

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
April 21, 2025
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 Mike Forte, Chairman
Commissioner J. Martin Cooke, Vice – Chairman
Commissioner Randy Thompson
Commissioner Pat Sykes
Commissioner Frank Williams

STAFF: Steve Stone, County Manager
Bryan Batton, County Attorney
David Stanley, Deputy County Manager
Niel Brooks, Deputy County Manager
Aaron Smith, Finance Director
LeAnn Weigand, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk
Meagan Kascsak, Communications Director
Currie Elkins, IT
Lt. Hester, 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 Forte called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Forte gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to table item # V5 County Attorney – Modifications to the Brunswick County Contracting and Purchasing Policy, to the May 5, 2025, Regular Meeting. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Daniel Stanaland spoke about his concern regarding property near Sunset Beach and Calabash.

Ms. Nancy Cook spoke to her support and the support of the Town of Bolivia NC for the National Airline Flight 2511 Historical Marker. The Town of Bolivia Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HISTORICAL MARKER PLACEMENT
RECOGNIZING NATIONAL FLIGHT 2511**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Historical Marker program was established to "designate places, events, or persons of statewide historical significance"; and

WHEREAS, historical significance requires primary source documentation and denotes the place, event, or persons who made “a lasting contribution to North Carolina history” which must extend beyond “local or regional importance”; and

WHEREAS, newspapers and television news networks locally, throughout the country, and internationally, carried the story of National Airlines Flight 2511, enroute from New York City, NY to Miami FL, crashing into a field in Bolivia NC, thereby meeting the criteria for the marker; and

WHEREAS, this crash on January 6, 1960, was reportedly the second instance of a bomb bringing down a commercial airliner in the United States resulting in 29 passengers and 5 crew perishing; and

WHEREAS, family of those who perished on that flight, approached the Town of Bolivia Board of Aldermen to thank the citizens of Brunswick County and Bolivia for assistance in the days and weeks following the crash, and to seek support for a historical marker through the North Carolina Historical Marker program, a part of NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Bolivia Board of Aldermen fully support the efforts requesting the placement of a historical marker identifying the nearest location publicly available of the crash of National Airlines Flight 2511.

Witness, my hand and the corporate seal of the Town of Bolivia, North Carolina this the 8th day of April 2025.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as previously amended. The motion was seconded by Vice - Chairman Cooke and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

1. Administration – Agreement with Brunswick County Board of Education for Fiscal Years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029

The Boad approved the Agreement between the Brunswick County Board of Education and Brunswick County for appropriation of 36.5% of County tax revenue for fiscal years 2026, 2027, 2028, and 2029 after deducting the portion of the tax rate for the Board of Education debt service budget and bond refunding costs.

2. Administration – BCS Warehouse Lease

The Board approved the lease of warehouse space from Brunswick County Schools.

3. Cooperative Extension – Fram Bureau Donation for 45-H Dairy Calf Project

The Board approved an appropriation of \$500 donated to Cooperative Extension from Farm Bureau for the 4-H Dairy Project.

4. County Attorney – Summers Walk Ph. 1 Water Deed of Dedication Lots 1-32, 51-62, 105, 121-145.

The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water infrastructure for Summers Walk Ph. 1 lots 1-32, 51-62, 105, 121-145.

5. County Attorney – Modifications to the Brunswick County Contracting and Purchasing Policy

The Board tabled this item until the May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting.

6. Emergency Management – Warren L. Knox Trustee – 50 Green Lewis Road Warehouse Lease (EM)

The Board approved entering into a three (3) year lease of warehouse space and associated lot located at 50 Green Lewis Rd., Bolivia NC.

7. Finance – Contract to Audit Accounts and Addendum with Thompson, Price, Scott Adams & Co., PA

The Board approved a contract for audit services and an addendum with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co, P.A.

8. Finance - Fiscal Items

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

- Sheriff's Office Insurance Proceeds Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$168,920 of insurance proceeds for replacement of total loss vehicles.

- Airport Grant 36244.58.17.1 Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$1,200 of state revenues for pass through to Cape Fear Regional Jetport for reimbursement to the airport for (TALONS) Tracking Aviation Logistics Operations, Navigation and Security grant funding

- Register of Deeds Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$1,500,000 of additional Register of Deeds Excise Tax revenue and associated anticipated expenditures.

- Brunswick County Schools Miscellaneous Revenue Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$100,000 of miscellaneous revenues for miscellaneous expenses for Brunswick County Schools.

- Insurance Proceeds from PTC-8 for DSS Vehicle Budget Amendment

Appropriated insurance proceeds from PTC8 flooding for vehicle replacement. Not claimed on FEMA reimbursement.

- Public Housing Additional Voucher Revenue Budget Amendment

Appropriated additional Public Housing Voucher revenues and anticipated expenditures through June 30, 2025.

- FY24 PSAP Reconcile Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$34,698 of general fund transfer for ineligible expenditures through June 30, 2024.

- Financial Reports for March 2025 (unaudited)

Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA, 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/finance/reports>

9. Information Technology - Approval of procurement / funding of PC equipment

The Board approved an allocation of \$119,000 for the procurement of PC equipment to bring the County to a 5-year replacement cycle of end-user devices.

10. Tax – April 2025 Releases

The Board approved the April 2025 releases.

11. Utilities - Accept Funding Offer for Southport Water Meter Replacement Project

The Board approved the attached resolution accepting the Funding Offer from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the amount of \$4,000,000 for the procurement and installation of Brunswick County's standard water meter to replace existing and outdated water meters in the former Southport Water Utility system. The funding (SRP-D-134-0225) is a portion of the Session Law (S.L.) 2023-134 State

Appropriations (total \$35,000,000). This action item also requests the Board delegate signing authority to the County Manager for documents in connection to the award. The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, the County of Brunswick has received a Directed Projects grant from the 2023 Appropriations Act, Session Law 2023-134, administered through the Drinking Water Reserve and Wastewater Reserve to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered 2023 Appropriations Act funding in the amount of \$4,000,000 to perform work detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, the County of Brunswick intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

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

That County of Brunswick does hereby accept the 2023 Appropriations Act Directed Projects Grant offer of \$4,000,000 .

That the County of Brunswick does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That Steve Stone, County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted this, the 7th day of April, 2025 at Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
LeAnn Weigand
Deputy Clerk to the Board

12. Utilities – Design Build Criteria - Sea Trail Interconnection & Decommissioning Project

The Board approved the application of the previously adopted criteria to utilize the design-build delivery method for the Sea Trail Interconnection /Decommissioning Project.

13. Utilities - Reorganization of Utilities Purchasing Staff

The Board approved a reorganization of Utilities purchasing staff that will include the addition of one FTE and the adjustment of job descriptions and associated grades for three other positions.

14. Utilities - Resolution Accepting Funding Offer for the Midway to Clemmons RD SE Force Main Transmission Project

The Board approved the resolution below accepting the Funding Offer from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in the amount of \$15,568,600 for the design and construction of the Midway to Clemmons RD SE Force Main Transmission Project, approved staff to provide any additional documents required for the project,

and delegate signing authority to the County Manager. The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECIPIENT

WHEREAS, the County of Brunswick has received a Directed Projects grant from the 2023 Appropriations Act, Session Law 2023-134, administered through the Drinking Water Reserve and Wastewater Reserve to assist eligible units of government with meeting their water/wastewater infrastructure needs, and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has offered 2023 Appropriations Act funding in the amount of \$15,568,600 to perform work detailed in the submitted application, and

WHEREAS, the County of Brunswick intends to perform said project in accordance with the agreed scope of work,

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

That County of Brunswick does hereby accept the 2023 Appropriations Act Directed Projects Grant offer of \$15,568,600.

That the County of Brunswick does hereby give assurance to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality that any Conditions or Assurances contained in the Award Offer will be adhered to.

That Steve Stone, County Manager, and successors so titled, is hereby authorized and directed to furnish such information as the appropriate State agency may request in connection with this project; to make the assurances as contained above; and to execute such other documents as may be required by the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Adopted this the 21st day of April, 2025 at Brunswick County, North Carolina.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

LeAnn Weigand
Deputy Clerk to the Board

15. Utilities - Sewer System Inspection and Cleaning Contract with Sweeping Corp of America, LLC

The Board approved the proposal submitted by Sweeping Corp of America, LLC., for sewer cleaning, camera inspection, and manhole inspection of the County's gravity sewer system and approved the multi-year contract in the annual amount of \$242,936.00.

16. Utilities - WBRWWTP Oak Island Repump Station Force Main Emergency Repair

The Board approved funding for an emergency repair of a ductile iron force main located at the Oak Island re-pump station, which is part of the regional conveyance system, to the West Brunswick Regional WWTP. The emergency repair cost has been estimated at \$1,172,625 (material and labor). Staff further requests the Board to authorize the County Manager to execute the necessary contracts for the repair.

17. Utilities - WK Dickson Amendment #2 Southport Wastewater Study & Design Contract

The Board authorizes the Chairman and Clerk to the Board to approve Amendment #2 to the contract of WK Dickson and an associated budget amendment increasing the contract value by \$1,158,600 for an updated total contract value of \$4,194,493.00.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Clerk to the Board – Trillium Annual Update

The Board received the annual report from Ms. Cecila Peers of Trillium.

2. Health Services – Substance Use, Addiction and Mental Health Commission Presentation

The Board received a presentation from the Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission from Mr. Josh Torbich and Ms. Laura Trueman.

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Clerk to the Board – 2025 Bonds for the Benefit of Novant Health and Affiliates

While there is no County funding required for these bonds, it is required by law to bring this to a public hearing in each county where Novant will receive bond revenues.

Mr. Charles Bowyer, National Finance Authority Novant Bond Counsel, requested the public hearing be held to approve the issuance of the tax-exempt bonds only for purposes of the Federal Tax Code Section 147(f).

Chairman Forte requested recusal from the actions of the Board as he serves on the Novant Board of Directors. Commissioner Williams made the motion to recuse Chairman Forte and Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Vice – Chairman Cooke opened the public hearing at 6:58 p.m.

Hearing no further comments, Vice – Chairman Cooke closed the Public Hearing at 6:58 p.m.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the issuance of the tax-exempt bonds for purposes of Federal Tax Code Section 147(f). Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4-0). The Resolution reads as follows:

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Brunswick, North Carolina (the “County”) held a regular meeting in the Commissioners’ Chambers of the David R. Sandifer Administration Building located at 30 Government Center Drive Northeast, Bolivia, North Carolina 28422, the regular place of meeting, at 6:00 p.m. on April 21, 2025. The following Commissioners were:

Present: Chairman Mike Forte, Vice – Chairman J., Martin Cooke, Frank Williams, Patricia Sykes, Randy Thompson

Absent: None

* * * * *

Motion was made by Commissioner Randy Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Frank Williams and carried unanimously, to open the public hearing.

WHEREAS, at 6:44 p.m., the Chairman announced that the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) would proceed to hold a public hearing and would hear anyone who

wished to be heard on the proposed issuance by the National Finance Authority (the "Authority"), a component unit of the Business Finance Authority of the State of New Hampshire, of its Revenue Bonds (Winston-Salem Sustainable Energy Partners) in one or more series (the "Bonds"), in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$855,000,000;

WHEREAS, the Bonds will be qualified 501(c)(3) bonds as defined in Section 145 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), and the proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be applied by the Borrower (defined below) to (1) pay or reimburse the costs of the Energy Projects (as defined in the notice of public hearing attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "TEFRA Notice")) at certain hospitals and related facilities located at the addresses set forth in the TEFRA Notice and owned and operated by Novant Health, Inc., a North Carolina nonprofit corporation ("Novant"), and certain of its affiliates described in the TEFRA Notice (collectively, the "Benefitting Entities"), (2) pay, or reimburse Novant for paying, a portion of the costs of the 2025 Projects (as defined in the TEFRA Notice), (3) if determined to be applicable, refund existing indebtedness of Novant, the proceeds of which were used to initially finance a portion of the 2025 Projects, (4) if determined to be desirable, pay a portion of the interest accruing on the Bonds, and (5) pay certain expenses incurred in connection with the issuance of the Bonds by the Authority;

WHEREAS, the Authority has been requested to issue the Bonds and to lend the proceeds from the sale thereof to Winston-Salem Sustainable Energy Partners LLC (the "Borrower"), an Arizona limited liability company, for the ultimate benefit of Novant and the other Benefitting Entities;

WHEREAS, the Borrower, Novant and the other Benefitting Entities are organizations described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code or are properly classified as disregarded entities whose ultimate owner is an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Code. The Energy Projects and the 2025 Projects are together referred to as the "Project." The Project is or will be owned or operated by Novant and the other Benefitting Entities;

WHEREAS, Section 147(f) of the Code, requires that any tax-exempt bonds issued by the Authority for the Project may only be issued after such issuance is approved by the County following a public hearing with respect to such issuance;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 162-S:10(I) of the New Hampshire Statutes, prior to the Authority issuing bonds subject to Section 147(f) of the Code, the state or political subdivision within whose boundaries the project to be financed is located must have approved the financing of the project, which with respect to a portion of the Project includes the County;

WHEREAS, Novant has requested that the Board approve the financing and refinancing of the Project and the issuance of the Bonds, in an amount not to exceed \$855,000,000 in order to satisfy the public approval requirement of Section 147(f) of the Code and approve the financing of the portion of the Project located in the County in order to satisfy the requirements of Section 162-S:10(I) of the New Hampshire Statutes;

WHEREAS, the TEFRA Notice was published on April 14, 2025 in *The Star-News* setting forth a general, functional description of the type and use of the facilities to be financed and refinanced with the proceeds of the Bonds, the maximum principal amount of the Bonds to be issued, the initial owner and operator of the facilities and the location of the facilities, among other things;

WHEREAS, the names, address and testimony of the persons who were present and who offered comments on the proposed issuance of the Bonds or who responded in writing to the notice of public hearing are as follows:

[None.]

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Board inquired elsewhere in and around the meeting room to determine whether there were any other persons who wished to speak at the public hearing and the Chairman of the Board determined that no other persons who wished to speak at the public hearing were found; and

WHEREAS, a purpose of the above-described public hearing and this resolution is to satisfy the public approval requirement of Section 147(f) of the Code, in order to qualify the interest on the Bonds for exclusion from the gross income of the owners thereof for federal income tax purposes pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Code;

After the Board had heard all persons who had requested to be heard, Commissioner Randy Thompson moved that the public hearing be closed. Commissioner Frank Williams seconded the motion. The motion was adopted unanimously.

County Attorney Bryan Batton introduced the following resolution, a copy of which had been distributed to each Commissioner:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$855,000,000
TAX-EXEMPT BONDS TO BE ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL FINANCE AUTHORITY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF NOVANT HEALTH, INC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE COUNTY OF BRUNSWICK, NORTH CAROLINA:

Section 1. The proposed issuance of the Bonds by the Authority in an amount not to exceed \$855,000,000, the proceeds of which will be used to finance and refinance costs of the Project, a portion of which is within the jurisdiction of the County, is hereby approved for the purposes of Section 147(f) of the Code. Additionally, it is the purpose and intent of the Board that this resolution also constitute approval by the Board of the financing of the portion of the Project located in the County through the issuance of the Bonds by the Authority in accordance with Section 162-S:10(I) of the New Hampshire Statutes. The Board is the governing body of the political jurisdiction within whose boundaries a portion of the Project is located. In no event shall the County or any political subdivision thereof be liable for such Bonds nor shall the Bonds constitute a debt of the County or any political subdivision thereof.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Commissioner Frank Williams seconded the motion, and the motion was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Vice - Chairman J. Martin Cooke, Frank Williams, Patricia Sykes, Randy Thompson

Nays: None

Recused: Chairman Mike Forte

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Commissioner Thompson:

Requested an update from Mr. Stanley regarding Senate and House Bills currently affecting Brunswick County. Mr. Stanley reported:

- HB 675 rests with Regulatory Reform Committee and has the certifications for Paramedics and medical responder looking to require National Certification versus State Certifications.
- HB 219 allows EMS providers to operate without franchise agreement.
- SB 257 removes State Emergency Management functions and be moved to the Adjunct General of the National Guard and the implementation of user fees for VIPER.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to write two (2) letters. One for House Bill 675 and 219 combined and one for Senate Bill 257 opposing the Bills as written and submitted to Brunswick County's State Legislators, members of Committees where the Bills currently sit and where they are headed, the Leadership of both Chambers, the media and the NCACC. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Concerns with FY26 budgeting including salaries and departmental unspent funds as of April 30, and any spending expected until June 30.

Mr. Batton:

Advised the Board of Senate Bill 666 regarding PFAS contamination and proposing exemptions for public utility systems who are not producing the chemical but pulling PFAS from drinking water.

Commissioner Sykes:

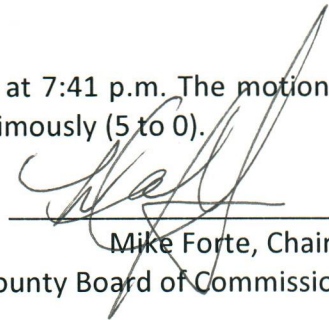
Water projects: Regarding those projects that were stopped during COVID-19 pandemic, Commissioner Sykes made the motion to open those programs and allow for connections to be made. The motion failed for lack of a second with a discussion to be held at the May 5, 2025, Regular Meeting.

Development: Planning Board vacancy raises concerns with the state legislature's current status on ETJ's, downzoning and an outdated Brunswick County UDO.

Sunset Harbor Dredging Project Update: Mr. Brooks advised the Board that the Lockwood Folly dredging project will be \$744K and has spoken with Holden Beach regarding cost-sharing and any available grant possibilities. For dredging of the Sunset Harbor Wildlife ramp, Mr. Brooks will return with more information.

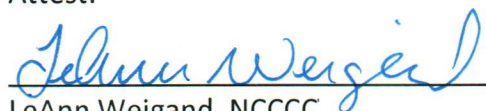
IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously (5 to 0).



Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:



LeAnn Weigand, NCCCC
Deputy Clerk to the Board

**THIS PAGE
INTENTIONALLY
LEFT BLANK**