

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OFFICIAL MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
November 3, 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. Barbour, 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. Chairman Forte noted Commissioner Thompson would be late, but will be in attendance.

II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Sykes made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

*Clerk’s Note: Commissioner Thompson arrived at the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Lehmann spoke of his concerns regarding the intended routes of the Carolina Bays Parkway.

Carla White spoke of her concerns regarding health and safety of specifically children in Brunswick County due to PFAS and forever chemicals found in our water.

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. Administration – Contract Award for Branded Clothing Vendor

The Board approved the contract for County staff branded clothing to Chiave 514 LLC, dba Carolina Shirt Company.

2. Clerk to the Board - Meeting Minutes -October 6, 2025 Regular Meeting and October 20, 2025, Regular Meeting

The Board approved the Meeting Minutes from the October 6 and October 20, 2025, Regular Meetings.

3. Clerk to the Board - Rural Operating Assistance Program Funding Request from Brunswick Transit System

The Board authorized the County Manager to sign the ROAP funding application, the MOU and the Certified Statement.

4. County Attorney – Osprey Landing, Phase 4 Deed of Dedication

The Board accepted the Deed of Dedication for water and sewer infrastructure for Osprey Landing, Phase 4.

5. EMS - Ambulance Purchase

The Board approved the purchase of an ambulance from Emergency Transportation Associates.

6. Finance - Brunswick County Schools Additional FY26 Education Capital Improvement Plan Appropriation for Topographic, Geotechnical Testing, Master Planning

The Board approved the transfer of \$314,600 from Brunswick County Schools Ad Valorem contingency funds to the North End New Elementary School for topographic, geotechnical testing, and master planning.

7. Finance – Fiscal Items

The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances, and Fiscal Items of a routine nature as indicated below:

-Insurance Proceeds Water Fund Budget Amendment

Appropriating \$9,126 of insurance proceeds to contracted service for costs associated with waterline repair at 547 Village Road, Shallotte.

-Insurance Proceeds Wastewater Fund Budget Amendment

Appropriating \$6,360 of insurance proceeds to contracted service for costs associated with repairs from tree falling on generator housing.

-Gifts and Memorials Revenue Budget Amendment

Appropriating \$100 of gift and memorials for use in the EFNEP program, which serves limited resources for youth, families, and children in collaboration with community-based organizations, schools and entities serving limited resource families.

8. Tax – Piner Appraisal Service Agreement

The Board approved the contract proposal from Piner Appraisal, Inc. to provide professional assistance with parts of the 2027 countywide revaluation, specifically related to the valuation of commercial and industrial properties.

9. Utilities - Atlantic and Southern Equipment, LLC Contract for Crane Truck

The Board approved a contract with Atlantic and Southern Equipment, LLC for the budgeted purchase of a Crane Truck in the amount of \$374,540.00.

10. Utilities - Kimley-Horn – NPDES Permit for the Ocean Isle Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant – PSA

The Board authorized the Chairperson and Clerk to the Board to execute the Professional Service Agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc., in the amount of \$411,240.00 to complete the Preliminary Engineering Report and obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the Ocean Isle Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant.

11. Utilities - TLG Operations, LLC Contract for Three Dump Trucks.

The Board approved a contract with TLG Operations, LLC, in the amount of \$578,541.00 for the budgeted purchase of three dump trucks.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. Clerk to the Board - Proclamation Recognizing November as National Hospice Month

Chairman Forte read the following proclamation and made the motion to approve. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Proclamation reads as follows:

**PROCLAMATION OF NATIONAL HOSPICE AND
PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH, 2025**

WHEREAS, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare was rated as five stars by families and caregivers in the most recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services hospice survey results, the highest rating possible; and

WHEREAS, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare ranks among the top 92% of hospices nationwide in the quality of their person-centered, compassionate care for patients, their families, and the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare utilizes an interdisciplinary team of professionals and volunteers to serve patients and families in hospice care, palliative care, and dementia support; and

WHEREAS, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare attends to patients’ emotional and spiritual needs, providing support services such as respite care, caregiver support, and grief counseling; and

WHEREAS, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare, a local nonprofit agency, engages community members through educational events, volunteer activities, and giving opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Lower Cape Fear LifeCare serves more than 8,000 patients and families each year, including residents of Brunswick County dealing with serious illness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mike Forte, Chair of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners and on behalf of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim November 2025 as National Hospice and Palliative Care Month and encourages members of the public to increase their understanding and awareness of access to care for life limiting illnesses at the end of life, and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

This, the 3rd day of November 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

2. Finance - Auditor's Report on the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2025 (Alan Thompson, Partner and Brandy Turbeville, Audit Manager - Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A.)

The Board received a report from Mr. Alan Thompson, audit partner at Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams & Co., P.A., regarding the auditors' opinion of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. No action was taken.

3. Clerk to the Board – Presentation from Wilmington Urban Area Metropolitan Transportation Organization (WMPO) Regarding the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

The Board received a presentation on behalf of the WMPO the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). No action was taken.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

1. Administration - (Steve Stone) Resolution - Carolina Bays Parkway

Mr. Stone requested the Board consider approving a resolution regarding the Carolina Bays Parkway. The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION TO ADD MORE LOCAL REPRESENTATION IN DECISIONS
CONCERNING THE CAROLINA BAYS PARKWAY EXTENSION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners have significant concerns with the lack of authority and representation our local officials and community members have in the decision-making process for the future Carolina Bays Parkway Extension route, which could create serious repercussions and irreversible changes to the way of life for thousands of residents and a multitude of businesses within the study area; and

WHEREAS, the project intends to extend Carolina Bays Parkway (S.C. 31) from S.C. 9 in Horry County, S.C., across the North Carolina state line to U.S. 17 in Brunswick County, building a multi-lane highway while using some existing road with the intent to reduce congestion and delays for traffic in our region; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Commissioners understand the value and need for improvements and expansion to state and federal highway infrastructure in our county beyond what currently exists to better support both present-day and future transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT), South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) ultimately have complete control and authority in making decisions for this project through processes that are currently unclear and lack transparency to local officials and their constituents; and

WHEREAS, the NCDOT, SCDOT, and FHWA have only agreed to review and consult on major decisions for this project through an Interagency Merger Team—which is dominated by 13 state and federal agencies and only three local transportation planning organizations/programs—with no formal seats for representatives from Brunswick County Government or our impacted municipalities (such as elected officials, local civil engineers, or other members of the public); and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Commissioners have no power as a collective Board in selecting or vetoing any of the Detailed Study Alternatives currently under consideration, and their participation in the process is limited to simply reviewing and providing comments through the Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) and Cape Fear Council of Governments (CFCOG) organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Brunswick County Commissioners are also troubled and confused by the adamant push from NCDOT and SCDOT toward Detailed Study Alternative No. 4 despite the significant public outcry, fear, and dissent that has been expressed toward that proposed route in particular.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners request the NCDOT, SCDOT, and FHWA immediately allow the Brunswick County Commissioners to select three community members as active and equal participants in all decisions involving the Carolina Bays Parkway Extension Project. These three Commissioner-appointed representatives would be selected from the affected study area in Brunswick County (with special consideration to those with civil engineering backgrounds) and would have the same authority as NCDOT, SCDOT, and FHWA representatives in all decisions, including the official Detailed Study Alternative route selection. Having these representatives would provide our community and the overall project with true local representation, stronger transparency and accountability, and greater due diligence to the people of Brunswick County who will be directly impacted by these decisions in the years and decades to come.

This the 3rd day of November 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to approve the resolution. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and the motion failed (2 to 3). The poll is as follows:

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

2. Engineering - HHS - EOC Design Build Project Update

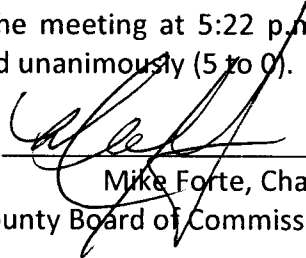
The Board received an update on the new HHS - EOC design build project. No action was taken.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISUCSSION

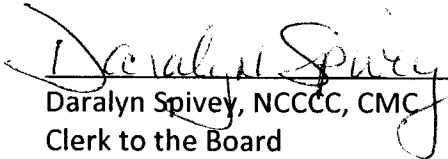
No other business to be brought before the Board.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Williams made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 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

