

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
August 18, 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 Randy Thompson
Commissioner J. Martin Cooke, Vice - Chairman
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
Jim Hartsell, 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

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jon Martell spoke to his concerns with the current quality of hospital care available in the lower Cape Fear Region.

Kyle Bridges informed the Board of the Brunswick County Agriculture Fair and Expo being held October 15-19, 2025, and the Dairy Derby in conjunction with the Brunswick County 4H on October 17, 2025.

Judy Andricak spoke to her concerns regarding flooding throughout the County, current evacuation plan, and instituting a building moratorium.

Jonathon Warner spoke of his concerns regarding the planned development of Hooper Road.

Carla White spoke concerning development and stormwater run-off throughout the 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. Clerk to the Board – Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2025, Regular Meeting

The Board approved the Meeting Minutes of the August 4, 2025, Regular Meeting.

2. County Attorney – Approval of Participation in National Opioid Settlements

The Board approved the participation of the County in the National Opioid Settlement and authorized the County Attorney to execute associated documents.

3. County Attorney – Saucepan Bay Phases 1 Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Saucepan Bay, Phase 1.

4. County Attorney – The Meadows at Wildwood Village, Ph 4 Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the deed of dedication for water infrastructure for the Meadows at Wildwood Village, Ph 4.

5. Finance – Brunswick County Schools Additional FY 26 Education Capital Improvement Plan Appropriation for HVAC Work at Bolivia and Supply Elementary Schools

The Board approved the transfer of \$2,500,000 from Brunswick County Schools Ad Valorem contingency funds to the FY26 Capital Improvement Plan for needed HVAC work at Supply and Bolivia Elementary Schools.

6. Fiscal Items

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

-Detention Center Lightning Strike Property Loss

Appropriated \$15,795 of fund balance gained from insurance proceeds received to support the repair and replacement of property loss due to a lightning strike at the detention center.

-Airport Grant 36237.45.19.1 Closeout BA and CPO

Closing out the airport grant 36237.45.19.1 and return unexpended match of \$88 to the County Capital Reserve designated for airport grant match.

7. Health Services – Annual Child Fatality Team Report

The Board accepted the 2024 Calander Year Report from the Brunswick County Child Fatality Prevention Team.

8. Health Services - Grant from Bude Cross of North Carolina County Engagement Team

The Board approved a grant/donation application to be submitted to the Blue Cross Blue Shield NC County Engagement Team.

9. Information Technology – Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Renewal

The Board approved the renewal of the County's Microsoft Enterprise Agreement with SHI for a term of three (3) years effective September 1, 2025 – August 31, 2028.

10. Operation Services – B&M Construction of Rocky Mount, Inc – Brunswick County Senior Center at Calabash Roof Repair Agreement

The Board approved an agreement with B&M Construction of Rocky Mount, Inc. d/b/a B&M Roofing Contractors for the Brunswick County Senior Center at Calabash roof repair project in the amount of \$237,757.

11. Operation Services – BMAP Cooperative Service Agreement

The Board approved a Cooperative Service Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Services.

12. Tax – August 2025 Tax Releases

The Board approved the August 2025 Tax releases.

13. Tax – Approval of Contract for License Plate Agency

The Board approved the renewal of the contract with the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to continue operations of the License Plate Agency (LPA) by Brunswick County.

14. Utilities – Airgas Specialty Gases Inc. Anhydrous Ammonia – Water Treatment Chemical Supplier Agreement

The Board approved the agreement in the amount of \$200,000 for Airgas Specialty Gases Inc., which supplies anhydrous ammonia, requiring specialized equipment for storage used in both water treatment plant facilities.

15. Utilities – Real Property Purchase – Parcel #221MC02309 – Southport Lift Station

The Board approved the purchase of 356 square feet of Parcel ID# 221MC02309 from John Steven Skillman and Deborah Trull Skillman in the amount of \$2,750, for the expansion of the Park Ave Ext lift station as part of the Southport Lift Station Rehabilitation Project and authorized the County Manager to execute any necessary documentation required to complete the transaction.

16. Utilities – Resolution to Approve Passive Receiver Language

The Board approved the resolution to approve the Passive Receiver Language. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF THE BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS TO APPROVE PASSIVE RECEIVER LANGUAGE
AND TO PETITION ELECTED OFFICIALS FOR LEGISLATIVE ENACTION**

WHEREAS, contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), including but not limited to 1,4-Dioxane and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), have been increasingly detected in the surface waters of the State of North Carolina, posing a growing public health concern; and

WHEREAS, public drinking water systems, especially those relying on surface water sources, are Passive Receivers of such contaminants — meaning that they do not create or introduce these pollutants into the environment, but must treat the contaminated water in order to provide safe drinking water to the public; and

WHEREAS, the demand for safe, clean, and affordable potable water is increasing across North Carolina, particularly in areas served by public water systems; and

WHEREAS, existing conventional drinking water treatment technologies are often insufficient to adequately remove many CECs from drinking water, thereby necessitating significant and costly upgrades to meet health and safety standards; and

WHEREAS, advanced treatment technologies that are capable of separating and removing CECs from source water often result in the production of a concentrated liquid waste stream, the disposal of which may create an additional regulatory and financial burden for utilities and by extension, on ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, there continue to be significant ongoing efforts at the state level to regulate CECs based on the purported benefit to utilities as a potential means to reduce or eliminate the need to install advanced treatment upgrades to drinking water facilities; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County generally supports the regulation of CECs but notes that such well-intentioned regulatory rulemaking often overlooks the fact that for utilities to benefit from a pollution reduction regulation, the regulation must have time to have the intended effect of a reduction of the CEC in the surface waters, but many such proposed regulations do not take this into account; and

WHEREAS, regulations often put the cost burden on rate payers of utilities rather than those responsible for introducing the CEC into the surface water; and

WHEREAS, burdening rate payers with both the cost of drinking water advanced treatment and the removal of manmade contaminants from the waste stream of drinking water processes, rather than the upstream polluters, emboldens polluters to continue discharge of the pollutants; and

WHEREAS, without legislative relief or clarification, utilities may be forced to make expensive and potentially suboptimal decisions based on the uncertain future of CEC regulation, rather than on what is most effective and protective of public health; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County has invested over \$170 million dollars in advanced treatment to remove CECs from drinking water at the cost of its customers and those customers should be provided every reasonable protection to ensure they are also not saddled with the cost of treating the contaminants in the waste stream that exist due to the actions of other;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this body hereby approves exemptions, similar to the language attached hereto, for public drinking water system that are passive receivers of contaminants due to treatment of contaminated surface waters for drinking water purposes and recommends its incorporation into a legislative bill for enactment by the General Assembly of North Carolina:

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to members of the North Carolina General Assembly, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, and other appropriate elected and regulatory officials, with a petition that this language or equivalent be formally introduced and enacted into law, and that a copy of this resolution be recorded in the permanent minutes of this Board.

Adopted this 18th day of August, 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

17. Utilities – Blanket Sole Source List 2025-2028

The Board approved a resolution allowing bidding exceptions per NCGS 143-129 (e)(6) based on the justifications included. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SPECIALITY PRODUCTS
USED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES 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, the Brunswick County Public Utilities Department utilizes numerous products in the day-to-day operation of the County’s water and sewer systems; and

WHEREAS, certain products are often available from only one source of supply because either the products are proprietary to the supplier or standardization or compatibility with the existing equipment or processes is an overriding consideration such that performance and/or price competition are not available; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners last approved a sole source specialty products list and exception to formal bidding requirements on August 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7.5.1 of the County’s Contract, Purchasing, and Property Disposal Policy, any sole source purchase approval intended to apply to recurring purchases must be reviewed and approved by the Board of Commissioners at least every three years to ensure that a sole source exception still applies; and

WHEREAS, the attached list specifies apparatus, supplies, materials, and/or equipment to be purchased under a sole source exception to formal bidding requirements and the justification for same; and

WHEREAS, the governing board must approve the purchases 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 18th day of August, 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Clerk to the Board – Resolution – Preparedness Month September 2025

Commissioner Cooke read the following resolution and made the motion to adopt with Chairman Forte seconding. The motion passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2025 AS
“PREPAREDNESS MONTH” IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

WHEREAS, National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time; and

WHEREAS, the National Preparedness Month theme for 2025 is “Prepare to Protect”; and,

WHEREAS, Counties throughout North Carolina have been affected by a variety of emergencies, including hurricanes, tornadoes, mudslides, wildfires, flooding and earthquakes; and

WHEREAS, the peak period of hurricane season is historically mid-August through October, and September 10 marks the peak of hurricane season; and

WHEREAS, Brunswick County Commissioner Frank Williams, Past President of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, created the *100 Counties Prepared* NCACC Presidential Initiative; and

WHEREAS, all five Brunswick County Commissioners, three members of the Brunswick County management team and several members of Brunswick County's emergency services team have now completed the *100 Counties Prepared* training, which focuses on training county commissioners on how to effectively lead during emergencies, compiling resources to assist commissioners during emergency situations, and helping commissioners establish relationships with key emergency management partners; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners desires that every household, property owner, and business in Brunswick County be prepared for potential emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Brunswick County hereby declares September 2025 as Preparedness Month in Brunswick County and encourages all citizens to prepare for potential emergencies by developing an emergency plan, building an emergency kit, identifying sources for credible, accurate emergency information, and communicating their emergency plan to all members of their household and/or workplace.

Adopted this, the 18th day of August 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:
Daralyn Spivey NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board

VII. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public Hearing – Rezoning Case Z-917 Appeal Request

Vice Chairman Cooke made the motion to open the Public Hearing and Commissioner Williams seconded and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Forte opened the Public Hearing at 6:23 p.m. to receive comments or suggestions on Rezoning Case Z-917 Appeals Request.

The following comments were received:

Kirstie Dixon advised the Board of the request for appeal for the rezoning of Tax Parcel 02100058 (7190 Stella Rd. NE Leland) from Commercial Intensive (CI) to Medium Density Residential (R-7500).

Mr. Sam Franck, representing and on behalf of the applicant (Bonnie McGlaughlin), presented to the Board the request for the rezoning.

Steve Parker spoke of his concerns regarding the change in current zoning and requests the Board deny the rezoning.

Kimberly Parker spoke to her concerns regarding the change in current zoning and requests the Board deny the rezoning.

Chairman Forte closed the Public Hearing at 6:59 p.m.

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to deny the rezoning of tax parcel 02100058. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion with the following inconsistency statement:

This request is not consistent with the Blueprint Brunswick 2040 Comprehensive Plan place type designation and not consistent with the goals, recommendations, and policies of the plans adopted by Brunswick County (listed below). The Board of Commissioners finds the request unreasonable, inappropriate, and not in the public's interest based upon the following findings:

- The proposed rezoning is inconsistent with surrounding commercial intensive (CI) zoning

The vote for approval passed (3 to 2) in favor of denying the rezoning. The poll is as follows:

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

2. Sheriff's Office – Approval of Mobile Command Center Project and Agreement (ARP – Enabled Funding).

Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve an agreement with LDV, Inc. for the purchase and build of a new Mobile Command Center with a value of \$1,448,030.00. Funding will be \$1.2M of ARP-Enabled funding and \$300K of County reserves. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion. The vote for approval passed (4 to 1) in favor. The poll is as follows:

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

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

Steve Stone:

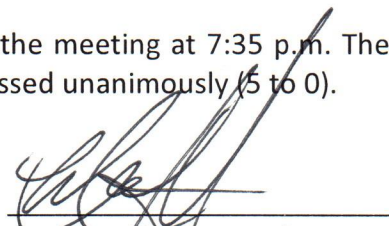
- **Fire Service:** Updated the Board regarding the Fire Service Funding Team's progress toward resolution of future funding strategies County-wide.

Commissioner Thompson:

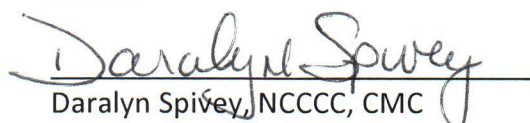
- **Forestry Service:** Requested an update on the Forestry Service and the current permitting and processes of open burns versus other options for debris disposal.
- **PTC #8 After Action Report:** Mr. Stone advises the After Action is completed and will be scheduled promptly at the request of the Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and passed unanimously (5 to 0).


Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

Attest:


Daralyn Spivey, NCCCC, CMC
Clerk to the Board

