BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
May 19, 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 Kascsak, Communications Director Pete Gillis, IT Lt. Tate 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 Forte called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Brooks requested an amendment to the agenda to introduce Robert Billingham as the new Operation Services Director.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the amended agenda. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. **Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – May 5, 2025, Regular Meeting, and May 5, 2025, Special Meeting**
   The Boad approved the Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2025, Regular Meeting, and the May 5, 2025, Special Meeting.

2. **County Attorney – Herring Shores, Ph. 1A and 1C Deed of Dedication**
   The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Herring Shores, Ph 1A and 1C.

3. **County Attorney – River Tide Farms, Ph 2 Deed of Dedication**
   The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for River Tide Farms, Ph. 2.

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

   -2016 Bond Referendum funds transfer to Town Creek Addition Budget Amendment and CPO
   Transferred funds to Town Creek Addition to spend a portion of the 2016 Bond Referendum for use in completing already designated projects.

   -Maternal Health Additional Revenues Budget Amendment
   Appropriated additional maternal health revenues for anticipated provider expenditures that increased due to larger maternal health client case load.

   -Financial Reports for April 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

5. **Sheriff's Office – Insurance Proceeds Appropriation to Replace Totaled Vehicles**
   The Board approved an appropriation request of the remaining insurance proceeds to replace Sheriff's Office vehicles totaled in motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) this fiscal year.

6. **Social Services – Northwoods – Traverse Software Package Agreement**
   The Board approved the service agreement with Northwoods Consulting Partner's Inc. for the Northwoods - Traverse software package.

7. **Tax – May 2025 Tax Releases**
   The Board approved the May 2025 tax releases.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Cooperative Extension – Presentation of the 2025 Brunswick County 4-H Youth Council**
   Amy Mead (Cooperative Extension Director) and Jamie Lester (4H Agent) presented the inaugural 2025 Brunswick County 4-H Youth Council holding the following goals: Assist on youth learning to identify their own leadership skills, build strength of self and others and to acquire competencies in communications, group processes, relationship building, planning and organization, diversity, assessment, service learning and more.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. **Administration – Lockwood Folly Dredging Project**
   Mr. Brooks presented the Board with information regarding the Lockwood Folly Dredging Project plans to dredge to eight (8) feet and is currently scheduled to begin late June/early July. The total costs for the project is $744,5009. NC DEQ (Shallow Draft Inlet Fund) will pay 75% of the costs, County match will be 25%, leaving Holden Beach and Oak Island to split the remaining 25%. The County will

pay the costs of the dredging with Oak Island and Holden Beach reimbursing the County to move this project forward in a timely manner. Commissioner Thompson made the motion move forward. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

2. **Administration – Recommended Budget ordinance, Capital Improvement Plan, and Schedule of Fees for FY 2026**
   Mr. Stone presented the updated budget for FY2026 from the original presentation of May 5, 2025.

VIII. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission
Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Emma Long to the seat vacated by Acacia Alson as the Sherrif's appointee. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Planning Board At Large
Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Howard Stocks to the At Large seat vacated by Allen Brittain. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Nursing Home and Adult Care Home Community District 4 and 5: Chairman Forte made the motion to appoint Kimberly McRoy as the District 4 appointee and Patricia McDaniel's as the District 5 appointee. These appointees have completed all training that is required by the State to sit on this Board. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to re-appoint members to their respective board/committees/councils/commissions by each district. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0). The re-appointments are as follows:

District 1
Brunswick Senior Resources Inc.: John Ingraham
Equalization and Review: Mark Lindsey

District 2
Brunswick Senior Resources Inc.: Joyce Lowrimore
Equalization & Review: Jim Hardy

District 3
Brunswick Senior Resources Inc.: Joyce Casteen
Equalization & Review: Lisa Propst
Substance Use Addiction and Mental Health Commission: Bill Eberle
Tourism Development Authority: Melaney Robbins-Bullock

District 4
Brunswick Senior Resources Inc.: Justin Lovin
Equalization & Review: James Spencer
Parks & Recreation: Teagan Perry-Hall
Tourism Development Authority: Sharon Wright

District 5
Brunswick Senior Resources Inc.: Dan Bruneau
Equalization & Review: Charles Bost
Tourism Development Authority: Dana Fisher

District 5 Appointment:

Library Board: Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Stephen Zerio as the appointee to replace the vacated seat of Barbara Akinwole. Vice - Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

At Large/NA/Re-Appointment

Planning At Large: Commissioner Williams made the motion to re-appoint Bill Bittenbender. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion. The vote for approval passed (4 to 1) in favor of Mr. Bittenbender's appointment. The poll is as follows:

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

Commissioner Williams made the motion to re-appoint members to these boards/committees/council/commissions. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0). The re-appointments are as follows:

ABC Board: John Dowless
Airport Commission: Willie Gore
BCC Board of Trustees: Myong Jenson
Brunswick Columbus International Park: John Ward
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council: Sharon Flucker
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council: Rachel Saunders
Juvenile Crime Prevention Council: Yvonne Pesce
LCFWASA: Scott Phillips
Equalization & Review - Alternate: Larry Mitchell
Board of Adjustments: Stephen Juhaz
Health & Human Services: Chip Carroll
Health & Human Services: Hubert Reeves

Organizational Re-Appointments

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to re-appoint the organizational re-appointments. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0). The re-appointments are as follows:

Substance Use, Addiction, and Mental Health Commission – Chief Superior Court Appointee: Johnnie McAdams
Tourism Development Authority SBI: Billy Bernier
Tourism Development Authority SOI: Jerry Helms

At Large/NA/Public Vacancies:

Southeastern Economic Development: Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Gary Shope. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Board of Equalization and Review: Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to appoint Bertha Bell as the alternate. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Planning Board Alternate: Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to appoint Cecelia Herman. Commissioner Sykes made the motion to appoint Rachel Walker. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion to appoint Cecelia Herman and passed (4-1). The poll is as follows:

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

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (2 seats): Vice - Chairman Cooke made the motion to appoint Martha Jacobs and Johnna Lattin. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Health and Human Services Engineer: Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Larry Mitchell, Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

Health and Human Services – Pharmacist: Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Tammy Waterman as the pharmacist. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5-0).

IX. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

No discussion brought forward.

X. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Batton requested the Board enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(5) and (6)

The Board entered Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3)(5) and (6) to approve Closed Session Minutes from the April 7, 2025, meeting, to consult with its attorney in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege, to discuss personnel and the acquisition of property.

Mr. Batton noted the above statutory requirements.

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to enter Closed Session at 6:54p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Thompson called the Regular Session to order at 7:22 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 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

BRUNSWICK COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA