

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 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
Daralyn Spivey, Clerk to the Board
LeAnn Weigand, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk
Meagan Kascak, 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

Vice – Chairman Cooke gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the agenda. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Audrey Schreiber of Earth Rights International spoke concerning clean water access to all citizens of Brunswick County.

Ms. Sabrina Beal spoke concerning clean water access to all citizens of Brunswick County.

Mr. Carl Parker spoke concerning clean water access to all citizens of Brunswick County.

Mr. Charles Warren spoke concerning clean water access to all citizens of Brunswick County.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 1. **Board of Elections Staffing Budget Amendment**
The Board approved the budget amendment for additional staffing costs incurred by the Board of Elections during the 2024 Presidential Election.
- 2. **Clerk to the Board – JCPC Roster Changes and Approval**
The Board approved the current roster for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council dated February 20, 2025.
- 3. **Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2025, Regular Meeting**
The Board approved the Minutes of February 17, 2025, Regular Meeting.
- 4. **Clerk to the Board – Resolution in Support of Updating the 2016 Beaches and Inlet Management Plan (BIMP)**
The Board adopted a resolution in support of updating the 2016 Beaches and Inlet Management Plan (BIMP). The Resolution reads as follows:

**NCBIWA RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR UPDATING THE 2016
BEACH AND INLET MANAGEMENT PLAN (BIMP)**

WHEREAS, the first BIMP was funded via House Bill 1840 (Session Law 2000-67) and completed in 2009 which provided necessary information to address North Carolina’s (N.C.) natural resources, funding mechanisms and strategies for the comprehensive management of the state’s ocean & inlet shorelines; and

WHEREAS, the BIMP provided needed socioeconomic values of N.C. beaches & recommended management strategies; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, an updated BIMP provided new coastal & socioeconomic data & reflected policy changes implemented since the original Plan including the latest beach nourishment and dredging activities completed over the previous seven (7) years; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, an updated BIMP projected the necessary needed funding to maintain the state’s coastline while offering several possible revenue options; and

WHEREAS, due to healthy growth in N.C. coastal communities, a regularly updated BIMP must be conducted to effectively steer state and local management resources in complex planning in support of 326 miles of ocean shoreline, barrier islands, and 19 active inlet complexes that collectively generate over \$4+ billion in annual revenues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution of Support be made known to the members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

This, the 17th day of March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

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

5. Code Administration – Interlocal Agreement – Fire Inspection Services Carolina Shores

The Board approved entering into an Interlocal Agreement for Fire Protection Services with the Town of Carolina Shores.

6. Code Administration – Interlocal Agreement – Fire Inspections Services – Town of Caswell Beach

The Board approved entering into an Interlocal Agreement for Fire Protection Services with the Town of Caswell Beach.

7. County Attorney – Cedar Hill Landing Ph. K, Sec. 1 Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Cedar Hil Landing Ph. K Sec. 1.

8. County Attorney – Heartsease at Ocean Isle Beach, Ph.1 Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Heartsease at Ocean Isle Beach, Ph.1.

9. County Attorney – Resolution – Mini-Brooks Exemption of Surveying Services

The Board approved a resolution exempting surveying services for Parcel No. 01000003 pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-64.31. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION EXEMPTING SURVEYING SERVICES
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 a contract for licensed land surveying services for Parcel No. 01000003; 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 March, 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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

10. County Attorney – Skipper Heights Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Skipper Heights.

11. County Attorney – The Meadows at Wildwood Village, Ph.3 Deed of Dedication
The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for The Meadows at Wildwood Village Ph. 3.

12. Emergency Management – Resolution in Support of the Donation of the Fire Prevention Trailer to Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue
The Board approved a resolution in support of donating the fire prevention trailer to the Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FIRE
PREVENTION TRAILER**

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 residents; 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 Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue, Inc is a non-profit organization incorporated within the State of North Carolina and situated in Brunswick County; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County Emergency Management has one trailer, namely: a 2006 SCOTTY FIRE PREVENTION TRAILER VIN# 1SSTT35T2611SS084, that is a fixed asset of Brunswick County, and is no longer suitable or useful for emergency management or other County purposes; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County Emergency Management requests that they be allowed to transfer ownership and possession of the above-described trailer to Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue, Inc.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT Brunswick County Board of Commissioners:

- 1. That the County Manager, or his designee, is hereby authorized to transfer ownership and possession of the above-described trailer that is no longer useful or necessary for emergency management or other County purposes from Brunswick County to Grissettown-Longwood Fire & Rescue, Inc.
- 2. That the transfer of the above-described trailer is “AS IS, WHERE IS” and without any warranties, express or implied.
- 3. That this resolution shall be effective upon adoption.

This the 17th day of March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

13. Finance – Brunswick County Schools Contract with ATD Building for Science Classroom Renovation Group A – Leland Middle School and North Brunswick High School

The Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign a contract with ATD Building Inc for Science Classroom Renovation Group A – Leland Middle School and North Brunswick High School.

14. Finance - Fiscal Items

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

-Water and Wastewater Taps and Connections Budget Amendment

Appropriated \$500,000 of taps and connections revenue for equipment to facilitate the installation of water taps and connections. Appropriated \$1,250,000 of taps and connections revenue for equipment to facilitate the installation of wastewater taps and connections.

-Occupancy Tax Additional Revenue Budget Amendment

Appropriated Occupancy Tax Revenue of \$1,155,000 and corresponding expenditures for projected Occupancy Tax through June 30, 2025.

-Financial Reports for February 2025 (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/finance/reports>

15. Health Services – CRCI National Opioid Settlement Fund Additional Appropriation

The Board approved the use of additional National Opioid Settlement Funds and the associated Ordinance and Resolution for the 2025 agreement with Christian Recovery Center, Inc. for Substance Use Recovery Services. 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 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: \$228,450

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 \$825,481.

This the 17th day of March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman

Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC

Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

16. Health Services – Consolidated Agreement for FY2025-26 with NC DHHS Division of Public health and Division of Child and Family Well-Being

The Board approved the annual FY2025-26 Consolidated Agreement with NC DHHS Division of Child and Family Well-Being.

17. Health Services – MOU for Community Health Needs Assessment with Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center and Doshier Memorial Hospital

The Board approved the MOU between Brunswick County Health Services, Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center and Doshier Memorial Hospital for the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment.

18. Operation Services – Dewberry Engineers Inc. – Mini-Brooks Exemption

The Board approved a resolution exempting engineering services associated with the placement of a generator at the Utility Billing Office from N.C.G.S. 143-64.31. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION EXEMPTING ENGINEERING SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH
PLACEMENT OF A GENERATOR AT THE UTILITY BILLING OFFICE
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 a contract with Dewberry Engineers Inc. for engineering services associated with placement of a generator at the Brunswick County Utility Billing Office, including, but not necessarily limited to, the

preparation of engineered stamped plans for a concrete pad on which to place the generator; 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 March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

- 19. Operation Services – Service Agreement – Insurance Auto Auction Corp.**
The Board approved the new service agreement with Insurance Auto Auctions Corp. (IAA).
- 20. Parks and Recreation – North Carolina Amateur Sports – Youth Sports Grant**
The Board approved the submission for the North Carolina Amateur Sports Grant.
- 21. Parks and Recreation – Smithville Park Phase 3 Musco Sports Lighting**
The Board approved the construction agreement with Musco Sports Lighting at Smithville Park, Phase 3, in the amount of \$779,783.
- 22. Sheriff’s Office – City of Northwest and Sheriff’s Office Interlocal Agreement Approval**
The Board approved an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Northwest, Brunswick County, and the Brunswick County Sheriff for off duty law enforcement services.
- 23. Social Services – Trillium Health Resources Work First /CPS MOA**
The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Social Services and Trillium Health Resources for mental health and substance abuse screening of Work First/Child Protective Services clients.
- 24. Tax – March 2025 Releases**
The Board approved the tax releases for the month of March 2025.
- 25. Tax – March 2025 MV Discovery Valuation & Levy for February 2025**
The Board approved the March 2025 motor vehicle and levy discovery created in February 2025.
- 26. Utilities – Approval of a Contract with Cummins Inc. d/b/a Cummins Sales and Service in the Amount of \$171,148.90 for the Purchase of a Mobile Generator**

The Board approved a contract in the amount of \$171,148.90 with Cummins, d/b/a Cummins Sales and Service for the purchase of a mobile generator in accordance with NCGS 143-129 (e)(3).

27. Utilities – Approval of a contract with Knapheide Truck Company Midsouth in the Amount of \$111,584.62

The Board approved a contract in the amount of \$111,584.62 with Knapheide Truck Company Midsouth to purchase seven (7) truck equipment bodies.

28. Utilities – Cape Fear Engineering – Ocean Ridge Reclaimed Water Line – PSA – Mini-Brooks

The Board approved a resolution to exempt qualifications-based selection requirements from the Mini-Brooks Act for the selection of an engineer to approve the associated Professional Services Agreement with Cape Fear Engineering, Inc. (CFE) in the amount of \$46,800 for services with the design and construction of the Ocean Ridge Reclaimed Water Main Project. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION EXEMPTING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE OCEAN RIDGE
RECLAIMED WATER MAIN 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 a contract with Cape Fear Engineering, Inc. for services associated with the design of the Ocean Ridge Reclaimed Water Main; 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 March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

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

29. Utilities – McKim & Creed – Amendment #1 NE Brunswick WWTP Phase III Expansion

The Board authorized the Chairman and the Clerk to the Board to approve Amendment #1 to the contract with McKim and Creed Engineering and the associated budget amendment. This amendment increases the contract time and value of the Northeast Brunswick Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase III Expansion.

30. Utilities – Mulberry Branch Water Reclamation Facility – Harper Corporation GC – Change Order #2

The Board approved Change Order #2 for the 0.75MGD Mulberry Branch Water Reclamation Facility Project. This change order increases the contract amount by \$465,988.79 with no extension to the project’s completion date.

31. Utilities – NeutraTek Odour Solution LP Sole Source Resolution and Contract

The Board approved a budgeted contract in the amount of \$46,438.85 for the purchase of maintenance components for an odor control unit in accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-129 (e)(6). The Resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF NEUTRATEK ODOUR SOLUTIONS LP PARTS UNDER SOLE SOURCE EXCEPTION TO FORMAL BIDDING REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S 143-129(e)(6), Procedure for Letting of Public Contracts, allows for the waiver of formal bidding requirements for purchases of apparatus, supplies, materials, or equipment when performance or price competition for a product are not available, or a needed product is available from only one source of supply, or standardization or compatibility is the overriding consideration; and

WHEREAS, organics in wastewater are broken down during the treatment process, and the compounds released result in unpleasant odors requiring mitigation by installing complex odor control systems; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Wastewater Treatment Plant currently utilizes a Neutralox NX6000 odor control unit to assist with odor control; and

WHEREAS, the Neutralox NX6000 unit requires periodic maintenance, including the use of Neutralox products for standardization and compatibility; and

WHEREAS, Neutratek Odour Solutions LP is the sole manufacturer and distributor of all Neutralox products for the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the governing board must approve the purchase under this bidding exemption prior to awarding the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners approves the purchases described herein utilizing the exception to formal bidding requirements contained in N.C.G.S. 143-129(e)(6) and finds that the conditions described in that statute have been met.

Adopted this the 17th day of March, 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

32. Utilities – NWWTP Chief Operator FTE

The Board approved the Northwest Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator Position.

33. Utilities - Northwest Water Treatment Plant Sludge Removal Contract – Synagro Central LLC

The Board approved the 3-year service agreement with Synagro Central LLC for an estimated \$1,696,947.47.

34. Utilities – Southport Low Pressure Conversion Project – Grant Application Evaluation

The Board approved the Brunswick County Grant Application Evaluation Form for the Southport Low Pressure Conversion Project and authorized the County Manager to sign and allows staff to submit the required application/background data to the granting agency. The Board also approved the updating of the planned use of the \$35 million appropriation from the State of North Carolina (SL-2023-134) to include this project.

35. W.K. Dickson - PSA – Southport Evaluation and Rehabilitation of the Sewer System (FIFI) Project

The Board authorized the Chairman and the Clerk to execute a Professional Services Agreement with W.K. Dickson & Co. LLC in the amount of \$584,016.62 for engineering, surveying, design services, additional services in association with the rehabilitation/replacement of sewer infrastructure and the design of a new sewer force main, identified as the Southport Evaluation and Rehabilitation of Sewer System (FIFI) Project.

36. Utilities – W.K. Dickson PPSA Southport Lift Station Replacement

The Board authorized the Chairman to execute a Professional Services Agreement with W.K. Dickson & Co, LLC in the amount of \$203,424 for engineering, surveying, design services and additional services associated with the replacement of three (3) aging lift stations, identified as Southport Lift Station Replacement Project.

37. Veterans Services – NCDMVA Grant Program for County Veterans Offices

The Board approved a grant application submitted to the NC Department of Military and Veteran Affairs (NCDMVA).

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – National County Government Month April 2025

Commissioner Williams read the proclamation and moved approval. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

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

WHEREAS, the nation's 3,069 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 James Gore, NACo is demonstrating how "We...." focuses on three key areas during this unique moment in time and the central role of counties as intergovernmental partners:

- 1) engagement and collaboration,
- 2) research and innovation
- 3) capacity building

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 2025 as National County Government Month and encourage all county officials, employees, schools and residents to participate in county government celebration activities.

Adopted this 17th day of March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Commissioners

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

2. Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – Week of the Young Child

Chairman Forte read and moved approval. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 5-11, 2025, AS
THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD**

WHEREAS, the first years of a child’s life are the period of the most rapid brain development and lay the foundation for all future learning; and

WHEREAS, our children, our future workforce, deserve the opportunity to build and develop effective communication, self-regulation, and problem-solving, and conflict-resolution skills; and

WHEREAS, working families need sufficient high-quality spaces in early care and education programs beginning at birth to be available in the community; and

WHEREAS, High-quality early care and education depends on high-quality early educators who ensure that children, supported by families, have the early experiences they need for a strong foundation; and

WHEREAS, early educators need the ability to earn a family-sustaining wage that is commensurate with the required education and skills they bring to the complex and valuable work they do; and

WHEREAS, high-quality early care and education programs provide important benefits to children, families, and our local economy; and

WHEREAS, the *Week of the Young Child* is a time for Brunswick County to join Smart Start and the National Association of the Education of Young Children to thank and recognize our early educators in all that they do for our current workforce (our parents) and our future workforce (our young children).

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the County Commissioners of Brunswick County, do hereby proclaim April 5-11, 2025, as the “Week of the Young Child” and encourage all citizens to support and invest in early childhood education.

This the 17th day of March 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC/CMC
Clerk to the Board

3. EMS – Emergency Medical Services – Program Presentation

Lyle Johnston, Emergency Medical Services Director, seeks the Board's approval to implement the medication assisted therapy as all State requirements have been met as part of the Community Para-medicine Program. Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the implementation of medication assisted therapy. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). Mr. Johnston also updated the Board on call volume from 2021 to current.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Utilities – H2GO

John Nichols, Utility Director, reported that H2GO has requested the waterline that is currently owned, but not in use, by Brunswick Public Utilities be transferred to H2GO. This line is near Brunswick Forest where H2GO currently provides water.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the transfer to H2GO. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion. The vote for approval passed (3 to 2) in favor. The poll is as follows:

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

2. Planning – Update on the Proposed UDO Text Amendment

Kirstie Dixon, Planning Director, updated the Board regarding the status of Senate Bill 382. Due to those changes, Commissioner Williams made a motion to withdraw all text amendments and incorporate them with the upcoming UDO. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion. The vote for approval passed (3 to 2) in favor. The poll is as follows:

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

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment – Library Board

Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Melissa Warren to the Library Board, replacing Jeff Mount as the at large appointee. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion with all in favor (5 to 0).

2. Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment – Ocean Isle Beach Planning Board ETJ Position

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the appointment of Ed Miller to the Ocean Isle Beach Planning Board/Board of Adjustments as the ETJ appointee. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

3. **Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment – Carolina Shores Planning Board/ ETJ Position**

Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to appoint Ms. Ruth Ann Campbell as the Board of Adjustment ETJ appointee and Mr. Normand Neligon (alternate) to the Planning Board as the ETJ appointee. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IX. **OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION**

Mr. Stone:

Holden Beach Property: The State of North Carolina is considering purchasing property in the Holden Beach area and would like authorization to open the dialogue with the State to purchase of the 32 acres the County currently holds. Commissioner Thompson made the motion to authorize Mr. Stone to begin the dialogue. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Commissioner Sykes:

Animal Control: Clarified bids are being accepted for the Animal Control Building. Mr. Stone verified the request for proposals for the design/build process has been sent out to the public. Commissioner Sykes proposed a regional animal shelter within a four (4) county area should be considered and is beneficial to all.

TDA: Brunswick County needs to look closely at the advertising spending of the TDA as those funds could be better used by all the citizens.

Commissioner Thompson:

PTC 8 After Action: Citizen survey sent out prior to the next meeting of April 7.

EMS: Examine training positions within Emergency Services between the Brunswick Community College and the County and the current funding arrangement.

TDA: How much money is being spent for the advertisement of Brunswick County with a report and comparison to other surrounding Counties.

X. **CLOSED SESSION**

Request the Board enters closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) to approve Closed Session Minutes of December 2, 2024, and to consult with attorney.

Mr. Batton noted the above statutory requirements.

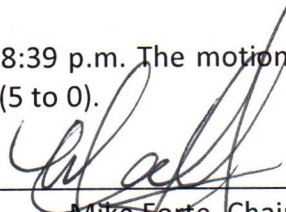
Commissioner Williams made the motion to enter Closed Session at 7:56 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Thompson and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Forte called the Regular Session to order at 8:38p.m.

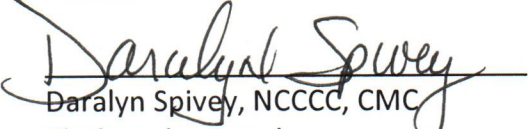
Mr. Batton advised there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Williams moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).


Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board

