

**BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OFFICIAL MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 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 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  
Currie Elkins, 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.

**II. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**III. ADJUSTMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Timothy Evans spoke of his concerns with hunting dogs running uncontrolled across private property.

Cindy Henry spoke of her concerns with unfair fire tax on property owners.

Jeannie Leonard spoke in support of the animal services facility currently on the agenda tonight for discussion.

William Flythe spoke to his concerns with the status of the Carolina Bays Parkway route.

Judy Andricak spoke to her concerns with Carolina Bays Parkway Extension route, PFAS and road infrastructure.

Gary Otsby spoke to his concerns in opposition to the animal services facility on the agenda for discussion considering other pressing issues.

Carol Bridges spoke to her support for the animal services facility that is on the agenda for discussion.

Josh Kirby spoke to his concerns regarding modular classrooms and stormwater ordinance shows the conditions exist for a temporary pause on building.

Carla White spoke to her concerning Chemours, PFAS, and other forever chemicals in the water supply.

Shirley Sullivan spoke to her concerns regarding development, public safety, growth, and zoning irregularities.

Jim Bradshaw spoke in support of the expansion of the animal services facility on the agenda for discussion tonight.

Pat Kane spoke in support of the expansion of the animal services facility on the agenda for discussion tonight.

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 – November 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes**  
The Board approved the Meeting Minutes for the November 3, 2025, Regular Meeting.
- 2. **Finance - Brunswick County Schools Additional Funding for New North End Elementary School Project for Schematic Design and Preconstruction Costs.**  
The Board approved the transfer of \$1,120,084 from the Brunswick County Schools Ad Valorem contingency funds to the North End New Elementary School for schematic design and preconstruction costs.
- 3. **Finance - Brunswick County Schools Additional FY26 Education Capital Improvement Plan Appropriation for Two Modulars at Lincoln Elementary and Two Modulars at Belville Elementary.**  
The Board approved the transfer of \$1,077,324 from Brunswick County Schools Ad Valorem contingency funds to the FY26 CIP Appropriation for two modulars at Lincoln Elementary and two modulars at Belville Elementary.
- 4. **Finance – Fiscal Items**  
The Board approved Budget Amendments, Capital Project Ordinances, and Fiscal Items of a routine nature as indicated below:  
  
-**Financial Reports for October 2025 (unaudited)**  
Summary Information for General and Enterprise Funds, ARPA, Opioid project statuses, key revenue indicators, and Cash and Investment details are included. All year-to-date fiscal reports are provided at:  
<https://brunswickcountync.gov/finance/reports>
- 5. **Health Services - Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina County Engagement Team Grant Award**  
The Board accepted the receipt of \$5,000.00 donation/grant funds from the Blue Cross Blue Shield NC County Engagement Team.
- 6. **Library – SLNC LSTA Grant Applications**

The Board approved the application for a SLNC LSTA Grant in the amount of \$9,429.39 and a LSTA Continuing Education Scholarship Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00.

**7. Operation Services - SPATCO Energy Solutions LLC – Aboveground Storage Tank Replacement EMS Base #4 and #3 Agreement**

The Board approved the Agreement with SPATCO Energy Solutions, LLC for the replacement of aboveground storage tanks at EMS Base #4 in Southport and EMS Base #3 in Ocean Isle Beach.

**8. Sheriff's Office - Approval of Agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc.**

The Board approved an agreement with Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the body worn camera, dash camera, and digital media evidence overhaul project approved as part of the FY26 budget request for the Sheriff's Office. The total value of the five-year contract is \$4,050,286.81 before applicable taxes.

**9. Tax – November 2025 Tax Releases**

The Board approved the tax releases for November 2025.

**10. Utilities - Southeastern Land Solutions, LLC Contract Approval for Water and Sewer Main Mowing and Budget Amendment**

The Board approved a budget amendment in the amount of \$186,940.00 and a 3-year contract with Southeastern Land Solutions, LLC for the mowing of Water and Sewer Transmission Mains in an annual amount of \$356,940.00.

**11. Utilities - Vision Infrastructure Development Horizontal Directional Drills - George II Highway SE & Holden Beach Rd - PTC #8 - CO#1.**

The Board approved and authorized the Chairperson and Clerk to the Board to execute Change Order No. 1 with Vision Infrastructure Development for the horizontal directional drill project located at George II Highway SE and Holden Beach Road, in the amount of \$26,600 and an additional 31 contract days.

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Clerk to the Board – Proclamation – National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week**

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 DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 16-22, 2025, AS  
NATIONAL HUNGER AND HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK IN  
BRUNSWICK COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS**, for several years the National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign Against Hunger and Homelessness have sponsored National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of this proclamation is to educate the public about the many reasons people are hungry and homeless in Brunswick County, North Carolina and to encourage support for those serving homeless families and individuals as well inform the community of service opportunities for students and school organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, there are organizations committed to sheltering, providing supportive services as well as meals and food supplies to the homeless, including faith-based ministries and other nonprofit organizations which

recognize that hunger and homelessness continues to be a serious problem for many in Brunswick County, North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the intent of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is consistent with the activities of local organizations that assist with the needs of the hungry and homeless.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners does hereby proclaim November 17-25, 2025, as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and encourages all residents to recognize that many people lack adequate food and housing and need support from the community as well as governmental and nonprofit service organizations.

This the 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

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

**2. Clerk to the Board – Resolution – Opposing the Fuquay-Varina IBT Request for Additional Comment**

Commissioner Williams discussed the following resolution and made the motion to approve. Commissioner Sykes seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0). The Resolution reads as follows:

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE FUQUAY-VARINA IBT AND  
REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County Public Utilities provide the following municipalities with wholesale water: Bald Head Island, Holden Beach, Oak Island, and Ocean Isle Beach and the following with retail water service for: Bolivia, Calabash, Carolina Shores, Caswell Beach, Holden Beach (parts), Leland (parts), Navassa, St. James, Sandy Creek, Shallotte, Sunset Beach, and Varnamtown Brunswick County is one of the fastest growing counties in the state and serves 350,000 customers at our seasonal peak. Brunswick County’s primary role is to treat water for potable use to its customers. The majority of this water is sourced from the Cape Fear River.

**WHEREAS**, on September 1, 2020, the Town of Fuquay-Varina (Town) submitted a Notice of Intent to Request an Interbasin Transfer (IBT) requesting an average day transfer of approximately 4 million gallons per day (MGD) and a maximum day transfer of 8 MGD from the Cape Fear River basin to the Neuse River basin.

**WHEREAS**, over five years after submitting its Notice of Intent, the Town released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) identifying a preferred alternative of sourcing water from the Tri-Rivers Water Treatment Plant in the Cape Fear River basin and seeking approval to transfer 6.17 million gallons per day from the Cape Fear River basin (2-3) to the Neuse River basin (10-1). The DEIS is nearly 2,000 pages.

**WHEREAS**, the Town’s DEIS does not account for any of the 6.17 million gallons per day to be returned from the benefiting Neuse River basin to the impacted Cape Fear River basin at any time.

**WHEREAS**, published documents indicate the Town has purchased a total of 6 million gallons of water capacity from the City of Sanford via the Tri-Rivers Water Treatment Plant.

**WHEREAS**, presently the Town receives up to a total of 4.25 MGD of potable water from the City of Raleigh, Harnett County, and Johnston County on a contractual basis.

**WHEREAS**, Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority, Brunswick County, Pender County, and the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, (collectively, Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities) rely upon the Cape Fear River as the source of their raw water to serve their communities.

**WHEREAS**, data reflects that the removal, without return, to the Cape Fear River basin may result in the overallocation of the Cape Fear River at Kings Bluff, leading to substantial adverse environmental and economic effects to the impacted communities, particularly those served by the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities.

**WHEREAS**, the potential impacts to the communities served by the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities include increased risk of water shortages during periods of drought; less potential future economic development opportunities; and reduced water flow or quality for recreational use.

**WHEREAS**, the Town has not provided any measures or alternatives to avoid detrimental impacts upon the currently authorized Local Water Supply Plans of the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities. Drought conditions throughout the State have affected the flow of the Cape Fear River, the net effect of the IBT would result in negative water quantity and quality, particularly during periods of drought or low river flow.

**WHEREAS**, although the communities served by the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities will be detrimentally impacted by this IBT certificate request, those communities benefiting from the request will be positioned for growth and increased economic development.

**WHEREAS**, in December 2022, a public records request was sent on behalf of the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities to the Town of Fuquay-Varina requesting documents related to the requested IBT certificate. Nearly three years later, the Town has yet to fulfill this request.

**WHEREAS**, in October 2023, a public records request was submitted on behalf of the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities to the City of Sanford requesting documents related to the Sanford's expansion of its drinking water structure in the Cape Fear River basin. Over two years later, the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities has not received any documents in response to this request.

**WHEREAS**, in July 2024, the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority submitted a public records request to DEQ requesting documents related to Fuquay-Varina's IBT certificate request. On October 23, 2025, fifteen months after the public records request was submitted, DEQ provided thousands of pages of additional documents in response to the CFPWA's public records request.

**WHEREAS**, on November 4, 2025, a week after LCFWASA received the documents from DEQ, it was announced that the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) would allow public comment relating to the Town's DEIS for its IBT certificate request, with a public comment deadline of February 1, 2026.

**WHEREAS**, although the Town required five years to develop its DEIS, and DEQ required fifteen months to fulfill a public records request, the Authority will have only three months within which to review thousands of pages of engineering and environmental records and conduct its own independent analysis.

**WHEREAS**, furthermore, the November 4, 2025 announcement stated that the EMC would hold a series of public hearings regarding the Town’s DEIS, to be held December 4, 2025, in Fayetteville, NC; December 9, 2025, in Raleigh, NC; and December 11, 2025, in Pittsboro, NC.

**WHEREAS**, despite the substantial impact of the Town’s DEIS and IBT certificate request to the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities, the closest hearing location is nearly 100 miles away, in Fayetteville, NC.

**WHEREAS**, due process requires that those impacted be offered both notice and an opportunity to be heard. The locations of the hearings are centrally located to the beneficiaries of the Town’s IBT certificate request, but do not provide the same access and opportunity to be heard by impacted communities, particularly the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: THAT**, the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners formally opposes the Town of Fuquay-Varina IBT certificate request and draft Environmental Impact Statement as submitted and amended.

**THAT**, Board of Commissioners opposes any IBT certificate request affecting the Cape Fear River basin that does not account for the return of the water so removed.

**THAT**, Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission to allow the Cape Fear Basin Water Utilities additional time to respond and submit comments to the DEIS and requested IBT Certificate. The Board of Commissioners further requests that any extension of time be commensurate with the delay between when information was requested by the Cape Fear Basin Utilities and when it was actually delivered.

**THAT**, Board of Commissioners requests the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission to hold an additional, fourth public hearing on the draft Environmental Impact Statement in New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender County during the month of December 2025 or January 2026, to allow the public to attend and provide relevant comments on the DEIS and requested IBT Certificate.

Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of November 2025.

Mike Forte, Chairman  
Brunswick County

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

**3. Planning – Commercial Development Dashboard**

The Board received a presentation from Garret Huckins regarding the newly designed commercial development dashboard that is available on the County website showing the commercial development within the county at any given stage of the development process. No action was taken.

**VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. Engineering - Updates to the Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control Ordinance and the Stormwater Management Manual**

Brigit Flora presented the Board with the proposed changes to the Stormwater Quality Management and Discharge Control Ordinance and the Stormwater Management Manual.

Commissioner Thompson made the motion to open the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. with Commissioner Williams seconding.

Josh Kirby spoke of his concerns with the exemptions that are listed.

Jerod Patterson, Business Alliance for a Sound Economy (BASE) applauded the Board for their interest in a stormwater utility and spoke to his support of the proposed changes.

Hearing no other comments, Chairman Forte closed the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Chairman Forte made the motion to recess the Public Hearing until the January 20, 2026, Regular Meeting. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion. The vote for recessing the Public Hearing passed (3 to 2). The poll is as follows:

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

**VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

**1. Sheriff's Office – Myers and Chapman, Inc. Progressive Design-Build Agreement Approval**

Chairman Forte made the motion to approve the agreement with Myers & Chapman Inc for the Design-Build project of a new animal services facility, part of the County's CIP with Vice – Chairman Cooke seconding. 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

**2. Utilities – CDM – NW WTP Expansion – PSA Amendment No. 7**

Brent Lockamy presented the Board with the request to authorize the Chairperson and Clerk to the Board to approve Contract Amendment No. 7 with CDM Smith, Inc. and the associated budget amendment in the amount of \$1,336,000, extending the contract completion date to September 30, 2026, for continued construction and administration services associated with the Northwest Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve the contract. Vice – Chairman Cooke seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

**3. Administration – Limitations on Building Moratoria and Prohibition of On-Site Burning Regulation.**

The Board received information outlining the statutory limitations the County must follow when enacting a building moratorium as well as the prohibition regarding on-site burning of vegetative debris. No action was taken.

IX. BOARD APPOINTMENTS

1. **Clerk to the Board – Board Appointment – Bolivia ETJ**

Commissioner Williams made the motion to appoint Mr. Gregory Price to the Bolivia Planning Board as the ETJ Appointee. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

X. OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMAL DISCUSSION

**Commissioner Williams:**  
**Rural Planning Organization (RPO):** Legislative Goals adoption at the December 1, 2025 meeting.

**Commissioner Thompson:**  
Noted the passing of long time Brunswick County paramedic Douglas Legget.

**Vice – Chairman Cooke:**  
Recognized Mr. Art Dornfeld as the Mayor-Elect for the Town of Shallotte.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Batton requested the Board enter Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1)(3) and (5), to approve Closed Session Minutes from October 20, 2025, to consult with its attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege, and to discuss the acquisition of property.

Vice - Chairman Cooke made the motion to enter Closed Session at 8:11 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sykes and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Chairman Forte called the Regular Session to order at 8:28 p.m.

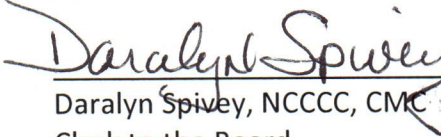
Mr. Batton requested a motion to acquire easements on parcels 02400002 and 0240000202 up to and including condemnation. Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion with Commissioner Thomspson seconding. The motion passed unanimously (5 to 0).

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice – Chairman Cooke made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 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

