

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 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 Pat Sykes
Commissioner Frank Williams
- ABSENT

Commissioner J. Martin Cooke
- STAFF:

Steve Stone, County Manager
Bryan Batton, 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
Jason Barnes, 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 6:01 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, Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Thompson opened the public comment period at 6:02 p.m. with the following comments:

Ms. Nancy Cook, Mayor of Bolivia, spoke to Bolivia’s concerns with Senate Bill 675 and read the Resolution adopted by the Town at their June 11, 2024 Meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Vice – Chairman Forte and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

1. Administration - Resolution Exempting Brunswick County Government Office Entrance Sign Project from N.C.G.S. 143-64.31

The Board approved the resolution regarding engineering services associated with the refurbishment of the entrance sign located in front of the Bolivia government offices. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION EXEMPTING BRUNSWICK COUNTY
GOVERNMENT OFFICE ENTRANCE SIGN PROJECT
FROM N.C.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; and

WHEREAS, the County proposes to enter into one or more contracts with Nichols Engineering PLLC for a professional review of project plans for the refurbishment of the entrance sign located in front of the Brunswick County Bolivia Government offices; 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 17th day of June, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

2. Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes and June 3, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board approved the Regular Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2024 Special Meeting and June 3, 2024 Regular Meeting.

3. County Attorney – Heartsease at Calabash Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Heartsease at Calabash.

4. County Attorney – River Tide Farms, Phase 1 Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure in River Tide Farms, Phase 1.

5. Finance – ARPA Funding Allocation Request for Restoring Pre-Pandemic Employment FY24 Qtr. 4

The Board appropriated \$1,000,000 of American Rescue Pan Act funds to increase the Restoring Pre-Pandemic Employment project.

6. **Finance – Board of Education – Request to Delay Budget Submittal**

The Board approved the Brunswick County Schools' request to submit budget after statutory date due to the current funding agreement.

7. **Finance – Fiscal Items**

The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances, and Fiscal Items if a routine nature to include the following:

-Close Airport Grant 36244.58.13.1 Budget Amendment and CPO

Closeout Airport Grant 36244.58.13.1 and return \$39,701 of unexpended county funded match to the County Capital Reserve undesignated funds.

-Operations Services Paving Project Budget Amendment

Transferred \$65,000 Operation Services has budgeted to pave the horseshoe loop along the east/northeast side of Building A (the parking area between Building A and the Administration Building parking lot) to the reserve to pave the area after completion of the new Health and Human Services Building project.

-Landfill Closure Reserve Budget Amendment

Appropriated and transfer \$685,298 to the county capital reserve landfill closure project for future planned project.

-Investment Earnings Bond Referendum School Projects Phase 2 and 3 Budget Amendments and CPO

Appropriated Investment Earnings in 2016 Bond Referendum School Projects Phase 2 and Phase 3 to offset the purchase of a warehouse as approved by the Board of Education on June 4, 2024.

-Navassa Water System Rehab Project

Transferred \$100,000 from the Water Fund to support the Navassa Water System Rehab revolving loan project.

-NC Education Lottery Application

Authorized the Chairman to execute the signed North Carolina Education Lottery application. Cherie Wisse, Brunswick County Schools Finance Officer, submitted the attached State lottery funding application for \$1,000,000 in lottery funds used for the 2015 and 2022 LOBS debt payments in FY 2024-2025.

-General Revenues Budget Amendment

Appropriated revenues and anticipated corresponding expenditures through June 30, 2024.

-Comp-time payout Budget Amendment

Appropriated investment earnings for the payout of comp-time earned over 40 hours.

-HSF Foster Care State Revenues Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$85,000 of State Foster Home HSF revenues and transfer lapsed salaries for county matching portion for use in the State Foster Home HSF Program.

-Financial Reports for May 2024 (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:

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

8. Finance – Superior Court Judge’s Office – FY25 MOA with NC Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC)

The Board approved the annual renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement between Brunswick County, Judge Jason C. Disbrow and the North Carolina Office of the Courts for the Trial Court Coordinator State Employee Position and delegate signing authority of agreement to the County Manager

9. Health Services – Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. Agreement for Substance Use Recovery Services for Brunswick County Residents – FY2025

The Board approved the FY 24-25 fee-for-service contract with Christian Recovery Centers, Inc.

10. Health Services FY2024 CRCI Contract for Substance Use Recovery Services

The Board approved the revised FY 2024 agreement with Christian Recovery Centers, Inc. for Substance Use Recovery Services.

11. Health Services - The Healing Place of New Hanover County Agreement for Substance Abuse Services for Brunswick County residents - FY 2025

The Board approved the FY 24-25 fee-for-service contract with The Healing Place.

12. Information Technology – Acceptance of eRate Funding and Approval of Appropriations for the Brunswick County Library for FY25

The Board approved the acceptance of eRate funding (\$79,113.70) and appropriations of (\$26,442.00) for Broadband services and structured cabling for Brunswick County Library for FY25.

13. Operation Services – Convenient Site Fees

The Board approved the new convenient site fees, increased by 3.5% per March 2024 CPI and contract terms, applied to all rates and rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

14. Operation Services – Central Carolina Holdings, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Tire Services of North Carolina LLC

The Board awarded a Services Agreement for scrap tire recycling services to Central Carolina Holdings, L.L.C. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Liberty Tire Services of North Carolina, LLC)

15. Register of Deeds – Register of Deeds Building I Renovation

The Board appropriated \$40,000 of available ROD funds to renovate the ROD counter area to be completed by Operation Services.

16. Sheriff’s Office – ATF MOA with Sheriff’s Office

The Board approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Brunswick County Sheriff’s Settlement funds to pay for the program and its two positions.

17. Sheriff’s Office – Grant Application Approval PSGP

The Board approved an application for the Port Security Program (PSGP). The total grant value is \$32,470 which includes a 25% County Match that will be facilitated with drug seizure funds.

18. Sheriff’s Office – Resolution Exempting Project from Mini-Brooks Act – Engineering Services

The Board approved a resolution exempting the Law Enforcement Memorial Project from Mini-Brooks Act. The project requires an Engineer to review and

approve the memorials plans and a firm has offered to complete the service at no cost. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION EXEMPTING BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF’S OFFICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL PROJECT
FROM N.C.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; and

WHEREAS, the County proposes to utilize the engineering services of Summey Engineering Services, P.L.L.C., for memorial design review and approval; 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 17th day of June, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:
Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

- 19. **Utilities – Cape Fear Engineering, Inc – Shallotte Water Transmission Line**
The Board approved the contract amendment with Cape Fear Engineering to increase the agreement amount by \$40,093 for additional engineering services associated with the extended construction administration of the Shallotte Water Transmission Main. This will adjust the total contract account to \$346,718.
- 20. **Utilities – Shallotte Transmission Water Main – Final Adjusting Change Order – Ralph Hodge Construction**
The Board approved the final adjusting order, in the amount of \$63,015 (Deduct) and a time extension of 371 days for the Shallotte Transmission Water Main project with Ralph Hodge Construction. This will adjust the total contract to \$5,695,531.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. **Clerk to the Board - Public Hearing to Receive Comments on the FY 2025 Brunswick County Budget, Fees, and Capital Improvement Plan**

Chairman Thomspson opened the Public Hearing at 6:09 p.m.

The following comments were received via email. Those noted as "printed" were given to each Board member for their review as the agenda had been published prior to these comments being received.

Ms. Faith Badeaux two (2) comments:

1). Please accept these comments for senior health issues at senior centers. I would like to add to this forwarded email that at the Shallotte senior center on 4/17/24 at 10am, there was one lady at the desk while our cardio class was in session. It was crowded as the class is very popular. I was in the back of the group exercising where suddenly a man within 2 feet of me was spraying insecticide all around me on the baseboards. No mention of this warned anyone in the group or the leader Joann that this would take place. I walked immediately to the desk at the entry and asked why we were not told this would take place. The woman said we would be able to see him doing it. I did not see him until he was right in my space. Nor did the others. He was hunching over as if to hide himself. When I asked him what he was spraying he seemed happy he was getting away with doing it under our noses. Is this considered something that is healthy for us seniors? I have lung cancer and when I told the lady at the desk my concerns about this she just stared and said he only comes once a year! We need funds for a proper staff who have consideration for the well-being of the seniors. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

2). I am responding with a comment for the budget in case I can't make the meeting. The Calabash Senior center needs a major overhaul on the roof and ceilings. It has been leaking badly whenever it rains and has created a mold problem. We members have been asking when it will be fixed for years now. We heard that the roofing company did a bad job and then went out of business. The county has not responded to requests for help. It has created an unhealthy situation and people are deciding to leave and not return. Please allow funds for a proper roof and ceiling cleanup.

I am 75 and attend classes and enjoy the facilities at both Calabash and Shallotte Senior Centers. When donations were asked for at the Calabash center, I donated generously. The Calabash Art group I am a part of has disbanded because the current Program Mgr. Put an old and dirty fish tank with no fish in our meeting room. This tank is full of water and the chemicals in it are toxic and ruined the artwork that was hung near it. It melted the finish off of frames! It is not being cleaned up behind it even though we informed Heather about what was happening. Some of us were also feeling some allergic type effects from this tank. The group asked Heather to remove the tank and she said "It's staying" angrily. The low ceiling in there cannot accommodate it with the fumes it emits. It will ruin the peg board behind it and more. Help please. Please allow funds for a proper director for maintenance issues. The place is becoming very run down. Thank You for your attention to these matters.

Ms. Zakiya Bowens

Proposed Budget for Providing Reverse Osmosis Systems and Filters to Brunswick County Residents

Objective:

To provide all residents of Brunswick County with reverse osmosis systems and sink and shower filters to address the ongoing PFAS water contamination issue.

Estimated Population and Households:

- Total Population of Brunswick County: Approximately 142,000
- Average Household Size: 2.5
- Total Households: 56,800

Cost Estimates: Reverse Osmosis System (per household): \$300

- Sink Filter (per household): \$50

- Shower Filter (per household): \$50
- Total Cost per Household:
- Reverse Osmosis System: \$300
 - Sink Filter: \$50
 - Shower Filter: \$50
 - Total per Household: \$400
- Overall Budget Calculation:
- Total Households: 56,800
 - Total Cost for All Households: 56,800 households \$400 = \$22,720,000

Budget Proposal

To the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners,
I am writing to propose an allocation of \$22,720,000 in the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget to provide all residents of Brunswick County with reverse osmosis systems and sink and shower filters. This measure is essential to address the severe PFAS contamination in our water supply and ensure the health and safety of our community.

Detailed Budget Breakdown:

1. Reverse Osmosis Systems: \$300 * 56,800 households = \$17,040,000
2. Sink Filters: \$50 * 56,800 households = \$2,840,000
3. Shower Filters: \$50 * 56,800 households = \$2,840,000
4. Total Proposed Budget: \$22,720,000

Justification

Recent reports have confirmed that the drinking water in Brunswick County and other parts of North Carolina is contaminated with PFAS, posing significant health risks including cancer, immune system problems, and reproductive issues. Governor Roy Cooper has emphasized the need for immediate action and accountability from polluters. However, while long-term solutions are being implemented, it is critical to provide residents with immediate protection through effective filtration systems.

Call to Action

I urge the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to prioritize this budget allocation to safeguard our community's health. Providing reverse osmosis systems and filters is a necessary step to mitigate the impact of PFAS contamination on our daily lives.

Conclusion

Your support and immediate action are crucial to address this pressing public health issue. Together, we can ensure that all Brunswick County residents have access to clean, safe drinking water.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Mr. Kevin Carlson:

Good day,

This note is to provide public comment input into the Brunswick County FY 2025 Budget process. I'm forwarding an email sent to Commissioner Sykes on 5/20/2024, which at this date remains unanswered. I have two requests, 1) These questions and perspectives are included into the public record for the upcoming FY 2025 budget, and 2) Someone from Brunswick County leadership, with authority to do so, provides answers to these questions.

Also attached is a copy of the March 2024 presentation made by the BSRI CEO to a public group at the NCAOA conference. The question is, why is a taxpayer funded, County managed non-profit CEO engaged is delivering proactive marketing support for an out of state, for profit, real estate development firm?

Thank you in advance for your time and follow-up.

Good day Commissioner Sykes,

I hope this finds you and yours doing well and in good health. You may recall you were nice enough to meet with me the week prior to the primary election. Congratulations again on your election success.

Couple of points:

- The affordable housing issue continues to be a major concern for many in the County, whether they are housing cost burdened or not.
- It appears to me that Brunswick County government does not have a plan or policies to address the affordable housing issue. I find no mention of affordable housing in the most recent Brunswick County Strategic Plan.
- Brunswick County tax dollars, resources are being directly deployed in support of market rate, for profit senior housing real estate development by BSRI. BSRI is a taxpayer funded, County supported non-profit.

My questions are:

- 1) With the significance of the affordable housing issue in Brunswick County, why is a tax payer funded, County supported non-profit, BSRI, allowed to be engaged in real estate development of for profit market rate housing? Why isn't BSRI leading the County's efforts to address the affordable housing crisis?
- 2) Why is BSRI exploring for profit, market rate real estate housing development opportunities in locations outside of the Brunswick County geographical boundaries?
- 3) Why is BSRI positioning itself to acquire a for profit real estate development firm that owns/operates multiple housing communities outside of Brunswick County geographical boundaries?

There is relatively low awareness amongst interested parties of these issues. I expect this will change.

Thank you in advance for your time and response.

*Clerks Note: The slide presentation referenced above from BSRI has been filed with the June 17, 2024, Regular Meeting documents in the vault for reference.

Ms. Dana Carpenter:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year

Ms. Pamela Cook:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Lauren Costello:

Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and

functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Elizabeth Randall-Davis

Dear County Commissioners,
I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Tyler Daye (Common Cause North Carolina Democracy North Carolina, Southern Coalition for Social Justice) (printed):

Good afternoon,
Please see the attached letter regarding the Brunswick County Y2024-2025 budget from Common Cause NC, Democracy NC, and the Southern Coalition for Social Justice. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or any of my colleagues from the aforementioned organizations copied to this email.

Dear Brunswick County Commissioners,
We are writing today to share information about the importance of county elections funding as you finalize your Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget and to encourage you to fully fund the two new full-time positions requested by the Brunswick County Board of Elections.

Common Cause North Carolina, Democracy North Carolina, and Southern Coalition for Social Justice are nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations dedicated to ensuring free, fair, and secure elections for all voters. Over the past several election cycles, we have researched funding for county boards of elections around the state. In this major election year, we encourage the Commissioners to fully fund the Board of Elections to provide the best possible voting experience for Brunswick County’s more than 131,000 registered voters.

Brunswick County’s Rapid Growth and Unique Population Leads to Significant Increase in Registered Voters

The Brunswick County Board of Elections budget request for FY2024-2025 was \$1,849,510. This included funding for two new full-time positions, a Voter Outreach Coordinator and a Candidate Coordinator. These positions would be the first full-time additions to the Elections staff since 2016.

These positions are more critical now than ever before because Brunswick County’s rapidly increasing population means the number of voters the Board of Elections serves has increased significantly over the last decade.

Due to its explosive population growth, Brunswick County stands out among other counties nationwide, not just in North Carolina. Out of North Carolina’s 100 counties, Brunswick County is the fastest growing, and a 2022 U.S. Census report found that Brunswick County was the 7th fastest growing county out of the over 3,000 counties in the United States.

With the increase in population has come an increase in the number of registered voters served by the Brunswick County Board of Elections. Between November 2020 and June 2024, Brunswick County gained more than 17,000 new

registered voters, a 15% increase. This was the highest percentage increase in registered voters during that period among any of North Carolina’s counties.

Between June 4, 2016, and June 1, 2024, Brunswick County has added more than 41,300 additional registered voters – an approximately 46% increase. ¹ That’s more than the total number of registered voters in Columbus County.

Brunswick County is also unique in having a particularly large population of older adults compared to similarly sized counties. Consequently, Brunswick has a higher voting age population and a higher rate of registered voters per capita than similarly sized counties and even some larger counties, as illustrated in the table below. For example, Brunswick County’s estimated population in 2022 was 31.4% smaller than Onslow County, but Brunswick County currently has approximately 4.2% more registered voters.

Likewise, both Brunswick and Rowan counties have populations of similar size. However, data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey reveal that Brunswick and Rowan counties’ populations have very different age distribution patterns. A majority – 51% - of Brunswick County’s residents are age 55 or older, and just 14.5% are under age 18. In contrast, only 32% of Rowan County residents are 55 or older, and 22% are under age 18. This likely explains why Brunswick County has a much higher number of registered voters than Rowan County.

County	<u>2022 Total Population (Estimate)</u>	<u>June 2022 Registered Voters</u>	<u>June 2024 Registered Voters</u>
Brunswick	152,515	122,031	131,755
Onslow	209,492	114,098	126,268
Alamance	178,232	112,272	114,085
Davidson	174,101	113,902	116,459
Pitt	173,481	117,675	122,462
Catawba	164,642	109,291	112,153
Rowan	150,714	96,470	97,829
Orange	148,707	108,348	109,381
Randolph	144,836	95,193	95,974

Data from the NC Office of State Management and Budget and the NC State Board of Elections

Funding Two Staff Positions is Necessary to Support Year-Round Election Activities.

Given this exponential voter population growth, both new positions requested by the Board of Elections are necessary to support the larger number of voters in the County.

We understand that the County Commissioners have discussed funding one position that would combine the responsibilities of both requested jobs, and we applaud the Commissioners’ willingness to fund a new position. But under this compromise proposal, one individual would be responsible for a huge number of tasks: responding to ever-increasing public records requests, helping candidates

1 <https://portcitydaily.com/latest-news/2024/05/08/brunswick-elections-director-fails-to-get-commissioner-approval-for-all-requested-positions/>

like yourselves navigate a complicated elections process, reviewing campaign finance reports, and producing communications and events to educate the public. By contrast, funding two positions would help ensure the Brunswick County Board of Elections staff can complete these critical activities.

County board of elections staff work year-round to plan and prepare for elections. This year-round work includes recruiting and training dozens of poll workers, finding and setting up polling sites, promoting elections, maintaining and testing voting equipment, mailing and reviewing absentee ballots, reviewing and issuing voter IDs, regularly updating voter rolls, processing voter registrations, hearing voter and candidate challenges, fulfilling public records requests, reviewing candidate filing, hearing election protests, conducting post-election audits, canvassing the county’s election results and more.

A fully equipped staff is essential to ensure the Borad of Elections can administer excellent and secure elections for the voters of Brunswick County this year and in the years to come. Robust county staffing is even more crucial when the State Board of Elections has few regional field specialists to assist counties.

In conclusion, it is vital that the Brunswick County Board of Elections has all the resources it needs to fulfill its responsibilities and provide the best service to all voters and candidates in the fastest-growing county in North Carolina. Our elections system is critical infrastructure – as essential as maintaining power plants and transportation systems. For these reasons, we encourage the Board of Commissioners to approve the full funding request from the Board of Elections.

Thank you very much for your consideration and service to the people of Brunswick County.

Ms. Shelley Grentner:
Dear County Commissioners,
I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Charles Grentner:
Dear County Commissioners,
I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Kathy Gillcrest:
Dear County Commissioners,
I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Sara Jarvis:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Janyce Jones:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Robert Larson:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to provide adequate early polling sites and hours, voter education, recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers, and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Cornelia Maxted:

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. Kent Mickel:

What are we doing regarding over building and infrastructure upgrades to handle the additional people? What is the county doing to attract business to help lessen future tax increases by offsetting them with commercial tax?

Ms. Sherene Miller:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education, recruitment, training and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the next fiscal year budget.

Ms. Susan Nelson (printed):

Please consider hiring enough people to handle the Increase in Population in Brunswick County! As a past Volunteer on Early Voting and Election Day Voting, I sincerely agree that we need more paid people working in that Office!!

Ms. Danielle Poppie:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe and fair elections.

These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Mr. George Potts III:

No tax hikes period this year; Do not plan future projects which will cause them. We are depending on you.

Ms. Kelley Wheat-Rivers:

I am a resident of New Hanover County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Ms. Christina Schenk (printed):

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County and am writing to ask you to support sufficient funding to ensure accessible, safe, and fair elections, including early polling sites with extended hours, voter education, training and recruitment for poll workers, and up-to-date equipment for sites. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming year.

Elizabeth Schrieber:

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Joan Wilsusen

CONSIDER

Brunswick County roads are crumbling from heavy housing construction item transport. Strong increases in traffic. Much sediment into our swamp canals and streams due to massive construction in housing in Brunsco. Deforestation severe=probable increased flooding will ensue. Funding for continuation of Route 31.

Angie Wodrazka:

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Barbara Johnson (printed):

Dear County Commissioners,

I am a resident of Brunswick County, and I am emailing you to request that you support sufficient funding to support accessible, safe, and fair elections. These funds are needed to adequately provide adequate early polling sites and hours; voter education; recruitment, training, and retention of poll workers; and functional voting equipment and technology. Please keep these needs in mind as you vote on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Hearing no comments, Chairman Thompson closed the Public Hearing for this meeting at 6:10 p.m.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Administration – FY2025 Budget Ordinance, Fees, Capital Improvement Plan, and Opioid Settlement Fund Resolution

Mr. Stone presented a balanced budget and presented the following resolution for approval.

Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to remove the Foundation for Brunswick Community College portion of the budget and be voted on separately as he is the current sitting President of that foundation and to recuse himself from that vote. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to remove that funding from the vote and to allow the recusal of Vice – Chairman Forte with all in favor (4 to 0).

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Foundation for Brunswick Community College funding request. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (3 to 0) with Vice – Chairman Forte recused.

Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to adopt the FY2025 Budget Ordinance, Fees, Capital Improvement Plan, and Opioid Settlement Fund Resolution. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0).

The Opioid Settlement Fund Resolution reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, Brunswick County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids.

WHEREAS, the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and 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”) and the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation (“SAAF”);

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 that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government’s governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- i. indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- ii. states 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. states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

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

- 1. First strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #3
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$32,627
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide care navigation services to families involved with the Department of Social Services to support parents in treatment or recovery and/or who use drugs in accessing needed services.
 - g. Provider: Department of Social Services

- 2. Second strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Early Intervention
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #6
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$32,627
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide supportive services, programs, and training to youth involved with the Department of Social Services who are struggling with problematic use of drugs or mental health conditions due to their parent's substance use.
 - g. Provider: Department of Social Services

- 3. Third strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Post Overdose Response Team
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #8
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$293,229
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Post-overdose response team to connect persons who have experienced non-fatal drug overdoses to addiction treatment, recovery support, harm reduction, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health or well-being.
 - g. Provider: Emergency Medical Services and Health Department

- 4. Fourth strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Collaborative Strategic Planning
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #1
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$45,828
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Health Educator to support collaborative strategic planning to address opioid

misuse, addiction, overdose, or related issues and staff to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Commission.

g. Provider: Health Department

5. Fifth strategy authorized

a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #3

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$192,720

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide recovery support services, including peer support specialists and/or care navigators in a community-based organization that supports individuals in treatment, recovery, or who use drugs in accessing and/or providing treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health and well-being.

g. Provider: The Healing Place

6. Sixth strategy authorized

a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services

b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A

c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #3

d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$109,500

e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024 through End date June 30, 2025

f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Provide recovery support services, including peer support specialists and/or care navigators in a community-based organization that supports individuals in treatment, recovery, or who use drugs in accessing and/or providing treatment, recovery support, harm reduction services, primary healthcare, or other services or supports they need to improve their health and well-being.

g. Provider: Christian Recovery Center, Inc. (CRCI) The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the above-named and authorized strategies is \$706,531.

This the 17th day of June, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

2. **Sheriff's Office – ARROW Program Approval – Opioid Settlement Funds**

Vice – Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the ARROW Program and the below updated resolution that was originally placed in the packet (no substantive changes and no change of dollars). Commissioner Williams seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0). The Resolution reads as follows:

A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY TO DIRECT THE EXPENDITURE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, Brunswick County has joined national settlement agreements with companies engaged in the manufacturing, distribution, and dispensing of opioids.

WHEREAS, the allocation, use, and reporting of funds stemming from these national settlement agreements and 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”) and the Supplemental Agreement for Additional Funds from Additional Settlements of Opioid Litigation (“SAAF”);

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 that, before spending opioid settlement funds, the local government’s governing body must adopt a resolution that:

- (i) indicates that it is an authorization for expenditure of opioid settlement funds; and,
- (ii) states 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) states the amount dedicated to each strategy for a specific period of time.

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

- 1. First strategy authorized
 - a. Name of strategy: Recovery Support Services
 - b. Strategy is included in Exhibit A
 - c. Item letter and/or number in Exhibit A or Exhibit B to the MOA: #3
 - d. Amount authorized for this strategy: \$256,065
 - e. Period of time during which expenditure may take place: Start date July 1, 2024, through End date June 30, 2025
 - f. Description of the program, project, or activity: Hire two positions; program coordinator and jailer to implement an evidence-based substance use treatment program that operates within the BCDC. Participants will receive substance use and mental health treatment from contracted services including a comprehensive clinical assessment, moral reconation therapy, individual counseling, psychiatric evaluation, and eye movement desensitization therapy.
 - g. Provider(s): Brunswick County Detention Center SUD and Mental Health Treatment – Contracted Services Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR) - Contracted Services Data Evaluator – Contracted Services

The total dollar amount of Opioid Settlement Funds appropriated across the abovenamed and authorized strategies is \$256,065.

Adopted this the 17th day of June, 2024.

Randy Thompson, Chairman

Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

3. Utilities – City of Southport Water and Wastewater Systems Merger Agreement

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve the conveyance of the City of Southport waste and wastewater system, authorize the Chairman to execute the Utility Acquisition Agreement and any additional documents necessary for conveyance of the system, subject to County Attorney approval. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0).

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Clerk to the Board - 2024 Annual Board Appointments

District 1:

Tourism Development Authority (TDA): Chairman Thompson made the motion to reappoint Ms. Whiteny Sauls to the TDA. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0). Chairman Thompson made the motion to appoint Ms. Sauls as the Chair as required by the TDA by-laws. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0).

District 2

Tourism Development Authority: Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Ms. Tiffany Hobbs-Wilson to the TDA. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0).

Fire Protection Oversight: Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Mark Hewett to the Fire Protection Oversight Committee. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0).

Board of Equalization and Review: Remains unappointed.

IX. BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

No other business to come before the Board.

X. CLOSED SESSION

The Board entered into Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) and (4), to approve Closed Session Minutes from May 6, 2024, to consult with its attorney and to discuss economic development.

Mr. Batton noted the above statutory requirements.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to enter Closed Session at 6:49 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Chairman Thompson called the Regular Session to order at 7:47 p.m.

Mr. Batton requested the Board to authorize opting in to the national Kroger opioid settlement. Commissioner Williams made the motion to opt in. Vice – Chairman Forte seconded the motion with all in favor (4 to 0).

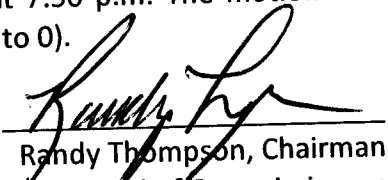
Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Option 1 of the GSTATS resolution to not engage in any option at this time until such time the Board of Commissioners can weigh in. Vice – Chairman Forte seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4-0).

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thompson reminded the gallery the July meeting will be held on July 8, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Williams reminded the NCACC Goals are due by September.

Commissioner Sykes moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams with all in favor (4 to 0).


Randy Thompson, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

