta Dental, authorized the County Manager to execute the required renewal documentation, and approved

Human Resources to schedule Open Enrollment for plan year 2024-2025 (July1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

11. **Operation Services – Landfill Asphalt Project for New Transfer Station Construction or Repair Agreement**

The Board approved the Construction or Repair Agreement with Carolina Creations Landscape, Inc. for the Asphalt Project around the new transfer station at the Brunswick County Landfill.

12. **Sheriff’s Office – GHSP LEL Grant Amendment Budget Reduction**

The Board approved the de-obligation of \$5,000 that was recently amended and added to the Governors Highway Safety Program (GHSP) Law Enforcement Liaison (LEL) grant budget.

13. **Sheriff’s Office – Resolution to Donate Surplus Vehicles**

The Board approved the resolution to donate three vehicles currently assigned to the Sheriff’s Office to the Town of Navassa. The resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF  
TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY LAW  
ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES NO LONGER NECESSARY OR USEFUL  
FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES**

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, on behalf of the citizens of Brunswick County, wishes to support another governmental unit in Brunswick County seeking to make the County a better place for its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-280, personal property that the Board of Commissioners deems to be surplus, obsolete, or unused may be donated to another governmental unit within the United States, a sister county, or a non-profit organization incorporated by the United States, one of the United States, or the District of Columbia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Navassa is another governmental unit within the State of North Carolina and situated in Brunswick County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Sheriff has three vehicles, namely: a 2012 Dodge Charger VIN# 2C3CDXAT5CH201500, a 2013 Dodge Charger VIN# 2C3CDXAT8DH721658, and a 2014 Dodge Charger VIN# 2C3CDXATXE367014 that are fixed assets of Brunswick County and that are no longer suitable or useful for law enforcement or other County purposes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Sheriff requests that he be allowed to transfer ownership and possession of the above-described vehicles to the Town of Navassa.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:**

1. That the Sheriff, or his designee, is hereby authorized to transfer ownership and possession of the three above-described vehicles that are no longer useful or necessary for law enforcement or other County purposes from Brunswick County to the Town of Navassa.
2. That the transfer of the above-described vehicles is “AS IS, WHERE IS” and without any warranties, express or implied.
3. That this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

Adopted this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:  
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

- 14. **Tax Admin- March 12024 Releases**  
The Board approved the March 2024 releases.
- 15. **Utilities – McKim and Creed Task Order No. 3 – WBRWRF Solids Handling Pump**  
The Board approved and authorized the Chairman and Clerk to the Board to execute Task Order No. 3 with McKim and Creed Engineering in the amount of \$12,500 for engineering services in association with the West Brunswick Regional Water Reclamation Facility.
- 16. **Utilities – McKim and Creed – Task Order No. 4 – NE WWTP NPW Modification**  
The Board authorized the Chairman and Clerk to the Board to execute Task Order No. 4 with McKim and Creed Engineering in the amount of \$22,500 for engineering services in association with the Northeast Brunswick Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- 17. **Utilities – Ratify Emergency Contract - Lockwood Folly Directional Drill - Sandy’s Hauling & Backhoe Service Inc.**  
The Board ratified the emergency contract with Sandy’s Hauling & Backhoe Service Inc., in the amount of \$241,520 for the Emergency Force Main Drill Replacement under the Lockwood Folly River on Old Ocean Hwy.

VI. **PRESENTATIONS**

- 1. **Administration – NC DOT Presentation: Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) Process and Options**  
The Board received a presentation from NC DOT Scott James outlining the process relating to the Traffic Impact Analysis and new development.

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the TIA placement to the beginning of the development approval process prior to the Planning Board review. Chairman Thompson seconded the motion. The vote failed (3 to 2) to move the TIA to pre-Planning Board review. The poll is as follows:

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

Commissioner Williams made the motion to place this item on the April 1, 2024 Board of Commissioners meeting to allow time to read over documents provided by DOT. Vice – Chairman Forte seconded the motion. The vote for approval passed (4 to 1) in favor of moving the item to the April 1, 2024 Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting. The poll is as follows:

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

Commissioner Williams: Aye

- 2. **Clerk to the Board – National County Government Month Proclamation**  
Commissioner Williams read the following proclamation in support of National County Government Month:

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL AS NATIONAL COUNTY  
GOVERNMENT MONTH IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY,  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS**, the nation’s 3,142 counties, parishes and boroughs serving more than 334 million Americans provide essential services to create healthy, safe and vibrant communities; and

**WHEREAS**, counties provide public health services, administer justice, keep communities safe, foster economic opportunities and much more; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County and all counties take pride in our responsibility to protect and enhance the health, wellbeing and safety of our residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of National Association of Counties President Mary Jo McGuire, NACo theme is “ForwardTogether” in support of residents and businesses taking and interest in and to engage with their community, and how it presents an opportunity to lead in new and growing ways; and

**WHEREAS**, each year since 1991 the National Association of Counties has encouraged counties across the country to elevate awareness of county responsibilities, programs and services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT**, the Brunswick County Board of County Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 2024 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

**ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman  
Brunswick County Commissioners

ATTEST:  
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC.CMC  
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Proclamation.  
Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

- 3. **Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – Honor Flight**  
Commissioner Sykes read and presented the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING HONOR FLIGHT OF  
THE CAPE FEAR AREA**

**WHEREAS**, the security of the United States relies on patriotic women and men who put their personal lives on hold and place themselves in harm’s way to protect the freedoms on which this country was founded and that all citizens of the United States cherish; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honor Flight Network is a national, non-profit organization created by Earl Morse, a physician assistant and retired Air Force captain, and Jeff Miller, a small business owner and son of a World War II Veteran solely to honor America's Veterans for all their sacrifices; and

**WHEREAS**, through the Honor Flight organization, over 250,000 World War II, Korea War, and Vietnam War Veterans from across the United States have an opportunity to take an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. to visit the military service memorials; and

**WHEREAS**, many Veterans have never visited Washington, D.C., and could not make this trip without Honor Flight's support and resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area is a recently established hub of the national program led by local volunteers to pay tribute to Veterans in the Cape Fear area, and to educate members of the community about our local heroes; and

**WHEREAS**, annually in the spring, this amazing organization provides World War II, Korea War, and Vietnam War Veterans a chance to fly out of Wilmington International Airport to Washington D.C. and visit their memorials; giving participants the unique opportunity both to pay their respects to their fellow soldiers and to receive the time of reflection and celebration they so richly deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina’s Veterans of World War II, the Korea War, and the Vietnam War embody the spirit of service with a willingness to find meaning in something greater than themselves, and it is fitting and proper that the outstanding accomplishments and sacrifices of these distinguished Americans be honored appropriately.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners commend North Carolina’s Veterans of World War II, the Korea War, and the Vietnam War; Honor Flight of the Cape Fear Area is recognized; and Brunswick County extends its deepest appreciation to those who stood ever ready to make the ultimate sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Adopted, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chair  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:  
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC  
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Sykes made a motion to adopt the Proclamation. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

- 1. **Clerk to the Board – Public Hearing Regarding the Installation of Infrastructure and Purchase of Real Property for Economic Development Purposes**  
Mr. Bill Early from Brunswick Business and Industry Development summarized the request of Mid-Atlantic Industrial Rail Park to build internal infrastructure using available grant funding of potentially \$7M with an additional 27 acres of land to be purchased.

Chairman Thompson opened the Public Hearing at 7:27 p.m. with the following comments:

Mr. Jim Bradshaw supports additional businesses being brought into the County.

Hearing no further comments the public hearing was closed at 7:28 p.m.

Vice Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the installation of utility infrastructure and acquisition of real property for Economic Development purposes pursuant to NCGS 158-7.1 and authorizing the County Manager to execute a purchase contract for the property subject to review and approval of the County Attorney. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

1. **Administration –Tree Standard Regulation Request to NC General Assembly**  
Mr. Brigman presented the Board with a resolution attached in the packet requesting the NC General Assembly to grant the County the authority to establish tree regulations related to heritage tree protections and clear cutting not associated with forestry activity. The Board was also presented with a secondary resolution for consideration. The included resolution reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO REGULATE TREES WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION**

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County is the fastest growing county in the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County FY23 - FY27 Strategic Plan identifies Growth and Sustainability as a key focus area and encourages “forward-thinking development and construction practices that balance respect for natural resources and private property”; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of community meetings were held with Brunswick County residents and community members regarding growth and development, which culminated in the adoption of the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Plan in February 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Plan encourages maintaining the aesthetics that draw visitors to the county, protecting environmental resources, and seeking options for effectively preserving and protecting trees; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County residents and community members further participated in a Tree and Landscaping Community Meeting in December 2023 wherein concerns were raised regarding the removal of trees within the jurisdiction of Brunswick County; and

**WHEREAS**, several counties and municipalities in North Carolina have received local acts of the General Assembly authorizing the regulation of trees; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County desires the option to regulate trees in order to help mitigate growth impacts by preserving and protecting heritage trees and limiting clear cutting when not part of forestry activities as contemplated by N.C.G.S. § 160D-921; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners finds that the authority to regulate trees may serve the best interests of the people of Brunswick County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the North Carolina General Assembly to grant Brunswick County the authority to regulate trees through the preservation and protection of heritage trees and the limitation of clear cutting when not part of forestry activities.



Adopted this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Randell Thompson, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:  
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board

A secondary proposed resolution was presented by staff at the meeting and reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO REGULATE TREES WITHIN  
ITS JURISDICTION**

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County is the fastest growing county in the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County FY23 - FY27 Strategic Plan identifies Growth and Sustainability as a key focus area and encourages “forward-thinking development and construction practices that balance respect for natural resources and private property”; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of community meetings were held with Brunswick County residents and community members regarding growth and development, which culminated in the adoption of the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Plan in February 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Plan encourages maintaining the aesthetics that draw visitors to the county, protecting environmental resources, and seeking options for effectively preserving and protecting trees; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County residents and community members further participated in a Tree and Landscaping Community Meeting in December 2023 wherein concerns were raised regarding the removal of trees within the jurisdiction of Brunswick County; and

**WHEREAS**, several counties and municipalities in North Carolina have received local acts of the General Assembly authorizing the regulation of trees; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County desires the option to regulate trees in order to help mitigate growth impacts solely by preserving and protecting heritage trees and limiting clear cutting when not part of forestry activities as contemplated by N.C.G.S. § 160D-921 and for no other purposes and through no other methods; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners finds that the authority to regulate trees may serve the best interests of the people of Brunswick County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the North Carolina General Assembly to grant Brunswick County the authority to regulate trees solely through the preservation and protection of heritage trees and the limitation of clear cutting when not part of forestry activities and for no other purposes and through no other methods.

Adopted this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

Randell Thompson, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:  
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC  
Clerk to the Board

Commissioner Williams made a motion to table this Resolution until the April 1, 2024, Regular Board Meeting allowing for time to review both iterations of the Resolution and to submit any suggested changes. Vice - Chairman Forte seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

**2. Sheriff's Office – Notice of Award and Agreement – Inmate Medical**

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve and award the agreement with Wellpath, LLC for the Sheriff's Office Detention Center Inmate Healthcare Services. The agreement is for a one-year term valued at \$2,101,695. Commissioner Cooke seconded the motion with the motion passing (4 to 1). The poll is as follows:

Commissioner Thompson: Aye

Commissioner Forte: Aye

Commissioner Cooke: Aye

Commissioner Sykes: Nay

Commissioner Williams: Aye

**IX. BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

**1. Clerk to the Board – Fire Fee Committee Appointment for Districts 3**

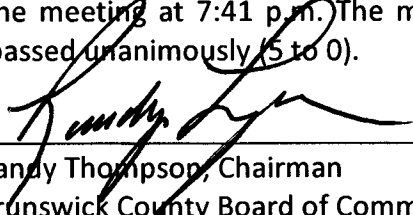
Commissioner Sykes made the motion to appoint Robert Cobb to the District 3 Fire Fee Committee vacant seat. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

**X. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

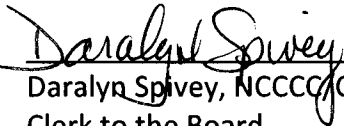
Commissioner Williams questioned the wait time reported in the Veterans Services reports. Mr. Stanley reported there is mandatory training time that has been completed and as a part of the budget process, the wait time is being addressed and volunteer staff has been brought in to assist where they can.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sykes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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

